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The Teacher's Desk: The Truth Is Out There

Brian Theodore

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It is becoming increasingly difficult to determine the truth about the problems we are facing in our world. As I have stated before, there is a deafening separation in our country. I stress deafening, because it is causing us not to listen to one another. Our problems, which are opportunities for solutions to a greater existence are becoming political tools on every level.

Recently, out of curiosity and a desire for facts, I watched an interview with Patrick Michaels, director of the Center for the Study of Science at the Cato Institute, and he was talking about climate change and whether it was man made. Some of my dearest friends are loyally skeptical about the existence of global warming and man's part in it. I wanted to approach the interview with an unbiased ear and attempt to understand their point of view.

By the end of the interview, I found that the aim was not about climate change, rather an opportunity to bring forth the former administration's intentions and abuses. This man, I came to determine, was more a politician than a scientist. Some of things he stated in the interview were that if you look back to the 1920s "man-made carbon dioxide could not have" created the warming (that he admitted existed). He went on to say that he did not know what created the warming and maybe we as a people should accept that.

He also stated that maybe the three most important words in the English language are not "I love you," but maybe "I don't know." He went on to say that we should not follow any of the 32 computer models regarding climate change from different governments all over the world, rather we should follow one. That one we should follow should be the Russian Model (Man, what is it with Russia?).

The reason I chose Patrick Michaels is because he is one of loudest voices in climate change denial. I figured he would be the one to listen to and believe. In retrospect, my father-in-law and I have a lot of conversations about the Bible. He is a very spiritual man. A very honest man. When we talk — and I always have a lot of questions — he will explain something and then adamantly tell me, "But you need to look it up. Don't take my word for it. Read it yourself." I always love that.

Well, Michaels stated the planet's average surface temperature has risen 0.9 degrees. That's true. But that is also 0.9 degrees Celsius, which is 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit. That's a little more to the layman, and a few degrees can make a big difference. According to some sources, 12,000 years

ago, when the world's average temperature was simply 4-5 degrees cooler, parts of Britain were covered with ice.

Also, my wife pointed out that the situation has come to the point that climate change is less about predictions and those 32 models, and more about what is currently happening. She's a biology teacher; she loves those polar bears. Anyway, while researching this topic, she blatantly pointed out, beyond the predictions, things are happening now. 2016 was the warmest year on record. Period. Global sea levels have risen eight inches in the last century, with the greatest increase of that occurring in the last two decades.

As well, beyond Global Warming, isn't pollution simply bad. Didn't we determine that? Why wouldn't we want to curve our carbon emissions? But as my father-in-law pointed out, find out for yourself. If you want to know why, look up who some of Patrick Michael's major contributors are.

Now, this isn't about Michaels, or even climate change (which I now solidly believe), it is about getting as close to the truth as you can without being influenced by a political agenda. Do you know what guides political agendas? Regardless if a person is a Democrat or Republican; do you know what guides both sides, and even the one in between? I'll give you a hint, it's not your health. It's not a moralistic soul. It is what Shakespeare referred to as the "worse poison to men's souls." It is money.

In closing, I would like to say I like Patrick Michaels. He looks like what you would want your grandpa to look like. He seems friendly, and I laughed out loud when he said the scientists were wrong —y'know, like "all" the scientists were wrong. But hey, I have an open mind. "All" the scientists have been wrong before. Remember that one voice in Flint Michigan that brought to light the polluted water supply? Well, lead the way Michaels! Show us pollution is okay.