

Friends

There are certain rules about committees. Sometimes, the things that you think will take a short time take a long one and vice versa. Sometimes the compromises that are made in order to try to honour everyone's input can remind you of the old adage that a camel is a horse made by a committee. Sometimes you wonder why being a grown-up felt like such a good idea when you were a child. But usually, I am a fan of committees. The joint impact of everyone's input, thinking and questioning is often helpful and always important, and after all, a camel is a pretty useful kind of animal.

The ancient Hebrew's idea of heaven was a legal committee, with the devil making representations as to the evil side of human nature (a sort of council for the prosecution) while on the other side someone (who we would see as Jesus) was the advocate for the defence. The angels formed a heavenly committee and God was Father, Spirit and "one like unto a son of man" stood at his right hand side. I realise that I may be giving some of you the screaming heebie-jeebies, but the Old Testament version of heaven looks an awful lot like a Methodist Church Council!

Jesus also chose to have a group of people to work with in the twelve disciples. It is in the context of this committee that Peter makes the declaration that Jesus is the Messiah. The difference of course, is that if I turned to a member of Church Council and declared "You are the rock upon which I will build this church" they would point out that they are already doing quite enough foundational stuff, thank you very much. But for all we bemoan some of the difficulties in the working out of life through church committees, they allow us to lean on each other's strengths and question long-held suppositions in a supportive environment and that is a very Godly thing to be doing. Whether the committee on which you serve is convened to discuss the pastoral needs of the church, or the fabric needs of the building or the financial and operational needs of the whole structure, still that gathering and thinking on behalf of the worshipping community is a worthwhile endeavour.

No-one ever said that the path to heaven was paved with committee meetings, but they are a part of the road-building process. Thank you to all of you who do now, or have in the past, served on a Church committee, you deserve your crowns in heaven!

God bless, Vicci