

Apparently, the left-hand hemisphere of the brain thinks in a linear way, while the right-hand processes this information in context and pops the result into the consciousness in a more creative way. As generalisations go, that borders on egregiousness, I know. The point is, that both sides of the brain, working together, produce understanding and reasonable communication of the same. Hold that thought...

Some of you may have picked up a news story that Nelson's column, Trafalgar Square, should be taken down (or at least, Nelson) because the eponymous character had, in his day, argued in support of slavery. The press asked me for a response; contrary to what was published(!) the actual statement can be seen on the Burnhams Benefice website.

No right-thinking person today would support the idea of slavery being a necessity for the economy; in the 18th century there was a (bad) argument for it however. Today we look at Nelson's column and, if thinking beyond the aesthetics of Trafalgar Square itself, are more likely to muse on a small admiral with plenty of audaciousness - perhaps Emma(!) - but not Nelson's politics.

People may be fallible but can overcome their flaws (sinfulness) by striving for the good - this has been the consistent message of the prophets throughout the ages and, of course, Jesus, too. That is, REPENT! That is, turn back to God.

So, courage, brethren and sistren, we can we all can do it. Don't be put off by what has gone wrong. Eg, St Paul (persecutor of the early Church), JS Bach (anti-semite), Florence Nightingale (critic of women's rights), Winston Churchill (Gallipoli debacle), Martin Luther King Jr (**alleged** adulterer), would not have achieved the great things they did without their turning to God. If we are lifted above our sins, we will achieve greatness, too - that's what God enables us to do. Take the offer, life will be great because of it. Even if history doesn't record that, God will.

The opening thought? Linear self-interest thinking conditioned by the selflessness of the bigger picture. The logic assessing the approach of death, but contextualised, says, "Thank God I have done my duty." (*Nelson*) Our greatness, too, comes from using the brain God gave us. Think about it. Act upon it. Turn to God.