

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE

FAITH *for life*

*“The **life** which I now live...I live by the **faith** of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20*

Complimentary Copy

Spring Edition, 2017

from the Ministry of Fargo Baptist Church

www.fargobaptist.org

What Does the Bible Say About *Heaven?*

“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” –1 Corinthians 2:9

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What do John Wayne, John Lennon and John Kennedy all have in common? They all once walked this earth, but have since died and are forever gone. But have they ceased to exist, or has their “never to die” soul just re-located? The Bible is clear about the “after life.” What does the Bible say about the afterlife and a place called ‘heaven’?

First of all, does the Bible say where heaven is located? The apostle Paul said (II Corinthians 12:4) that he was caught “up” into heaven. The apostle John also spoke of going “up” in order to get to heaven (Revelation 4:1). Evidently heaven is ‘up’ in space somewhere at this time and the Bible

hints that it is toward the north (Psalm 75:6).

Secondly, how will we know the way to heaven when we die?” According to Luke 16, we will be escorted there by angels. In Daniel chapter 9 there is a hint that it takes an angel about four minutes to fly from heaven to the earth.

But how long after our death will it be before we can go there? If someone is truly saved, their soul (the real person inside the body)

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will go to heaven immediately when they take their last breath (II Corinthians 5:8, Philippians 1:23). The Bible doesn't teach any kind of a 'pre-heaven stop-off place' such as "limbo or purgatory."

What will Heaven be like? We will be able to see each other, and will still be known by the same name (Philippians 3:21, Luke 13:28). We will walk on literal streets of gold (Revelation 21:21). The believers who go to heaven will live in mansions according to Jesus (John 14:2).

An incredible description of the beauty of heaven is given in Revelation 21:10-21. Heaven will also be a place with perpetual wonder and excitement (Psalm 16:11). The greatest ten minutes you've ever lived on earth won't compare to it. Heaven will also be a place without suffering, pain, tears, crime, or death (Revelation 21:4).

There will not be any sin or unsaved sinners in heaven (Revelation 21:8). The sad reality is that according to Jesus, not many will go to heaven. In Matthew 7:14 Jesus said, "*Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life (heaven), and few there be that find it.*" The Bible tells us that only truly saved (born again) believers will be there (John 3:3, Revelation 21:24).

The good news is that getting to heaven is available to everyone (II Peter 3:9), and we can know for sure we are going to heaven when we die (I John 5:13). Do you have such assurance? If not, please continue to read through this edition of *Faith for Life*. ■

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CAN WE EARN OUR WAY TO HEAVEN?

There are three different types of religions.

1. Most believe that the way to heaven is by earning salvation through good works.
2. Some believe that the way to heaven is by both trusting in Christ's sacrifice on the cross, plus our good works.
3. Few believe that the way to heaven is totally by the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary alone.

It cannot be by all three ways. God doesn't have 3 different ways of getting to heaven.

#1 We definitely won't get to heaven by trying to earn it (works).

Years ago a cake mix came out that only required the homemaker to add water and bake. The company was stunned when hardly anyone bought the cake mix. Then someone suggested that they had 'made it too easy' and that human nature always wants to add something. The company decided to have the homemaker add an egg along with water before baking. Suddenly, the cake mix began to sell although the added egg was actually unnecessary.

There's something about human nature that has to 'add something' which often ruins the simplicity of a matter. Most often it's a matter of

human pride. We think it's 'our doing'. God does not accept our human effort in order to get to heaven!

Study carefully the Bible verses below.

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." (Titus 3:5)

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ... for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified," (Galatians 2:16)

"(God) hath saved us, not according to our works, but according to grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus." (II Timothy 1:9)

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight" (Romans 3:20)

"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain" (Galatians 2:21) i.e., If we could earn our way to heaven, then why did Jesus have to suffer such torture on the cross for our sins?

Jesus said in Matthew 7:22, 23, "*Many will say to me in that*

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Can We Earn Our Way to Heaven?

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(judgment) day, Lord, Lord, have we not ... in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

If people are really expecting to get to heaven by their good works, they are doing a poor job of it with all their profanity, lust, immorality, gossip, temper, selfishness, stubbornness, pride, drunkenness, insincerity, ignoring God, being stingy, impatient, harsh, manipulative, etc.

#2 Heaven cannot be achieved with human works plus the grace of God.

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work." (Romans 11:6) i.e. It has to be one or the other!

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law (good works); ye are fallen from grace (i.e. gotten off the course of grace)." (Galatians 5:4)

God wrote the entire book of Galatians to scold the churches for trying to mix human works with God's grace.

"Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." (Romans 4:4-5)

"Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law." (Romans 9:31-32)

#3 The only way to heaven is by trusting 100% in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and accepting it as a gift/grace while changing our mind about our sin (repentance).

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-8)

"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified (saved) by faith without the deeds of the law (works)." (Romans 3:28)

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

The thief on the cross never did anything to earn heaven. He simply placed all his faith in Christ in his dying hours and Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

Someone trying to work their way to heaven will never have peace about dying because they will never know if they've done enough good works. They often panic on their deathbed.

What about Bible passages which seem to teach that we work our way to heaven?

1) "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 2:26)

Explanation... James was addressing Christians who were already saved (he calls them brethren in vs. 1). He was rebuking them for hypocritical living and claiming they were Christians, but not acting like it. He was saying that if we are truly saved, our life (works) should bear witness of our faith (but he wasn't saying to try to earn heaven by works).

2) "One came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him... if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments." (Matthew 19:16-17)

Explanation... Jesus knew this man was self-righteous (this probably sends

more people to hell than anything). Jesus often said things just to make people think (Phillip in John 6:5-6). Jesus would go on to prove that this man was not keeping the commandments, and that it is impossible to keep them. God gave us the 10 commandments to show us what hopeless sinners we are and how desperately we need the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. "By the law is the knowledge of sin." (Romans 3:20) "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." (Galatians 3:24)

3) "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." (Philippians 2:12)

Explanation... You can only "work out" something you already have (a muscle). Again, Paul is writing to born again Christians in Philippi who had already been saved (brethren, 3:1). Paul is saying "give your salvation a good work out."

Only the works of a saved person are even acknowledged by God.

"So then they that are in the flesh (not born again) cannot please God" (Romans 8:8).

This is talking about unsaved people trying to earn heaven.

In Matthew 25: 31-46, we find the lost and the saved separated at the final judgment, and Jesus tells the unsaved, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matthew 25:41) (Jesus didn't even acknowledge their good works because "they that are in the flesh (unsaved) cannot please God." (Rom 8:8).

Conclusion: The Bible says, "That they which have believed in God (been born again) might be careful to maintain good works" (Titus 3:8). This new life of living for the Lord comes from a heart of gratitude for God's free gift of salvation. ■

"The future and success of America is not in this Constitution, but in the laws of God (Bible) upon which this Constitution is founded." —James Madison



PAID IN FULL

BY

CARY SCHMIDT

Perhaps you've seen images or heard descriptions of what Jesus went through on the cross. It was the most gruesome and most tormenting death that the Roman authorities of that time could produce. It was carried out by highly skilled Roman guards who were trained to inflict the most pain over the longest possible period of time. It was a slow and brutal method of execution, not to mention the most publicly humiliating way to die. The pain was so bad that we created a new word to describe it—'excruciating' (Latin: crux—cross, crucifixion).

In Jesus' case, He was first beaten with fists and spit on during a mock trial. During this time His beard was forcefully ripped from His face, and His head was crowned with long thorns. These thorns would have deeply pierced the skin to the skull, creating excruciating pain and bleeding.

After this brutal beating, He was sentenced to being lashed thirty-nine times

with an object of torture called the "cat o' nine tails." This leather whip had nine leather straps at the end, each embedded with chunks of metal, bone, or rock so that the lashing would cut and rip the flesh. The guards trained in using this whip were highly skilled at damaging the human body without bringing death. It was a horrific method of torture.

Finally, Jesus—now barely alive—was forced to carry a large wooden cross through a jeering crowd to the place we call Calvary. He was laid on the cross, nailed at His hands and feet, and then hung up to die.

God told this story 700 years before it happened when He gave us the following prophecy from Isaiah chapter fifty-three. As you read this, realize it is talking about what Jesus did for you personally.

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin."—Isaiah 53:3–9

Would you take a moment now and reread that portion of the Bible again? Ask God to help you truly understand His message to you. It tells the story of exactly what Jesus was doing when He gave His life on that cross. He was giving His life for our

transgressions (our sin) and making Himself the offering (the payment).

While on the cross, Jesus made several statements. Perhaps the most important one was this, "...*It is finished...*" (John 19:30). Done. What was He saying? What does "it is finished" mean? Literally it means "paid in full." It means the complete and final payment for every sin you ever commit is now paid. This includes all of your sins—past, present, and future—even the ones you haven't committed yet! Jesus was God's miraculous intervention! He was God on a divine rescue mission to save humanity from the power of sin and the condemnation that it brings.

What does this mean for you? First, Jesus' death paid the price for your sin! Your debt can truly be paid and forgiven because of what He accomplished when He said "*it is finished!*" Paid in full! Done!

The Bible uses a really great word to describe this "paid in full" concept. The word is 'propitiation', and it simply means "the full payment for." Here's where it is used: "*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.*" —(Romans 3:25) "*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*" —(1 John 2:2) "*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*" (1 John 4:10)

What an incredible gift! What indescribable love! The Bible is filled with similar verses that Jesus Christ was our substitute and that He paid our debt in full. Take a moment and ask God to help you clearly understand His message in these verses. "*(Jesus) gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father*"—(Galatians 1:4). "*Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God*"- (1 Peter 3:18). "*The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin*" —(1 John 1:7). "*Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood*" —(Revelation 1:5). Jesus' payment for your sin was a full payment. **Paid in full...Done!** ■

How to Find God and Really Know Him

God's Plan of Salvation

There are three things that you can know for sure...

1) That you are going to Heaven. *"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life"* (I John 5:13).

2) That your life will be changed when you get saved. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (II Corinthians 5:17).

3) That you will never lose your salvation. *"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."* (John 10:28).

It all revolves around Jesus Christ!

Who is Jesus Christ? John 1:1 says, *"In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* John 1:3 continues, *"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."* Jesus was God in flesh or God the Son who created everything.

He came to earth to save us. *"For the Son of man is come to*

seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). The first step in going to heaven is to realize we need to be saved from our sin.

How do we get to heaven?... *"Jesus answered and said unto him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3).

There is a difference between a physical birth and a spiritual birth. *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit"* (John 3:6).

Why do we need a spiritual birth? Man was originally created a three part being in God's image—a trinity. *"And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: so God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them"* (Genesis 1:26). Man is made up of body, soul, and spirit.

God placed Adam and Eve in the garden. *"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"* (Genesis 2:16-17). Man ate of the fruit and though he didn't die that day physically, he died spiritually!

When Adam and Eve had children they were now born spiritually dead as well (no longer in God's 3-part image). Genesis 5:3 says *"And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth."* That is why we must be re-born spiritually.

That is also why we have a sin nature. You don't have to teach a toddler to be selfish, lie, steal things, sass back, fight with

siblings, etc... it is also our nature as we grow up.

Most people fail to see themselves as serious sinners. They feel they are a "good person." They are comparing themselves to others, instead of God's standard; the 10 Commandments. Let's see how you rate compared to the 10 Commandments.

#1 *"Thou shalt have no other gods before me"* (Exodus 20:3). No one can claim they have never put anything ahead of God (money, career, own self centered goals, pleasure, sports, entertainment, sin, vice, a relationship with another, etc).

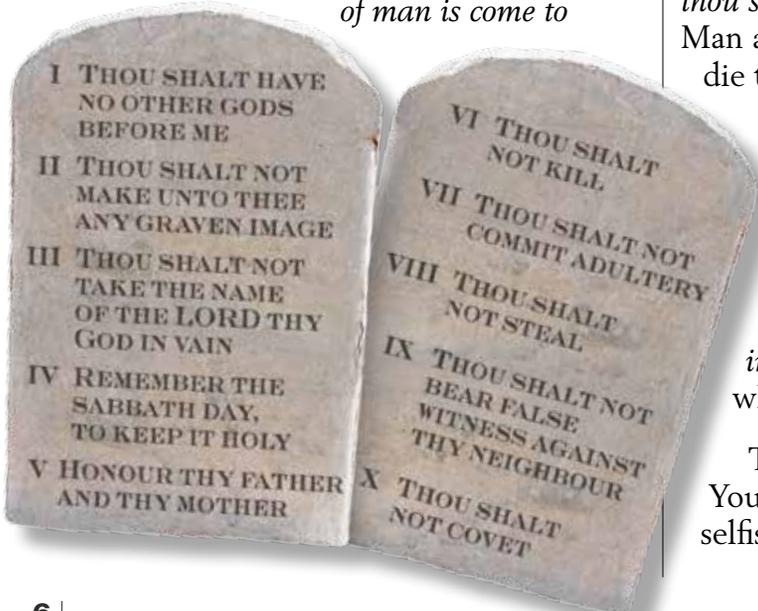
#2 *"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image (of God)"* (Exodus 20:4). Many have been guilty of inventing a God of their own imagination and liking... a God who 'suits them.' People want a "God that overlooks sin and takes everyone to heaven." They have improvised and dreamed up a God of their own image.

#3 *"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain"* (Exodus 20:7). Re-read that carefully. God is keeping record of every time you've used His name as a curse word and you will answer for it one day.

#4 *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy"* (Exodus 20:8). Have you always honored the Lord's Day or been faithful in church attendance? (Heb 10:25).

#5 *"Honour thy father and thy mother"* (Exodus 20:12). Have you ever disrespected or disobeyed your parents. Have you ever argued with them or dishonored them?

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How to Find God

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#6 *"Thou shalt not kill"* (Exodus 20:13). Although most people have never committed murder, they are guilty of "murder of the heart." Jesus clarifies this commandment in Matthew 5:21-2; Whosoever shall kill, shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother... shall be in danger of hell fire. Have you ever been mad or bitter at someone?

#7 *"Thou shalt not commit adultery"* (Exodus 20:14). While many have never committed adultery, Jesus said; Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart (Matt 5:27-8). Have you ever lusted after the opposite sex? This is adultery of the heart according to Jesus.

#8 *"Thou shalt not steal"* (Exodus 20:15). Who could claim they've never taken anything that doesn't belong to them? ... something small or even the boss's time?

#9 *"Thou shalt not bear false witness"* (Exodus 20:16). No one could honestly claim they have never told a lie!

#10 *"Thou shalt not covet"* (Exodus 20:17). Have you ever desired anything you didn't have or didn't need? Have you ever been discontented, jealous or ungrateful? This is covetousness.

Most people are guilty of breaking all 10 commandments! Many places in the Bible reveal that liars, adulterers, thieves, the covetous, etc will spend eternity in hell! (Rev 21:8, I Cor 6:9-10, Gal 5:19-21). How could you ever expect to get to heaven by "living a good life?"

Romans 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Sin has a penalty... Romans 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death"* (hell).

We cannot possibly get to heaven by keeping the law (10 Commandments).

The 10 Commandments were given by God to show us how impossible it is to

be saved by doing good works. *"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith"* (Galatians 3:24). The law (10 Commandments) shows us that we are condemned and need a Savior.

You will never get to heaven by doing good works. Titus 3:5 says, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us."* *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Romans 5:1).

Yet getting to heaven is not automatic just because Jesus died for your sins! Salvation is a gift that must be received. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"* (Ephesians 2:8). That means that baptism has nothing to do with being saved. Romans 6:23 explains, *"The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

How does a person know when they are ready to be born again? They know they are ready when they mean business with God, and are willing to repent of sin. Acts 3:19 says, *"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."* II Peter 3:9 says the Lord is *"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* Jesus said, *"except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish"* (Luke 13:5). That means being willing to also turn from false religion or false teaching—anything contrary to the Word of God, the Bible.

To repent means to change your mind about your sin, and make Christ the Lord

of your life. Are you willing to turn from your sin and turn to God? Do you believe that Jesus paid the full price on the cross for your sins?

Though God hates sin, He loves you and sent Jesus to die for your sins. *"But God commendeth (proved) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

If God is dealing with you about your need of forgiveness, and you would like to be saved (born again), the final step is to ask God for the gift through a simple prayer. *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"* (Romans 10:13). Notice the promise of this verse from a God who cannot lie. Titus 1:2 says, *"God...cannot lie"*. Do you believe that God will save you simply because He said He would? Christ will save you if you are willing to make him the Lord of your life.

If you know that you are ready, you can pray and ask God to save you in your own words such as: "Dear Heavenly Father, I know that I am a condemned sinner unable to save myself, but I am willing to turn from my sins and make Jesus my Lord and master. I now trust in His sacrifice on the cross to pay for my sins. Please forgive me and save me. Amen." ■

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DEAD SEA SCROLLS

TESTIFIES THE BIBLE IS TRUE

by **mark greer**

The Dead Sea Scrolls are believed to be one of the greatest archaeological treasures to ever be discovered. They include fragments from Old Testament books of the Bible such as Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, and Isaiah. The significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls should never be underestimated. They answer one of the most critical questions of life: How do we know the Bible we have today has been passed down to us accurately—and is its message trustworthy?

Until these texts became available, the oldest Hebrew Old Testament text in existence dated back to A.D. 800. No original manuscripts of the Bible exist today, so the next best thing is to go back to the oldest copies that would be closest to the originals. The Dead Sea Scrolls allow for that because they are 1,000 years older than previously known manuscripts. They go back before the time of Christ.

What the Dead Sea Scroll manuscripts clearly demonstrate is that through over a thousand years there was essentially no alteration in the text. The scribes who transcribed the text of the Bible were so meticulous—they had such high standards of accuracy, counting every word and every letter of every word, dotting each “i” and crossing each “t”, so to speak—that one may be absolutely certain the Bible text available to scholars today is in essence the same as the originals. The Dead Sea Scrolls are an incontrovertible archaeological confirmation that this is the case.

Interestingly, the oldest manuscripts available of Plato and Aristotle only date back to 1600 A.D. and there is no great

debate or question over their reliability—proving that sometimes the skepticism over the Bible is more an issue of the heart than an issue of the evidence. Although archaeology has borne out the accuracy of the Holy Scriptures again and again, the Bible still has its critics and detractors. Yet there is another and even greater form of evidence that testifies to its impeccability—its power to change lives for the better.

The late evangelist Dr. Harry Ironside in *Random Reminiscences* tells the story of how once he was asked to share his personal testimony of faith in Christ with a group of Salvation Army workers in San Francisco. Ironside accommodated the request and listening that day was one of the early socialists who had made a name for himself by lecturing not only for socialism, but also against Christianity. After Ironside had given his testimony, the man politely handed him a card that read: “Sir, I challenge you to debate with me the question: ‘Agnosticism versus Christianity’ in the Academy of Science Hall next Sunday afternoon at four o’clock. I will pay all expenses.”

Ironside agreed to the debate on the condition the man would bring to the meeting at least two persons with certain qualifications who could prove skepticism in the Bible and Christianity had real value in changing a life and building true character. He must bring a man and a woman, Ironside insisted, who were real “down and outers”—

drunkards, or criminals, or pedophiles—persons who had been in the grip of some powerfully self-destructive habit and were a threat or menace to their family and community but were forever changed—rehabilitated as a credit to society; living a clean, virtuous, happy life—all because they had become an agnostic. Naturally, the man who made the challenge declined his earlier invitation for debate because of his inability to meet Dr. Ironside’s conditions.

In a day when Americans are looking for “change they can believe in,” both the written Word of God and the living Son of God, Jesus Christ, provide that change. What’s disconcerting, however, is the nation seems to be looking everywhere for change except for where it really can and always has been found—in those teachings from the Bible that have been tested and tried in every generation and always found more than sufficient for life’s challenges.

John Adams, who became the nation’s second president once, wrote: “Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited!

Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness, and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God...What a Utopia, what a Paradise would this region be.” ■



What Many Religions Fail to Mention



Eternity is far longer than your life time, and your soul is far more important than your body. Yet the average person spends very little time considering where their soul will spend eternity. The average person thinks that “everything’s ok, and I’m no worse off than anybody else, and actually I’m not as bad of a sinner as many others.... I’m a good person who believes in God.”

But consider the sobering words of Jesus Christ when He said;

“Wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction (hell), and many there be which go in thereat: Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life (heaven), and few there be that find it.” (Matt 7:13-14)

QUESTION: From the verses above (please re-read)... ‘Are more people going to heaven or hell?’

Jesus also spoke of Judgment Day when He said the following;

“Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied (preached) in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?’ And then will I profess unto them, ‘I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity’ (Matthew 7:22-23).

(Please read that again very carefully and consider the following).

QUIZ: Sadly, these people will miss heaven. Please answer the following questions ...

- 1) Are these people Moslem, Hindu, Buddhist, or misguided Christians, and why?
- 2) Are these just a handful of “misguided Christian” people, or a large number, and why?
- 3) Are there some “Christian” ministers and preachers in this group, and why?
- 4) Are there some in this group who ‘thought’ they were exorcists, and why?
- 5) Did the people above ‘live a good life’ and do good deeds and works?
- 6) Did Jesus recognize them as ‘children of God’?
- 7) Is everything really ‘ok’?Could you possibly be part of this group?

“Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire,” (Rev 20:15).

Apparently, “everything is not ok.” ...The Bible says;

“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death,” (Proverbs 16:25).

Multitudes of people are religious and think ‘everything’s ok,’ but Jesus said:

“If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!” (Mt 6:23).

*Imagine the spiritual blindness

of thinking “I’m ok” but still being in darkness spiritually.

The “7 Steps to God” Bible study (below) is not about denominations or religions. It’s not an issue of what church you belong to, but where you will spend eternity. The Bible says we can know for sure we’re going to heaven when we die when it says, *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life (Heaven)” (I John 5:13).*

The “7 Steps to God” deal with the following 7 lessons: (1) The Importance of Your Soul (2-3) The Importance of the Bible, (4) The Importance of Jesus Christ, (5) The Importance of Spiritual Truth & Light, (6-7) The Importance of Salvation. If you would like to take the course in the privacy of your home please go online to; 7stepstoGod.org. ■

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THE DINOSAUR DILEMMA

SOFT TISSUE IN A “70 MILLION- YEAR-OLD” FOSSIL?

In 2005, a paleontologist (one who studies lifeforms from the distant past) in Montana found something that was absolutely astonishing. It wasn't the Tyrannosaurus Rex he found, though that was amazing in itself, but what was inside one of the thighbones—SOFT TISSUE! The tissue was described by MSNBC as “flexible and resilient, and when stretched returns to its original shape”. Even blood cells and whole blood vessels were found.

Now, here is the predicament for modern paleontologists. They believe that this fossil is 70 million years old. Is it possible for a creature that has been dead for supposedly 70 million years to have tissue that is still soft?

According to Mary Schweitzer, paleontologist at North Carolina State University, there is no known preservation method that will keep tissue intact for this long. “To my knowledge, preservation to this extent—where you still have original flexibility and transparency—has not been noted in dinosaurs before...our theories of how fossils are preserved don't allow for this.” She went on to say, “It was exactly like looking at a slice of modern bone.” You have to understand, bones are porous. That means they have tiny microscopic holes through which, given enough time, all moisture from within will disappear, leaving NO SOFT TISSUE. YET, THERE IT IS. How?

Well, let's ask this

question: “Would a shorter time frame allow for soft tissue to remain soft?” Sure. Would 70 million years allow tissue to remain soft? ABSOLUTELY NOT!

Dr. Kevin Anderson, director of Van Andel Research Center says, “It's hard enough to explain [soft tissue preservation] in 4000 years, [but] tens of millions goes totally off the charts...we can't explain it at all.” So what's the answer? Simple: The Flood of Noah. Using Bible chronology, the flood can be dated at 2345 BC (that's an easy number to remember!). If you add that number to 2017 years after the birth of Christ, that would equal 4362 years ago.

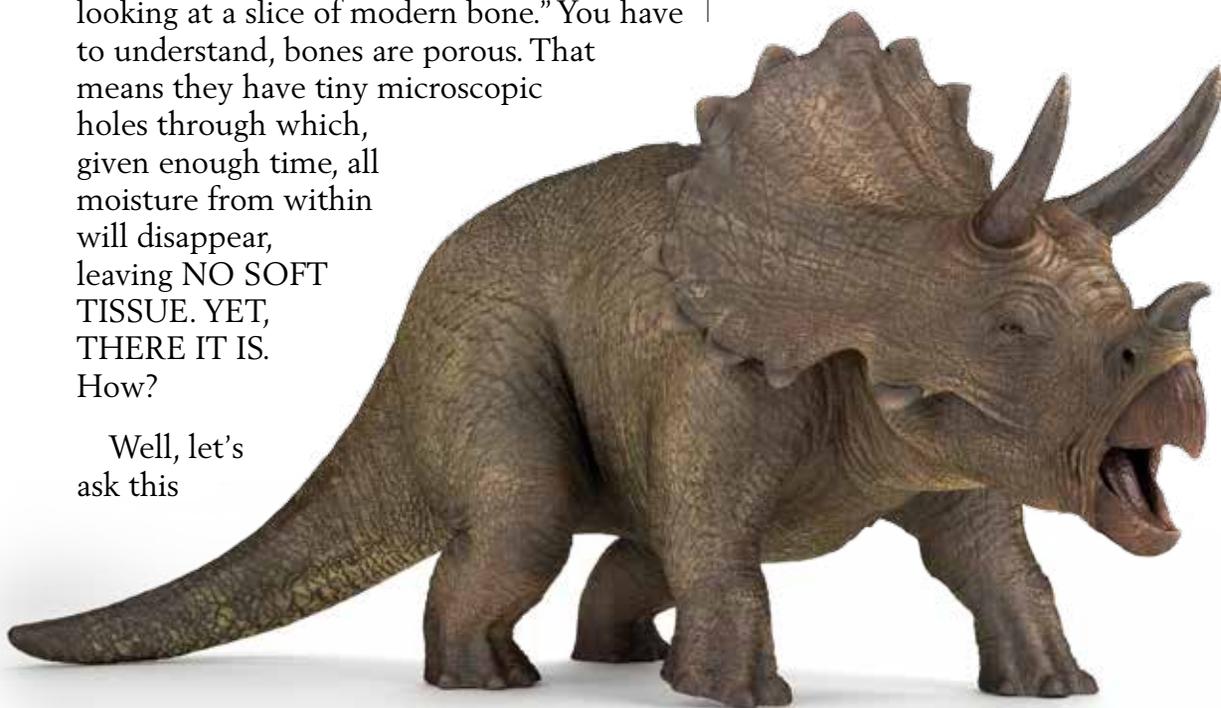
When one sees the “predicament” in the context of Bible history, it is no longer a predicament, but the answer. This T-Rex may have been hunting “little” triceratops the size of grandpa's station wagon, when he was instantly covered by millions of tons of water, mud and debris, preserving his bones AND the soft tissue inside of them. This is yet another example of how reality doesn't fit the wishful thinking of someone who is unwilling to accept the Bible at face value.” ■

Americans in Large Numbers **REJECT** EVOLUTION

Roughly half of Americans reject the theory of evolution and instead believe that God created humans in their present form in the past 10,000 years, according to a new Newsweek poll. The survey of 1,004 adults found that 48% of Americans believe God made humans “pretty much in the present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so.” Another 30% believe humans evolved over millions of years, with God guiding the process (a belief sometimes called theistic evolution). Only 13% believe in a God-less evolution. This poll shows that a large number of Americans discount evolution—despite the fact it is promoted as “true” within the mainstream media, school system (where it's now taught as “fact”), and culture at large.

A Harris poll of 1,000 adults found that 64% believed “human beings were created directly by God.” 22 percent said humans “evolved from earlier species,” but 10% of those believed humans “are so complex that they required a powerful force or intelligent being to help create them.” The Newsweek poll also found that 91% of Americans profess a belief in God, and only 3% describe themselves as atheists. (Not quite the figures the evolutionists and atheists like to use!)

Atheists might be selling books, but they're not making converts. Compared to the world's 2.3 billion Christians, there are only 137 million atheists (quite a drop from the days of communism). There are currently 80,000 people converting to Christianity every day while atheism loses 300 followers every 24 hours. Apparently people are thinking and the 'new atheism' is in trouble. ■



Scientific Thoughts on the **BIBBLE**

When dealing with disease, clothes and body should be washed under running water. (The Bible told us that in Leviticus 15:13 thousands of years ago). For centuries people unknowingly washed in standing water. Today we recognize the need to wash away germs with fresh water.

Blood is the source of life and health (Leviticus 17:11,14). Up until 120 years ago, sick people were “bled” and many died as a result (e.g. George Washington). Today we know that healthy blood is necessary to bring life-giving nutrients to every cell in the body. God declared, *“The life of the flesh is in the blood”* long before science understood its function.

The earth free-floats in space affected only by gravity. Long before other ancient sources declared the earth sat on the back of an elephant or turtle, or was held up by Atlas, the Bible alone stated what we now know to be true... *“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing”* (Job 26:7).

The Bible specifies the perfect dimensions for a stable boat (Genesis 6:15). Ship builders today are well aware that the ideal dimension for ship stability is a length six times that of the width. Keep in mind, God told Noah the ideal dimensions for the ark 4,500 years ago.

Oceans contain springs. The ocean is very deep. Almost all the ocean floor is in total darkness and the pressure there is enormous. Until recently, it was thought that only rivers and rain fed oceans. Yet in the 1970s, with the help of deep diving research submarines that were constructed

to withstand 6,000 pounds-per-square-inch pressures, oceanographers discovered springs on the ocean floors! The Bible revealed this thousands of years ago. (Job 38:16). It would have been impossible for Job to explore the “springs of the sea.”

In both John 15:13 and Romans 5:7, we’re reminded of the noble sacrifices of men to give their lives for others. Many times throughout history (and the Bible), countless people have endangered or even given their lives for others. This reality is completely at odds with Charles Darwin’s theory of survival of the fittest.

Chicken or egg dilemma solved (Genesis 1:20-22). Which came first, the chicken or the egg? This question has plagued philosophers for centuries. The Bible states that God created birds with the ability to reproduce after their kind. Therefore, the chicken was created first with the ability to

make eggs! Yet, evolution has no solution for this dilemma.

Which came first, proteins or DNA (Revelation 4:11)? For evolutionists, the chicken or egg dilemma goes even deeper. Chickens consist of proteins. The code for each protein is contained in the DNA/RNA system. However, proteins are required in order to manufacture DNA. So which came first: proteins or DNA? The ONLY explanation is that they were created together.

Our bodies are made from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7; 3:19). Scientists have discovered that the human body is comprised of some 28 base and trace elements—all of which are found in the earth. ■

*“I believe the Bible
is the best gift God
has given to man.”*

—Abraham Lincoln



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DID JESUS ACTUALLY CREATE THE UNIVERSE?

Many religions like to place mere mortals like Buddha or the virgin Mary on the same level as Jesus the Son of God. We need to ask ourselves, “Did Buddha ever rise from the dead?” How about Mary, Mohammed, Confucius, or any other human being? God only has one Son who rose from the dead, and His name is Jesus. But there is another criterion that sets Jesus apart from all others. According to the Bible... Jesus was the Creator of the universe! In Genesis 1:1, the Bible says; *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”* Let’s examine who this ‘God’ was.

According to historian Fred Meldan, the ancient Egyptians believed that a flat world rested on four pillars of stone. The ancient Hindus believed that a flat world rested on the back of a huge elephant, the elephant stood on the back of an enormous turtle, and the turtle stood on an immense coiled snake! Instead of promoting such incredible theories, the prophet Moses, who was educated in Egyptian schools, was inspired by God to write the creation account in Genesis. He gave us the true, God-breathed account, in words of grand simplicity, matchless beauty, and exquisite accuracy: *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”* The Bible clearly states that God created everything.

A person only has to look at the superb design of our universe, world, and human body to logically figure that we didn’t evolve by accident! There was an intelligent and powerful Designer behind the design. God has supernaturally built this knowledge into us. Romans 1:20 says, *“The invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made (mankind) so that they are without excuse.”* Many skeptics and scientists are rethinking Darwin’s faulty theories. The prophet David said, *“By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth”* (Ps 33:6).

If God created everything, then He created you and me. The man Job said, *“The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life”* (Job 33:4). Again, David said, *“Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves”* (Ps 100:3). While these prophets point to God as the Creator, is there any place in the Bible where God Himself claims responsibility for creating the universe and

***The Son of God didn’t get
His start in a manger in
Bethlehem. He existed
in eternity past.***

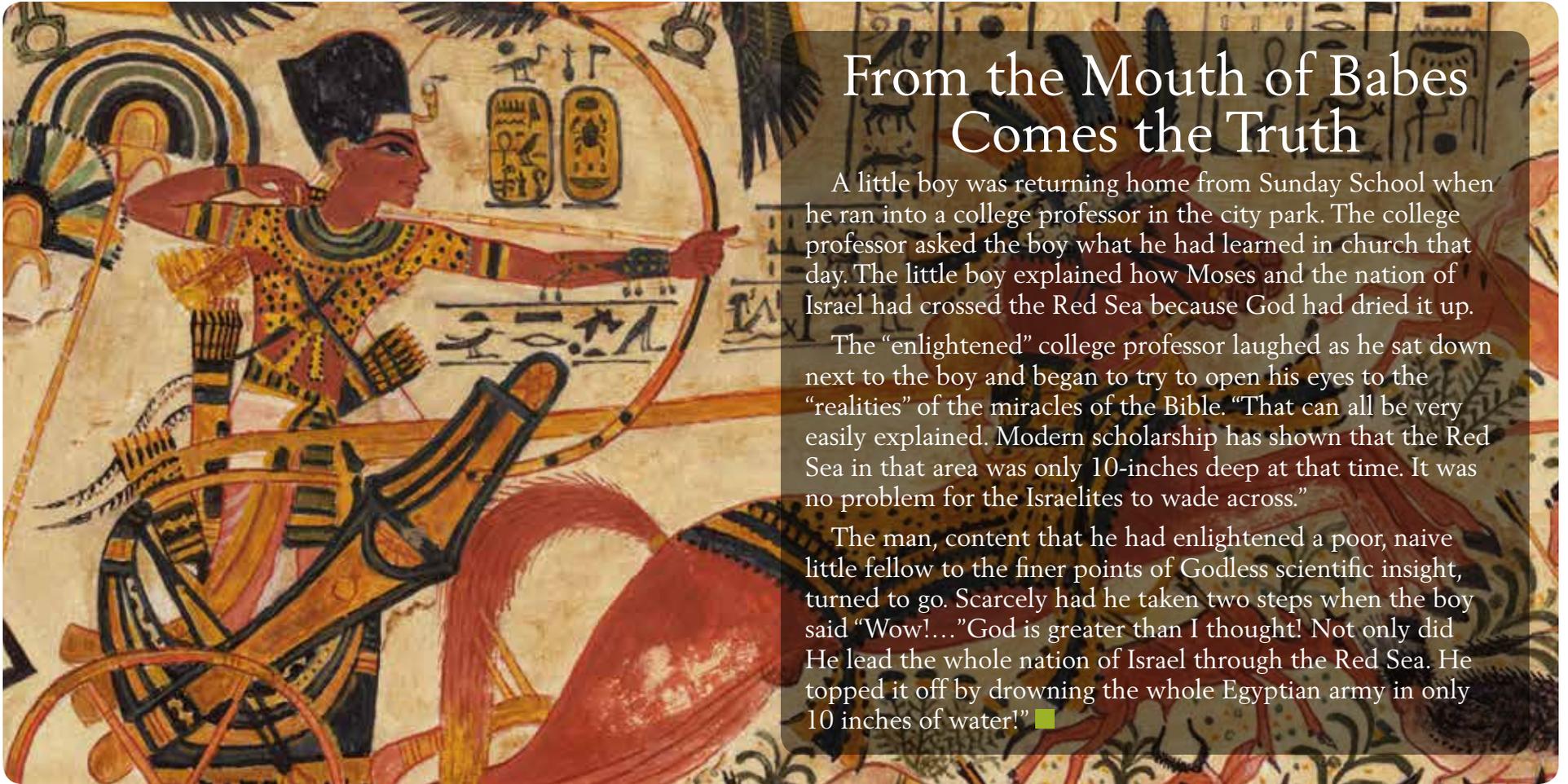
mankind? In Isaiah 45:12, God says, *“I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host (stars) have I commanded.”*

But the question at hand is... “Did Jesus actually create the universe?” The answer is “Yes”! The Bible definition of God includes the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But as we get more specific, we find that the Bible points out “God the Son” as the one responsible for creating everything. The Bible says in Hebrews 1:1-2, “God...

hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son... by whom also he made the worlds.” That means the One speaking everything into existence back in the first chapter of the Bible was Jesus Himself.

The Son of God didn’t get His start in a manger in Bethlehem. He existed in eternity past. When it came time to hurl the planets into their places, and the stars into their sockets, it was Jesus who did so. In John 1:3 we read, *“All things were made by Him (Jesus); and without Him was not any thing made that was made”.* Not only were all things created by Him, but for His glory and honor. The Bible says in Colossians 1:16, *“For by Him (Jesus) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible...all things were created by Him, and for Him.”*

This is why we say that Jesus is in a class all by Himself, and shouldn’t even be mentioned in the same breath as other religious figures. By faith, we believe that He is the Almighty Creator of all nature. The Bible says in Hebrews 11:3, *“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”* Please consider the greatness of the One called Jesus Christ. Consider also the love He has for us (His creation) in that He was willing to die for our sins in order to save us. ■



From the Mouth of Babes Comes the Truth

A little boy was returning home from Sunday School when he ran into a college professor in the city park. The college professor asked the boy what he had learned in church that day. The little boy explained how Moses and the nation of Israel had crossed the Red Sea because God had dried it up.

The “enlightened” college professor laughed as he sat down next to the boy and began to try to open his eyes to the “realities” of the miracles of the Bible. “That can all be very easily explained. Modern scholarship has shown that the Red Sea in that area was only 10-inches deep at that time. It was no problem for the Israelites to wade across.”

The man, content that he had enlightened a poor, naive little fellow to the finer points of Godless scientific insight, turned to go. Scarcely had he taken two steps when the boy said “Wow!...” God is greater than I thought! Not only did He lead the whole nation of Israel through the Red Sea. He topped it off by drowning the whole Egyptian army in only 10 inches of water!” ■

Herd Instinct

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Turkish shepherds left their sheep to graze while they had breakfast. First one sheep jumped to its death over the edge of a drop off. Then stunned shepherds returned to find other sheep following. The Turkish media reported 1500 sheep jumped in all. In the end 450 animals lay dead at the bottom of the drop off. Those who jumped later were saved by the cushioned effect of landing on top of the higher pile of sheep bodies.

“There is nothing we can do. They’re all wasted,” said Nevzat Bayhan, a member of one of 26 families whose sheep were grazing together in the herd. The estimated loss to the families in the town of Gevas is over \$100,000 which is a significant amount in a country where the average GPD per head is around \$2700.

The Bible compares human nature to that of sheep (Psalm 23, Isaiah 53:6, John 10:27, etc). It is easy for people to follow someone in their simplicity, who they think has the answers. Many are not concerned about their eternal destiny because some clergyman has told them that *“everything would be alright, and not to worry.”* Jesus said in Matthew 15:14 *“if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”* It does matter what you believe spiritually. A person would be wise to diligently seek the truth from God’s Word, the Bible. ■

“It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible.” —George Washington

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WHY DOES A LOVING GOD ALLOW BAD THINGS TO HAPPEN?

by pastor tony scheving

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

In July of 1945, the warship USS Indianapolis had just delivered the atomic bomb. On its way back home it was torpedoed by the Japanese and sunk, stranding hundreds of men in the Pacific Ocean. In the days that followed, many men perished by sharks or other means until the tattered survivors were finally rescued. How tragic. Why would God allow this to happen?

If we look at WW II alone, we see an awful death count of 54 million. We could add WW I, and the other twentieth-century wars and the death count would be over 100 million. I have been to Jewish holocaust death camps and museums and have seen the gas chambers, dentures, shoes, and prison garments of some of the six million Jews who died horrible deaths in Hitler's concentration camps. I have spoken with some of the survivors and heard their horrific accounts of what they went through. It all poses the question "How could a loving God allow such bad things to happen?"

The Perplexity

Jeremiah 12:1 *"Righteous art thou, O Lord...yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper?"*

How could a just and fair God allow such injustices? This question has led to a "crisis of faith" in the lives of many people. Tragedies occur on a daily basis such as murders, school shootings, abortions, rapes, accidents, financial woes, problems with relationships, and sickness. According to Dr. Horn of the U.S. Health & Human Services, on an average day in America, thousands of guns are brought

to school, 7700 teens become pregnant, 1100 teen abortions take place, hundreds of teens contract sexual diseases, and a sad number of teens commit suicide. A random survey of teens in Baltimore found that 72% of them personally know someone who has been shot. Sadly, such things happen in our world. Jesus said in Matthew 18:7, *"For it must needs be that offences come."* Everyday tragic divorces take place, loved ones die, children are kidnapped or molested, people are cheated and awful injustices occur. Such things can crush us to the ground. How could God allow this to go on?

The Paradox

Ezekiel 18:25 *"Ye say, the way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now... Is not my way equal? Are not your ways unequal?"*

When bad things happen, many people immediately put God on trial. A multitude of "second guessers" put God in a corner, point their finger, and accuse God of unfairness. But let's take a look at the real problem. We wonder why God allows bad things to happen. If God were to eliminate the source of the bad, He would have to start with mankind, i.e., us! We are the problem. The Bible says, *"There is none righteous, no not one"*. We are all guilty of selfishness, pride, lies, lust, covetousness, stubbornness, and a host of other things. The problem with this world is a sin problem. The sin problem is due to mankind.

There is war in the world because there is war in our hearts. We expect nations to get along with each other when husbands and wives cannot even get along. We talk

about world peace while neighbors, siblings, co-workers, and relatives fight like cats and dogs. The problem is us, not God. Jesus traced the world's problems to our own sinful hearts. He said in Matthew 15:19 *"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man."* There is evil in the world because there is evil in the heart. If God were to rid the world of "bad", He would have to begin with each of us. We need to consider that... before we get too indignant toward God.

Mankind is the one who has created the war problem, the alcohol problem, the AIDS problem, the immorality problem, the divorce problem, and every other problem. We live in a society of rebellion and lawlessness because we have rejected God's instruction for life given to us in the Word of God (Bible). For example, if we followed God's instruction from the Bible on alcohol, we wouldn't have drunk drivers killing innocent people. When things go wrong in the world, it is unfair for us to turn around and blame God. The Bible says in Genesis 18:25, *"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"* We are the culprits, not the victims, and we need to be honest enough to admit it. We have the nerve to blame God, instead of repenting of our sin. God has no obligation to rescue us from the mess we're making. We need to take an honest look within, and think twice before we demand justice.

The Premise

Romans 9:14 *"What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid."*

Why do bad things happen? Does it mean God is callous, unfair, or doesn't exist? Or could it be that we have eliminated God from our society? We have kicked God, prayer, and the Bible out of our schools. We have listened to the "experts" like Dr. Spock tell us that God's way of raising children is wrong. We have passed out condoms to our public school children and sent the message that it is acceptable to be immoral in spite of what God says. We have assisted our teen girls in having abortions without their parent's knowledge. We have bought the lie that elected officials can be ungodly and immoral as long as they do their job and the economy

continued on next page

A Loving God...Bad Things

continued from previous page

is good. Through the television, we have allowed endless hours of rape, drugs, murders, and other ungodliness to be flushed into our living rooms like raw sewage. We have told our children they evolved from animals and then we wonder why they act like them.

Maybe if we thought about it long and hard enough, we might realize we are reaping what we've sown. In so many words, we've told God to leave us alone. Should we be surprised if He has complied with our wishes? We now have the society we wanted, but don't like the consequences.

Unfortunately, many are contributing to the moral demise of our nation by redefining "right and wrong," and moving the boundary until nothing is sacred anymore. We have been brainwashed into thinking such a culture is normal. We have to ask ourselves, "What kind of a society will we be leaving behind for our children and

grandchildren?" Very few dare to address the root of the problem.

When a preacher speaks out against such things, he is scorned as "unloving and fanatical." Human nature has always wanted smooth and accommodating theology. Even in Bible times people were saying to the preachers, "*Prophesy not unto us right things... speak unto us smooth things... prophesy deceits*" (Isa 30:10). The Bible adds, "*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine... And they shall turn away their ears from the truth*" (2 Timothy 4:3-4). God has backed away and watched as man has chosen sin over his Creator. God has given us a free will. He doesn't force us to love, obey, or follow Him. But when we ignore God's "instruction manual" on life (the Bible), sin and tragedy will be the result.

The Perception

Isaiah 55:8-9 "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my*

ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

We will never be able to fully understand God's ways, and we're "out of our league" when we attempt to do so (Ps 131:1). God sees a much bigger picture than we will ever see. The Bible mentions "*the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will*" (Eph 1:11). There are no accidents or coincidences with God. There are many Bible examples of God working all things out for a much bigger purpose than was realized at the time.

So, why does a loving God allow bad things to happen? Perhaps it's to show us our own frailty, and remind us of impending death. Perhaps it is to help us get our eyes off this temporal world. Maybe He is trying to cultivate humility or patience in our lives. Perhaps God allows trials in life to cause us to look to Him for support. Maybe God allows affliction in our life to get us back on track when we are straying. David wrote in Psalm 119:67,71, "*Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted.*" Whatever the reason, we must also remember that heartaches are part of a world that has been cursed by sin since the Garden of Eden.

Yet, our Creator did not leave us without a remedy. He loved us enough to send His own Son into the world to die for our sins. Many years ago, a heartbroken father asked his pastor, "Where was God when my son died?" The pastor wisely responded, "God was in the very same place He was when His own Son died". God has proven His love for us. When tragedy strikes our lives, we can either get bitter or better. It can either drive us to God or from God, depending on our reaction (Zech 13:9).

I spoke with a WWII holocaust survivor who could have been bitter, but instead proclaimed his immense love and trust for God. The world is full of injustices including the ones committed by those who are pointing a finger at God. One day God will judge all injustices (Matt 13:41). It is not our responsibility to second-guess God, but to trust Him. ■

A WINDY ANSWER TO PRAYER

In September 1853, a little three-masted ship slipped quietly out of Liverpool harbor with Hudson Taylor on board. The skinny, wide-eyed, 21-year-old English lad was on his way to China as a missionary. Hudson Taylor was heading to a huge country that was just beginning to be evangelized with the gospel of Christ. However, by the time Taylor died a half-century later, China was viewed as the most fertile and challenging of mission fields, as thousands volunteered annually to serve there. It remained this way until the communist takeover in 1949.

One time while making a trip from England to China, Hudson Taylor was in his cabin on a sailing vessel when he heard a knock on the door. He opened the door to find the captain of the ship standing there. "Mr. Taylor," he said, "we have no wind. We are drifting toward an island where the natives are heathen and I fear they are cannibals." "What can I do?" asked Taylor. The captain sheepishly replied, "I understand that you are a preacher. I want you to pray for wind." Taylor said, "All right Captain, I will pray for wind, but first you must set the sails to catch the breeze."

The captain declined to make himself a laughing stock by unfurling in a dead calm. "The sailors will think I'm crazy," complained the captain. Taylor said, "I will not undertake to pray for the vessel unless you will prepare for the answer." The captain reluctantly agreed to set the sails while Taylor went to praying for wind. Forty-five minutes later, while engaged in prayer, there was a knock at the door of Taylor's cabin. "Who is there?" The captain's voice responded, "Are you still praying for wind?" "Yes", said Taylor. "Well", said the captain, "you'd better stop praying...we have more wind than we can manage." ■

WHO ARE THE BAPTISTS?

30 AD, the Baptist church began. While Jesus was on this earth, He started His church and promised it would always exist until He returned again (Matt 16:18). Before He ascended back to heaven He authorized His church to reach the world with the gospel (Matt 28:18-10).

Jesus was baptized with baptism by John "the Baptist" (John 1:6). If someone is baptized by a Lutheran minister they are a Lutheran. If someone is baptized by a Catholic priest they are a Catholic. Jesus and the Apostles were baptized by "a Baptist." The name Baptist is Biblical and has been attached to true Christians since the first century.

The Baptists can trace their roots back to the first century and the time of Christ and the Apostles. Please note the following quotes by the leading church historians of all time (and note that none of them were Baptists themselves).

Catholic historian Cardinal Hosius, was a leader of the Catholic Council of Trent in 1561. He knowledged the ongoing persecution of Anabaptists for the previous 1200 years (from the time he lived). This would place Baptists back to the time of 361 AD, shortly before the Dark Ages, and long before the Protestant Reformation. Cardinal Hosius also added

that the Baptists existed 400 years prior to Augustine, who lived in 430AD. This would place Baptists back to 30AD when Christ started His church.

Sir Isaac Newton said, "The Baptists are the only body of known Christians that have never symbolized with Roman Catholicism."

The outstanding Lutheran historian Mosheim said, "Before the rise of Luther and Calvin (ie-Protestant Reformation started in 1520), there lay secreted in almost all the countries of Europe persons who adhered tenaciously to the principles of modern Baptists."

The *Edinburg Encyclopedia* (Presbyterian) states, "The Baptists are the same sect of Christians that were formerly described as Ana-Baptist ... from the time of Tertullian to the present time." (Tertullian was born just fifty years after the death of the Apostle John.)

The great Methodist historian John Ridpath stated, "There was a Baptist church as far back as 100AD... as all Christians were then Baptist."

Zwingli, the Presbyterian historian, acknowledged the existence of Baptist churches 1300 years prior to when he lived in the 1500s.

There are numerous other quotes which date the Baptists back to the days of Christ and the Apostles, but please carefully read the following quote from the book "Crossing the Centuries":

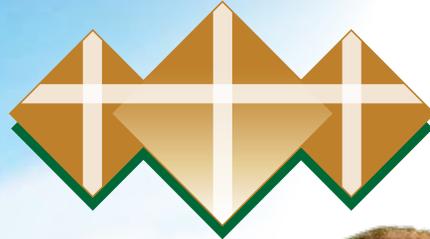
"The Baptists... have an unbroken continuity of existence from the apostolic (apostles') days down through the centuries. Throughout this long period, they were bitterly persecuted... imprisoned, tortured and slain."

This book and quote were endorsed by associate editors with PhDs who headed up the history departments of Harvard, Yale, and Brown Universities, along with scholars such as Catholic Cardinal Gibbons and also former Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.

The Baptists go back to the time of Jesus Christ! For the past 2000 years, the Baptist have handed down the Bible faith with their shed blood. During that time they have been brutally martyred by the millions by other religions. Jesus foretold this in John 16:2, "*The time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.*" ■



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