

**Going to Hell
in a Handbasket
and Loving It!**

**“This may be your last chance to change
before it’s too late!”**

Kenneth Morvant

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|------------|
| INTRODUCTION..... | 3 |
| THE WORLD’S CONDITION | 7 |
| WHY WE LOVE IT | 24 |
| HOW WE GOT HERE | 33 |
| POPULAR PSYCHOLOGY MOVEMENT | 33 |
| EVOLUTION AND IT’S ERRORS..... | 42 |
| SCIENCE AND IT’S INACCURACIES | 52 |
| <i>Special Study: I Found Your Soul!</i> | 64 |
| RELIGION AND IT’S FAILURES | 72 |
| ATHEISM AND ITS DISTORTIONS..... | 82 |
| BEGINNING OF THE END | 95 |
| HOW GOD DEALT WITH INIQUITY | 95 |
| DEMISE OF EMPIRES IN THE COMMON ERA..... | 100 |
| SIGNS OF OUR DEMISE | 107 |
| OUT OF THE HANDBASKET AND INTO THE LIGHT | 112 |
| CONCLUSION | 126 |
| INDEX..... | 129 |

Introduction

Why should you read this book? It's a valid question. After all, we have busy lives and limited time and we must therefore use our time wisely. However, there will come a time when time itself will matter no more. We either believe that we will spend eternity in the grave or eternity in Heaven or Hell. If you don't believe in God then you believe that you will simply go out of existence. If you believe in God, then you owe it to yourself to make sure that you are living your life pleasing to Him in order to spend eternity with Him. This book will challenge you to look at where you are in life and where God wants us to be in life. You will either agree with the statements put forth in this book, or you will disagree with it. Either way, your faith will be strengthened through change or confirmation.

You may feel that there is nothing particularly wrong with the world's condition, so why worry about it. Then this book will be an eye opener as to what we have gotten ourselves into and what we must do to return to a relationship with God according to His will. We live in a society that teaches sex to its prepubescent children and encourage teens to explore their sexuality. We celebrate the liberation of ourselves from religion while turning a blind eye to the horrendous condition society is in today.

There are several reasons why we are in the condition in which we find ourselves living today. Selfishness is at the heart of most every problem that exists in the world. That will be the subject of the first two chapters of this book. "The World's Condition" and "Why We Love It." These chapters take us through the various problems that exist today and why we do not desire to improve society from purely selfish reasons. We would rather put up with just about anything rather than turn back to God. We do not want to restrict ourselves with obedience to God, therefore

we do want to restrict others by calling for a reformation.

The next four chapters delve deeper into the reasons why we have moved from faith in God to faith in ourselves. We start off with “Popular Psychology Movement” and how it has created a society of selfish people who put themselves first instead of putting God and our fellow man first. Also, how it lets our children down by diminishing the role of rules and responsibility in life. Additionally, how it also fuels the neurosis of the masses. “Evolution And Its Errors” takes a look at how the theory of evolution has evolved over the years, what evidence is available, and why evolution is a religion. What is really amazing is the lack of evidence for the theory of evolution. “Science And Its Inaccuracies” takes a look at how we trust science to solve all our problems. While science has brought us great advancements, it also relies upon current thinking which can change as new information becomes available. The scientist will fervently hold to his/her belief as absolute truth just as any God believing Christian will hold to his/her faith. One scientific truth is proven false, or is modified when new discoveries or theories are advanced that challenges the accepted beliefs of science. Science as well as evolution is full of fraud, deceit and errors, but you won’t hear it from the proponents of science. There is a special study to examine the claim that science has found our soul. What they don’t know is that it was never lost. The next chapter in the series, “Religion And Its Failures” looks at the journey modern religion has taken since the Kingdom has been established and how it fails to inspire a desire in people to follow God. Instead it further teaches us to satisfy our own selfish desires. Instead of leading people to God, many churches are leading people to places where all their social needs can be met.

The next three chapters deal with the beginning of the end. It starts out by taking a look at how God

has dealt with those who reject him and did not follow His ways in “The Beginning of the End: How God Has Dealt With Iniquity.” The Bible is really a book detailing the failures of man. This amplifies the fact that man is powerless without God and can’t save himself. The next chapter looks at how kingdoms and empires have declined and the connection between their faith in God, morals and other conditions in “The Beginning Of The End: Demise of Empires In The Common Era.” The Greeks, Romans and other nations followed the pattern of God’s people in the Old Testament and paid the price for their iniquity. The last chapter in this series, “The Beginning Of The End: Signs Of Our Demise” looks at the signs of our demise as a country based on the parallel examples of the past. It may surprise you that there are many parallels between us and these nations and empires that have declined and/or disappeared from the earth.

The last chapter in the book, “Out Of The Handbasket And Into The Light” looks at scripture and how God wanted us to worship Him. God’s Word, as given to his prophets and through Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the Apostles is the only authority we should have in our lives. It is the Word of God and we should return to it as our source for life. Well, that is what the Bible said anyway.

The World's Condition

Never before in history has the condition of the world been in worse shape than it is now. You might be saying to yourself that there were plenty of times in the past when the world was in bad shape and you would be right. The age of conquerors, barbarians, pandemic diseases and a host of other problems plagued this world including the plague. The real problem is that there seems to be no turnaround, restoration or revival in site. The paradox of our situation is that while sin and evil are increasing there are many people who still profess a belief in God. You may say, "Oh, things aren't that bad," but the evidence is out there for all to see and hear. Murder, rape, pornography, infidelity, drug and alcohol abuse, broken homes, selfishness and other excesses are rampant in our society. While they may fluctuate over time, they are increasing over levels we experienced decades ago. It seems that no one cares anymore about morals, ethics, or anything approaching decency in our society.

Sex is regarded as just another form of recreation to be engaged in without restriction as to age or fidelity. Sex is engaged in at school and even in class while the teacher is in the room! In some cases our children, as young as elementary school age are engaging in sexual behavior. Performing certain sexual acts earns one badges just as we may recognize and reward someone for accomplishing something in life like a scout badge for starting a fire with sticks. Even the teachers, in some cases are getting into the act and are being charged with having sex with their students. In an unusual twist, a greater number of female teachers are being caught having affairs with students.

The growth in number of sexual addicts and sexual predators who can't satisfy their lusts with willing partners, but take perverse pleasures in forcing sex upon the unwilling, children,

animals and even the dead. People are searching for the next new way of having sex because they are tired of engaging in it in the same old ways. Pornographic images of varying degrees of salaciousness pervade the radio waves and television screens dulling our sensibilities to the point that we don't even see what is happening to us. You may say, "What are you talking about, I don't see it!" Well, you have just proved my point. Commercials are some of the worst offenders and they play at any hour of the day. Images of provocative models in compromising situations sell every product on the planet.

There is also an increase in female sexual predators, but what did we expect. Sex among children of younger and younger ages is a growing problem. Now that these people are grown up, why would we expect their behavior to be any different now that they are adults? One teacher in Clinton, South Carolina is accused of having sex with five students. This is hardly some progressive large city and this is not high school, its middle school.¹ Story after story of female teachers being charged with having sex with under age male are coming out several times a year.² We are appalled by these events, but how many years of seeing this happen will have to pass before we don't even "bat an eye" at the latest report?

While we have all seen reports of male teachers and other adults having sex with underage children these incidents are also growing in number. Our children can no longer be trusted to be safe in the "arms" of the school systems. Predators choose these and other occupations that will put them in close contact to our children to satisfy their perverse needs.

Anonymous sexual activity on the Internet is rising at alarming rates across the world. ³ Sexual addiction, like drug or alcohol addiction causes one to seek greater and greater "highs" or to try harder and harder drugs to achieve the same "high" as

in the past. The sex addict looks to different ways, partners and any other enhancement such as violent sex or “toys” to enhance the pleasure. However, over time, these new ways and methods lose their appeal and they are left looking for something that will produce the feelings they desire.

Girls, who in the past were less prone to fighting and driving recklessly are getting to be just as violent and engaging in reckless behavior according to recent news reports and insurance company statistics. There is less and less distinction between the behavior of males and females in society today. Girls, can be the sexual aggressor with the frequency of their male counterparts. Is this a “Brave New World” or a “Depraved New World?”

Morals have gone out the window. Parents allow their children to read and watch pornography in the home, or they don't care enough to monitor their children's activity. They are too busy with their own selfish wants or they have a desire to be a friend to their children instead of a parent.

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.” Franklin D. Roosevelt

Parents are even allowing their children to have sex in the home so that they know where and who their children are having sex with at any time. In one case a mother and father allowed their nine year old girl to watch them having sex so that she would learn how it's done/ 4 A SMU student who was being photographed for Playboy magazine said that when she told her father she was chosen, his only words were, “Don't wear too much makeup.” Is this shocking to you? Do you think it is just an aberration? Or do you feel that it will never happen again? How many times in the past have we thought that about the degradation of our society? After a time, our senses are dulled to what was once considered shocking behavior and is not only tolerated, but

accepted as just one of the norms we live with in present society.

Where do our children learn this behavior? In our homes, through the media, in our schools and in our institutions of higher learning the “wise” of this world teach our children about sex and aberrant behavior and we wonder why they are exhibiting this type of behavior . On the William and Mary Campus, a Christian founded university, they took down the cross in the chapel and promoted an event which featured strippers and other sexual professionals on the campus. For the sake of diversity and not offending other faiths, they took down the symbol of their founders, but without thinking about offending those of many religious faiths they promoted filth on campus. What possible lesson could anyone learn from this wicked trade? I’m listening! Can’t come up with a reason? I thought so.⁵ That is the case on many college campuses where anything having to do with God and Christianity is being banned in the name of diversity or separation of church and state. In one case the Indian River Community College in Florida banned a Christian Group from airing “The Passion of the Christ”⁶ Yet this same college put on a play about a woman who was having sex for Jesus.⁷ This is only an example of how religion is both ridiculed and banned in our institutions of higher learning. While on the other hand, pornography and other filth is celebrated and explored at these institutions.

We are even teaching our children how to be low class citizens. On a recent broadcast of the John Gibson show on Fox News, he asked a parent of a small child if their was something wrong with letting her little girl dress in “Lil Pimp” labeled clothes. She saw no problem with that despite the reputation pimps have in society. At the Oscars, a song lamenting how hard it is to be a pimp won top honors. Any movie celebrating anti-religious themes is an immediate hit for the cesspool of Hollywood. Oh, I’m sorry, I forgot it’s art!

The Vagina Monologues are, well, need I say more about it. What you might not know is that in this so called art, the conquest of a 13 year old girl by an older lesbian is recounted by the reader. Recently, the age was changed to 16 years. I guess because of the recent increase in sexual predators of both male and female genders. The Sundance Film Festival celebrated one film that took a sympathetic view of bestiality while another one titled "TransAmerica" celebrated the transsexual lifestyle. The Oscars honored similar films like "Broke Back Mountain" where two men cheated on their spouses with each other.

Murder, while fluctuating is at levels we have not seen in our past. What is more alarming is the rise in murders committed by people who for most of their lives have been good citizens with no criminal records. Road rage is another crime committed by people who are usually law abiding people. There are people who would hold the door so that it does not slam in your face and then cut you off in traffic with their mouths obviously shouting out obscenities and various hand gestures to drive the point home. Crimes of other natures are also rampant. The criminals find more and more creative ways to steal from their fellowman without a single regret for their evil behavior. Of course, what did we expect when we teach our children that we are nothing more than another animal on the earth that arose from the primordial soup billions of years ago and that there is no God.

Another alarming trend is the increase in spousal and/or offspring murder. Husbands and wives plot to murder their spouses for either's insurance, hatred or some sick need to have them completely out of the picture. Children are murdered so that women can find a partner without the burden of being a mother with children. Who trusts you more than your spouse or your children? Some people are so "hard hearted" that killing those they once loved is not a problem.

Now, there are those who will point out that crime is down from the Seventies and Eighties. While that is true, it does not paint an accurate picture based upon statistical data for the last century. The murder rate in 1900 was 1.2 in 100,000 persons. In 1999, the rate was still 5.8 per 100,000 persons. Rates spiked in the Thirties and then again in the Seventies and Eighties, but overall, they are almost 5 times the rate they were in 1900.⁸ This is how we fool ourselves. We will always look at life in a way that allows us to ignore the overall state of society.

It has been proven that crime is not related to poverty, but by poor moral choices.

“In the 1950s a psychologist, Stanton Samenow, and a psychiatrist, Samuel Yochelson, sharing the conventional wisdom that crime is caused by environment, set out to prove their point. They began a 17-year study involving thousands of hours of clinical testing of 250 inmates here in the District of Columbia. To their astonishment, they discovered that the cause of crime cannot be traced to environment, poverty, or oppression. Instead, crime is the result of individuals making, as they put it, wrong moral choices. In their 1977 work *The Criminal Personality*, they concluded that the answer to crime is a “conversion of the wrong-doer to a more responsible lifestyle.” In 1987, Harvard professors James Q. Wilson and Richard J. Herrnstein came to similar conclusions in their book *Crime and Human Nature*. They determined that the cause of crime is a lack of proper moral training among young people during the morally formative years, particularly ages one to six.”⁹

We have not only let our children down by not teaching them proper morals, but with our lax television and movie viewing habits we allow these influences to poison our chil-

dren and ourselves.

“Television may be responsible for doubling our crime rate in the United States, suggests Brandon Centerwall, psychiatrist at the University of Washington, in a recent study reported in the June 1992 Journal of the American Medical Association. Centerwall analyzed crime statistics both before and after TV was introduced in several communities. Those comparisons cause him to conclude that prolonged exposure to violence on TV has increased the number of murders in the U.S. by 10,000 each year. He sees TV as a “causal factor” in about 70,000 rapes and 700,000 injurious assaults annually.”¹⁰

Popular music also inundates the senses with immoral images, language and degrading images of women. The worst foul language imaginable make up most of the lyrics of the top selling rap music today. The same language that got Imus dismissed from his radio show by the heads of his sponsoring corporations are the same people that own the record labels these rap stars spew their filth to our children. However, business is not immune to societies corrupting influence.

I saw a sign in an office that said “It’s only unethical if you get caught.” It seems that is the mantra of society today. After all, there are only consequences if you are caught. No one feels that maybe there is someone up above watching their every move and will call them into account for their misdeeds. In the Eighties, the “intelligent” of the world surmised that ethics could be taught and instilled in society absent of a supreme being. I would hold up the recent business scandals as proof that it is not working. The children we raised without a reverence for God and morals are now running the businesses of this world.

“After drafting a will for an elderly client, the lawyer

announced a fee of \$100. The client gave the lawyer a \$100 bill. After the client left, the lawyer saw that the client had in fact paid \$200, as two of the client's \$100 bills had stuck together. Looking at the \$100 overpayment, an ethical question arose in the lawyer's mind: "Do I tell my partner?"

No wonder we have the corporate scandals where "cooking the books" for a buck is becoming commonplace in the news.

Without a strong belief in a superior being there is no reason to live a life grounded in the belief that God is there to reward and punish our deeds. We rely on science, medicine and our savings to feel confident in our lives. However, science, medicine and savings can fail us anytime and without warning. Without a reliance on the Almighty to work things out in the end we live our lives in fearful stress of everything. Why else would people without criminal records "snap" and kill someone else? Why do we fight tooth and nail for that spot in line or traffic and get into physical altercations over insignificant events? In God we trust has been replaced with "No one will take care of you so you better take all you can when you can."

Society thinks that by freeing itself from what they call the restrictions of religion that it will be healthier and happier. However, the contrary has been shown to be true. People are suffering from depression in much higher rates than in the past. 11 It is interesting to note that societies such as the Amish have much lower rates of uni-polar disorder (depression) but suffered the same rate of bi-polar disorder which is a biological disorder within the brain. This society has a strong belief in God and they feel that God will oversee their lives and they worry less than we

do in general society.¹²

A survey, done in the Eighties came up with this data:

“When in (sic) comes to belief in God, Canada’s young people are a lot like their elders, but they view religion as relatively unimportant, according to a federally sponsored study conducted by two experienced observers of Canadian social trends. Entitled Canada’s Youth: Ready for Today, the study was authored by Alberta sociologist Reginald Bibby and Ontario youth consultant Donald Posterski. The finding showed that 84 percent of the young people surveyed believe in God and 81 percent in the divinity of Jesus. Those figures are almost identical to previous Canadian statistics relating to the overall population. Over 80 percent of those surveyed said they would want a religious funeral or wedding; about 75 percent would involve a minister, priest, or rabbi in a birth-related rite. Only one in ten, however, indicated that God has “a great deal” of influence on how they live. Further, only one in 200 said they look to a religious leader for counsel or assistance.”¹³

Judging by the number of magazines devoted to following the famous in the world it is evident that people are not happy with their own lives and like to live vicariously through the rich and famous. The only thing is that they are not that happy. Freddie Prince Sr. committed suicide at the height of his popularity as well as Kurt Cobain, the lead singer of the group, “Boston” and many others. Tragic stories of these people abound and Anna Nicole Smith is just the latest in a long list of unhappy people who realize that they have all they wanted in life and still found themselves miserable. They were miserable to the point of living in the fog of drugs and alcohol and/or taking their lives either through overdose or intent.¹⁴

Do you think it is going to get better or worse over time? If you think it is going to get better, what is your basis for that supposition? In other words, what is happening, or what do you think is going to happen in the future to reverse the decline in our society?

“A law is something which must have a moral basis, so that there is an inner compelling force for every citizen to obey.” Chaim Weizmann

Can't really think of what might turn this world around? Or are you too busy enjoying all life has to offer and you don't want to be bothered? These are the questions we should be asking ourselves. If we don't confront the issues they will not go away. On the contrary, they will only get worse.

How bad do you think society will be in the future? Do you even worry about the future?

“If you were to destroy in mankind the belief in immortality, not only love but every living force maintaining the life of the world would at once be dried up. Moreover, nothing then would be immoral, everything would be permissible, even cannibalism.” Brothers Karamazov

We face many challenges in this world and the past century of decline in society and acceptance of evolution and science as the savior of this world has shown us that those ideas and theories don't really work for the greater good of society.

Will future society be shocked at this type of behavior? Not if the progression of promiscuity and lax morals is any indication. No, I think that in the future this will be considered normal. They will laugh at us just as we laugh at the days when pregnant could not be said on television.

“Few men are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery

in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world which yields most painfully to change.” Robert F. Kennedy

It does not stop there either. Six teens in Tennessee used an empty classroom in an attempt to tape a porn film. 15 Were they preparing for their career? Acceptance of the adult film industry (just call it what it is, gutter trash) and acceptance of graphic, pornographic images in mainstream films is dulling our senses to what is good and what is filth. Years of lax moral behavior and a lack of supervision by parents has led to a generation with no morals or shame. While you may say that not all teens engage in this type of behavior we see a rise in incidents just like this one. We see an increase over time. With a trend like that, it is only a matter of time before we start seeing this behavior on a daily basis on the news.

Spring Break reveals to us the depth of depravity of our children today. Binge drinking, drug abuse, sexual abuse, flashing breasts and every kind of depravity imaginable is on display for the world. The infamous “Girls Gone Wild” videos are popular as they depict the level we have sunk to in this world. Young girls expose themselves and engage in sexual behavior with each other in these videos that are sold on late night television. How would you feel if you are watching TV late one evening only to see your son or daughter engaging in this behavior in a video being sold through a television advertisement? Would you be proud?

Even those who profess to be looking out for our traditional values such as the self-proclaimed “culture warrior,” Bill Orielly on his show, “The Factor” devoted multiple nights to the spring break issue, but he chose to play video from the events and only blurred the nudity of our children. Is he looking out for our

traditional values, or his ratings? The only reason for showing, rather than telling the story is because of the value of showing provocative images of college age children. He may say that he is only reporting the news, but if he was really offended by the cultural decline he would have chosen to make that report less provocative.

Another show host critical of his coverage, Laura Ingraham, had no problem wishing that the marketing people who started a scare in Boston with electronic signs advertising “Aqua Teen Hunger Force,” would go to jail and hoped that they would be sexually abused while incarcerated. She and the staff of her program laughed about it openly on the program. She openly promotes religion on her show, but this could not be called Christian behavior. Additionally, she regularly promotes one of the most vulgar movies made titles, “Team America: World Police” in which marionettes use profanity and engage in sex throughout the movie. We have all been affected by today’s society.

We also see the rise in the culture of death in our society. Abortion, euthanasia, and physician assisted suicide are the rallying cry of a growing number of people these days. How convenient it is to get rid of a child, a person in a coma, an elderly person who can’t speak for themselves or anyone who wants to “check out” of this life. We make the excuse that a child would not want to be born in a home where they are not wanted. We say that a person in a coma has no life and wouldn’t want to live that way. Certainly, Grandma would not want to live that way either. On and on we decide for those who can’t speak what they really want when in reality we just want what we desire and that is for us not to be burdened by anything in our lives. What if the tables were turned and we could not speak for ourselves? What if we wanted to live and someone else decided that we did not want to live because of the burden we might be to them?

Society is slowly losing its conscience. Without that moral compass, we are truly lost on a sea of turmoil.

“Conscience tells us that we ought to do right, but it does not tell us what right is—that we are taught by God’s word. “

H.C. Trumbull

I have heard many wonder why there is this rise in a culture of death. It is quite simple when you think about it. If you don’t believe in God, or an afterlife then you must make peace with the ultimate end. Death must be made into something good. They feel that once we are dead we know nothing and that eliminates all the pain and suffering both physical and mental for the departed ones. This makes death into their “religion” and that further proves that everyone will worship something or someone. It is in our nature. God created us with a longing to seek out and know the omnipotent power in the universe. Some choose to know some other “higher power” and many see death as something we can’t escape and therefore a higher power than us and omnipotent.

Everything discussed thus far results from people no longer having much, if any conscience. There may have been people doing bad things all throughout history, but if you asked them if they were wrong to do so they would have said yes. They just chose to engage in the activity. Today, their conscience is seared and they no longer feel guilty for anything they do in life. That is where the real danger is for our society.

Why We Love It

You may ask why society as a whole is not disgusted at the direction we are headed, or why we can't see that the status quo is not going to improve our situation. I'll give you the short answer and it is simply selfishness. Selfishness is the root of man's first sin. The desire to have that which God wanted to protect us from caused Adam and Eve to commit the first sin in this world by eating the fruit that God forbade them from eating. Our desire to fulfill our every wish drives this society from Main Street to Wall Street as we are told we deserve these things and no one should be able to stop you from doing what you like as long as it doesn't hurt anyone.

So many have had the opportunity to gain all life has to offer and have a long list of external possessions, but they don't have "internal possessions." Kurt Cobain, Freddie Prince Sr. and many others sought all life had to offer and when they gained it all they found out it was nothing and with no where else to go, they took their own lives.

"Tennis star Boris Becker was at the very top of the tennis world — yet he was on the brink of suicide. He said, "I had won Wimbledon twice before, once as the youngest player. I was rich. I had all the material possessions I needed ... It's the old song of movie stars and pop stars who commit sui-

cide. They have everything, and yet they are so unhappy. I had no inner peace. I was a puppet on a string.”

Becker is not the only one to feel that sense of emptiness. The echoes of a hollow life pervade our culture. One doesn't have to read many contemporary biographies to find the same frustration and disappointment. Jack Higgins, author of such successful novels and The Eagle Has Landed, was asked what he would like to have known as a boy. His answer: “That when you get to the top, there's nothing there.”¹⁶

We are all aware of the emptiness of a life of hedonistic pursuits, but many still try to achieve it.

How did we get so selfish in the first place? You may think that the self-indulgent Sixties is the starting point for the “me generation.” Do you remember how the returning WWII veterans acted when they returned when the war was over? There was a general expectation that society owed them for their service. Now, I'm not saying that we did not owe them a debt of gratitude for their sacrifices. In fact we probably owed them more than we could ever pay. I'm only talking about the attitude that was prevalent at that time. While their sacrifices were the basis of their expectations, that attitude was passed on to their children who

had the same expectations as the parents. We had come to expect and demand jobs, pensions, housing and other luxuries based upon what we thought was a right and not something we necessarily worked toward in our lives.

Greed drives the world today. It fuels the frivolous lawsuits, lotteries, gambling, fraud and any other activity that offers get rich solutions to our dissatisfaction with our own lives. It drives one to neglect their family responsibilities for the sake of work.

“Greed is the logical result of the belief that there is no life after death. We grab what we can while we can however we can and then hold on to it hard.”¹⁷

We choose the rewards of this world, because we don't believe and trust the promise of greater riches in Heaven. The latest generation, called “gen y” is the most selfish of all.

“The Y Generation is regarded as being materialistic, selfish, and disrespectful — but also very aware of the world and very technologically literate. They are trying to grow-up too quickly, and have no good role models to look towards.”¹⁸

How do we expect the world to get better if we are not willing to train up our children to improve their lives and the lives of others.

We do not desire to give up any of our guilty pleasures and therefore do not try to impinge upon anyone else's vices lest we get "our toes stepped on" in the process. We will put up with organized crime and gangs as long as we can acquire drugs and visit the many dens of iniquity that exist. It is a law that cities must set up sex districts where adult oriented businesses can operate without a special permit. The city of Richardson, Texas is making plans for such a district to avoid legal complications with these businesses.¹⁹ They state that they have no choice as that is the law of the land. Has it come to this? The businesses that contribute to the moral decay of society have the same protection as the churches who try to build up society with good values and respect of God. In fact, many are trying to erode the protections enjoyed by churches. I'm reminded of the line from the movie "The Planet of the Apes." Charlton Heston is being hosed down by the apes in a world where man is the animal and apes are the intelligent ones. He cries out "It's a madhouse!" I think we could say the same about where we are headed in the future.

Actually, if you are not familiar with Old Testament history it may surprise you that even God's chosen people of

Israel suffered many of the same vices that befall us today. It may even further surprise you that they had many warnings from many prophets who authenticated themselves with miraculous powers and made predictions concerning their future. They made short term predictions with great detail that showed they prophesied with the power of God and made long term predictions concerning what would happen if the people did not turn back to God. And guess what, they still continued in their idolatry and iniquity. So you see, the condition of the world is not a recent occurrence, but in this day and age we face a new problem. The problem we face is the watering down and elimination of religion from all corners of the world. Without a belief in an omnipotent God, people don't feel they are answerable to anyone as long as they don't get caught. Without the God "brake" there is nothing to stop the downward slide of society.

Just like Sodom and Gomorrah, anything goes in this world and we feel there should be no restrictions on anything lest our pleasures be curtailed. Many of our excesses are just like these two infamous cities and just like them our additions have to be fed with more and different experiences to keep the level of enjoyment at its peak.

“While a man and his wife were shopping at a mall kiosk, a shapely young woman in a short, form-fitting dress strolled by. The man's eyes followed her.

Without looking up from the item she was examining, his wife asked, “Was it worth the trouble you’re in?”²⁰

Like Sodom and Gomorrah, we don’t know how much trouble we are in today.

Pornography has become as mainstream as any other form of entertainment. It is no longer relegated to the shadows of society. You can see Neil Cavuto of Fox News interviewing the CEO of some pornography enterprise as often as he might interview the CEO of some other company. We have lost our shame and guilt and even those critical of the porn industry have trouble deciding how to define porn.²¹ They do however, feel that it is detrimental to our society and specifically male and female relationships. Yet, we love it too much to change.

We are slaves to sin and even though we may feel its ultimately for us we can’t help ourselves but continue to partake. Paul Harvey once told the story of how Eskimos kill a wolf. It illustrates the destructive nature of sin. “First, the Eskimo coats his knife blade with animal blood and allows it to freeze. Then he adds another layer of blood, and another, until the blade is completely concealed by frozen blood. “Next, the hunter fixes his knife in the ground with the blade up. When a wolf follows his sensitive nose to the source of the scent and discovers the bait, he licks it,

tasting the fresh frozen blood. He begins to lick faster, more and more vigorously, lapping the blade until the keen edge is bare. Feverishly now, harder and harder the wolf licks the blade in the arctic night.

So great becomes his craving for blood that the wolf does not notice the razor-sharp sting of the naked blade on his own tongue, nor does he recognize the instant at which his insatiable thirst is being satisfied by his OWN warm blood. His carnivorous appetite just craves more and more until by morning the Eskimo finds him dead in the snow.”

In a society where children are introduced to sex at a younger and younger age to schools that attempt to circumvent parental authority²² to students caught having sex in the classroom²³ these incidents are covered up by the very school authorities who claim to know better what our children should know about sex. Our children are even making pornographic films between classes in Tennessee!²⁴ This kind of behavior causes children to engage in sexual behavior at younger and younger ages and when they tire of the usual ways they seek new ways to engage in sexual behavior and like a drug addict who seeks harder and harder drugs to achieve a “high” people will seek ways to enjoy sex with the same intensity of their first experiences through different methods.

Why do we desire to introduce our children to sex at younger and younger ages? Could it be that parents who

wished they could have had sex at younger ages are living vicariously through their children? What else could it be? It's not like society ever had a problem finding out how to do it. After all, there are six billion plus people on the planet so I think a few of us found out how it's done!

What happens to children exposed to sex at such an early age? What happens to children exposed to smoking at an early age? They are more likely to smoke for life and smoke generally more cigarettes than those who start at a later age. Are we creating sex addicts? When they become jaded and tired of the same old sexual activities, will they turn to other and more dangerous forms of sex?

We will continue to see a rise in promiscuity because we encourage children to engage in sexual behavior. You say, "We are not encouraging them to have sex!" However, if you teach them about adult behavior, they will want to participate in that behavior because it makes them feel grown up. Just like smoking and drinking alcohol are associated with adults, children, desiring to attain adulthood will naturally want to do that which they feel makes them look and feel like adults.

And of course, we have changed the definition of deviate behavior. Our standards have changed over the years.

“U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan recently published a disturbing essay entitled “Defining Deviancy Down.” In the Nov 22 issue of *The New Republic*, Commentator Charles Krauthammer writes that “Moynihan’s powerful point is that with the moral deregulation of the 1960s, we have had an explosion of deviancy in family life, criminal behavior and public displays of psychosis. And we have dealt with it in the only way possible: by redefining deviancy down so as to explain away and make ‘normal’ what a more civilized, ordered and healthy society long ago would have labeled—and long ago did label—deviant.”²⁵

We sooth our conscience by redefining what is wrong and what is normal. That is easier than changing.

So, why do we love the condition the world is in today and where it is headed in the future? Our own selfish desires are at the heart of why we allow things to get worse in society. We know that if we return to God and follow his ways that we would have to give up our own guilty pleasures. In order to stem the tide of crime we may also get rid of our source of sex, drugs and other vices we love. So unless you are ready to give up some of your sins you have to live with the sinful behavior of others no matter what the consequences are for us and our loved ones. You

may object to what they are doing, but putting a stop to their behavior may put a stop to your behavior.

Despite knowing this we would rather live in the sewer of life in order to get what we want, than to live without it in the sunshine of a life with God. Each year, the world gets worse and we may note the increase, but we say nothing because it may jeopardize what we enjoy in our lives.

After all, a life without God is a life without guilt, remorse and obligation to Him. Hmm, I wonder why we need all those pills.

How We Got Here

Popular Psychology Movement

“I used to think that the brain was the most wonderful organ in my body. Then I realized who was telling me this.”

Emo Phillips

I was waiting for a flight some years back and happened to wander into a bookstand. Sitting side-by-side on the same rack were two books whose subject was management. I don't remember the exact titles, but one was basically soft minded management and the other was hard minded management. That really illustrated the state we live in today. There are books that try to instruct us on every possible subject and I'm sure that for any one subject you can find several with diametrically opposed viewpoints that all claim to be the last word on the subject. Which is right? Which is wrong?

All of these “how-to” manuals to life have one thing in common. What did we do before they were written? We have been getting along for thousands of years without these “pearls” of wisdom and in fact, we were probably getting along better before this trend started. I think the worst

offenders in this genre are the child rearing manuals that started with Dr. Benjamin Spock. Some are questioning his advice²⁶ and it's no coincidence that his book was published in 1946 for it is with the fifties we see rebellion in the younger culture increase. The key word here is "increase" as there was concern about growing juvenile delinquency from the beginning of the last century. Many, including Freud believed that talking it out and non-punitive methods were the way to stem the rise in discipline problems. This is not unlike the "reformatory movement" that sought to reduce crime through rehabilitation and not just incarceration. Judging by the growth in crime and prisons I think we can all see just how that worked!

More recent studies using empirical evidence have shown that these permissive, no punishment methods have not resulted in a decrease in discipline problems, but a steep increase in their frequency. The conclusion of one study presented to The American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences National Convention summarized these methods as follows:

This presentation reviewed empirical research on punishment to see if the claims that parental punishment causes juvenile delinquency and aggression made by punishment free parenting systems (PET, STEP, and Freudian parenting) are correct. We believe our review identified the following points:

“1. Punishment free parenting theories of Freud, Adler, and Rogers claimed punishment produces delinquency and aggression in children.

2. Three prominent research investigations (Glueck & Glueck, 1950; Sears, Maccoby, and Levin, 1957; Bandura & Walters, 1959) published in the 1950s claimed their data supported the punishment free parenting systems contention that parental use of punishment is a major cause of juvenile delinquency and aggression.

3. Later re-evaluations (e.g. Yarrow, Campbell, & Burton, 1968; Schuck, 1974) of the data in those three studies indicate parental laxness and permissiveness rather than parental oversupervision and use of punishment were responsible for delinquency and aggression.

4. McCord & McCords' (1959) field experiment showed Freud and Roger's punishment free counseling approaches were not effective in reducing juvenile delinquency and parental permissiveness rather than parental punishment increased juvenile delinquency and aggression in youth.

5. Thirty one field experiments carried out from 1945 to 1967 that were

designed to use punishment free approaches to reduce juvenile delinquency failed to produce the expected reductions.

6. Empirical research studies (Spock, 1959; Rinn & Markle, 1977; Dembo, Sweitzer, & Lauritzen, 1985) fail to show any of the punishment free parenting systems effective in producing positive behavior changes in children.

7. Empirical research studies (e.g. Weber, Crawford, Roff, & Robinson, 1983) college learning textbooks show reinforcement and punishment have substantial empirical research findings showing them to be effective behavior change procedures, but fail to show punishment free parenting behavior change procedures as being effective.

8. Numerous empirical studies (e.g. Ayllon & Michael, 1959; Williams, 1959; Bernal, Duryee, Pruett, & Burns, 1968; Boardman, 1962; Hawkins, Peterson, Schweid, & Bijou, 1966; Alexander & Parsons, 1973) show reinforcement and punishment effective in reducing delinquent and aggressive behavior.

9. Corporal punishment research (e.g. Simons, Johnson, & Conger, 1994; Lefkowitz, Walder, & Eron, 1977; Gunnoe

& Mariner, 1997) shows corporal punishment does not increase physical aggression in children.

10. Punishment research reviews(e.g. Azrin and Holz, 1966; Walters & Grusec, 1977; Axelrod & Apsche, 1983) indicate punishment is an effective behavior change procedure. Anthony Biglan (1998) claimed scientifically unsupported parenting systems are being advocated by mental health professionals and accepted by society over scientifically supported parenting procedures. Our review of the research suggests Biglan is correct. We suggest more in depth public comparisons and discussions of punishment free and punishment included parenting research findings is warranted.”²⁷

As you can deduce from the conclusion drawn that there is no evidence to show that any of these permissive, no punishment methods have resulted in better children, but you probably already know that from your own experiences. You just probably thought that the evidence was against your view and you probably never said anything about the problem.

So we’ve managed to let our children down. Let’s see how we’ve managed to let ourselves down as well.

Just look at your television on any night and you will see advertisements for pills that make us feel better, sleep better, and others that help us cope with the stresses of life. If we have improved our society by getting rid of God, rules and other restrictions on our pursuit of pleasure then why are we unable to enjoy our lives and sleep better than our ancestors? Something has to be wrong when society unburdens itself from what it sees as primitive thinking and morals and yet we need so many aids to help us cope with life. Now, I'm not saying that there are not conditions where these medications are helpful and necessary for the wellbeing of someone, but it seems that there are so many in therapy and taking pills to cope with our liberated society. The rate of depression has increased ten fold over the last two decades.²⁸

This information comes from those who treat depression and not from religious leaders. Psychologists have determined that our problems stem from four historical sources.

“We live for the first time in an age of personal control, or, as Ronald Reagan dubbed it, “The Age of the Individual.” At least four historical forces have converged to make this happen. The first two — the rise of “personalized” mass production, and general prosperity — have exalted the self; the other two — the assassinations of public

leaders and the loss of faith in God and the family — have weakened our commitment to larger social institutions. And one untoward consequence of this convergence has been a huge increase in depression.”²⁹

It does not stop with our children. We almost seem addicted to pop psychology self-help books, seminars and therapy. Now there are some people that need help, but do so many of us today have problems that need “fixin?”

“Psychiatrist after evaluating a new patient: “We can’t find anything wrong with you, so we’re going to treat you for Symptom Deficit Disorder”

One must repeat that we live in a selfish society. Everything revolves around “ME.” I want more. I want people to listen to me. I want to feel good about my future. I don’t want to worry about what is going to happen.

“When the new patient was settled comfortably on the couch, the psychiatrist began his therapy session, “I’m not aware of your problem,” the doctor said. “So perhaps, you should start at the very beginning.”

“Of course.” replied the patient. “In the beginning, I created the Heavens and the Earth.”

I think that most of us think the universe revolves around us and it was created only for us. When we focus on ourselves we become our own god. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy all the modern conveniences available, but in our pursuit of these things and especially after possessing these things we usually find ourselves lacking something. Could it be the real God calling? Popular psychology is not the answer.

Unfortunately, religion is following in the footsteps of the pop psychology crowd. But, that's another chapter.

Relativism, in its many forms has contributed to the problems of society. Relativism has been around for a long time. Jainism, started hundreds of years before Christ and many versions of relativism have existed over the years. However, relativism is gaining in popularity today. There are no absolute truths for many people. There are no absolute divisions between right and wrong. Such is the reasoning of moral relativism.

“Once you depart from the Ten Commandments, you have relativism, humanism, the abandonment of abso-

lutes. You have anything. How long before child pornography is mainstream?"

Randall Terry

With no boundaries nothing is wrong and everything is permissible. Society may say it's wrong to hurt or kill someone, but the relativist says it makes him/her feel better in some way and to our selfish society that's all that matters.

“Having a clear faith, based on the creed of the church is often labeled today as fundamentalism. Whereas relativism, which is letting oneself be tossed and swept along by every wind of teaching, looks like the only attitude acceptable to today's standards.”

Joseph Ratzinger

Now, we don't like to use absolute terms such as evil to describe the heinous acts committed by some people. They are tragedies and not mass murders.

“We are moving toward a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognize anything as for certain and which has as its highest goal one's own ego and one's own desires.”

Joseph Ratzinger

I guess that about sums it up.

Evolution And It's Errors

Have you ever thought of evolution as a religion? You might be saying, "I thought evolution sought to destroy belief in religion" and you would be right. However, if you realized how much faith it took to really believe in evolution you might rethink how you feel about it.

"One day the zoo-keeper noticed that the orangutan was reading two books - the Bible and Darwin's The Origin of Species. In surprise he asked the ape, "Why are you reading both those books"? "Well," said the orangutan, "I just wanted to know if I was my brother's keeper or my keeper's brother."

Let me say this before we delve to deep into this subject matter. If the "missing link" fell out of a tree in front of me and slapped me square across the face, I would still believe in the Creation Story. You may say, "How can you still believe in the face of overwhelming evidence?" My reply would be one word and that would be FAITH! There are a few verses in the Bible that I want you to keep in mind as we go through the "How We Got Here" chapters.

AV 1611 2 Thessalonians 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

I like the King James Version's use of the word delusion in this verse. All the geological and fossil records could be for those who refuse to believe in God. Here is another verse of significance.

AV 1611 1 Corinthians 3:19 For the **wisdom** of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the **wise** in their own craftiness.

God also tests our faith in order to make us stronger. Consider this verse.

AV 1611 1 Peter 1:7 That the trial of your **faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with **fire**, might be found unto praise and honour

and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

When Charles Darwin first came up with his theory, there were many pieces of the puzzle that were missing. In fact, many of the theories are still just that, theories. Yet, if you hear any advocate for evolution speak on the subject they will have you thinking that they have absolute proof for the ideas they are advancing. Let's take a look at some of the problems plaguing evolutionary theories.

It may come as a surprise to you that the process of extinction is still a mystery. For every species that exists now, approximately 99 have become extinct.³⁰ This has led to circular reasoning. In other words, you survive because you are fit and you are fit because you survive. The opposite, you die because you are unfit and you are unfit because you die can also be surmised. That logic does not explain why animals become extinct. ³¹

Let me explain why I don't think extinction can ever be explained. Let's say we have an animal that has existed for hundreds of thousands of years. It gets by and multiplies thus keeping up the species. All of a sudden two of these creatures mate and their offspring mutate and has some new and different ability not shared by the rest of the creatures. If this is a beneficial feature this mutated animal survives and thrives. The evolutionist will say that this ani-

mal will eventually replace the current, un-mutated version of the animal. The only problem is that the old version of the animal was doing just fine. The old and new versions would do just fine in their world. Also, if the mutation was detrimental to the species and couldn't thrive, it would just die out. What causes species to become extinct? The evolutionist has no definitive answer. This could be said about our supposed ancestors. If Neanderthals survived for many thousands of years and some say that they lived side-by-side with Homo sapiens, then why don't they exist today? If the primates survived until today, then why did the more intelligent and capable primitive versions of humans die out?

There are so many animals that defy their theories such as elephants that are not much different than the mammoths. Or what about whales that are as bulky as the dinosaurs.³² The same limitations that some say ended some species still exist in some form in other animal species. Consider those animal species that are considered living fossils because they have not changed for millions of years in their estimations. The Platypus, Brachiopod Lingula, the Oyster, the Opossum, Australian Lungfish and others defy the theories advanced by evolutionists.³³

We have all seen the evolutionary tree where man is at the top of that tree. You probably haven't seen the tree in recent history as the evolutionist does not like to use it anymore. The problem is that in evolutionary theory species become more specialized as they evolve. However, man's

anatomy is more primitive than the animals. If we consider the hand we see an appendage that is a general purpose part of our anatomy. The Bat, Sea Lion, and Antelope have specialized appendages for flying, swimming and running respectively and they do a fine job as they have evolved from a general purpose appendage to a specialized one.³⁴

These persistent mysteries haunt the evolutionist, but you would never know these if you listened to them speak. No, they speak of these mysteries as if they were fact. I guess they do have faith after all.³⁵

It may also surprise you to learn that evolution as Darwin conceived it is not the evolutionary theory that is believed in today. Today, mathematics and genetics are stressed today in recent books on evolution. Terms such as survival of the fittest and natural selection have been marginalized because of contradictory evidence.

Every organism does not display the best genetic development in its makeup. Consider the oak tree. It drops its seed close to the tree in the form of an acorn. There are many advanced ways for seeds to be dispersed such as a dandelion or the trumpet vine. I have those in my landscape and they produce a light seed with a wing. When the wind is blowing it spirals down some distance from the parent plant. If the wind is not blowing it drops close to the parent plant. Just from these three examples we see that there is a myriad of methods by which seeds are spread that ranges from the

inefficient to the highly mobile seed disbursement methods. The oak tree, despite its “handicap” survives just fine in our world. This is true of every organism on the planet. Fruit flies, despite having a generational time scale of about two weeks show no evolutionary changes even though it lacks an efficient way getting at its food source. Other insects and vertebrates have beaks and boring mouth parts to get at their food even though the food may put up a good fight with a tough exterior skin.

Concepts such as Biogenetics, which was part of the evidence considered in Roe v Wade is no longer considered a valid theory. Biogenetics taught that embryos go through the evolutionary stages as they develop. It was thought that the embryo went through a fish stage because it looked like it developed gills temporarily as it developed. This and other “stages” have been disproved.

Are you starting to see the pattern? The first concepts put forth by Darwin are replaced with others as evolutionists determine that the old concepts have too many problems to be valid theories. How long before current thinking is found lacking and is replaced by new theories? In reality, evolution is based upon hypothesis and not solid, observable theory. That is the dirty little secret of evolution.

Another thing that I have observed when reading information on evolution is that natural selection and sur-

vival of the fittest seem to be “intelligent forces.” Now, the evolutionist will deny that they are intelligent, but I can’t help but feel that way when they speak of how natural selection works. In fact, if natural selection is a non-thinking force as Darwin advanced then no species could ever develop very far without some “death gene” causing the species to die out. To have a force such as natural selection always advancing species and creating new species from the old requires intelligence. Still don’t get it? Here is a question that might help. If we developed from a primitive species of man and even from some animal species and natural selection is unthinking then why don’t we see species “devolving?” After all, these primitive versions of animals survived before and there is no reason that they could not again. The evolutionist says that they died because they couldn’t adapt. It may be true that some historical condition made it difficult for some to survive, but when conditions favored it, why didn’t the survivors revert back to their former selves? For example, take the giraffe and its long neck. The evolutionist says that they developed this long neck to reach vegetation in the upper parts of the trees. Why did they develop this when other animals on the African savanna did just fine with shorter necks? Did they develop this because vegetation became scarce? If so, then why didn’t their necks get shorter when the vegetation was plentiful? Who says that evolution is a one-way street?

Remember that evolution, despite what they say, is a hypothesis. That means that it is a tentative explanation

for a phenomenon, used as a basis for further investigation or a statement that is assumed to be true for the sake of argument. The only thing that has ever been observed is the concept of adaptation. Consider this statement.

“The problem for evolution is that we never see the shifting between shapes in the fossil record. All fossils are of complete animals and plants, not works in progress “under construction”. That is why we can give each distinct plant or animal a name. If evolution’s continuous morphing were really going on, every fossil would show change underway throughout the creature, with parts in various stages of completion. For every successful change there should be many more that lead to nothing. The whole process is random trial and error, without direction. So every plant and animal, living or fossil, should be covered inside and out with useless growths and have parts under construction. It is a grotesque image, and just what the theory of evolution really predicts.”³⁶

I could not have said it any better. Evolution requires just as much faith as believing in God and our Savior, Jesus. The fossil record shows that species appeared immediately and there are no transitional fossils to be found. It looks like

the animals appeared out of nowhere. Sounds like creation to me!

The last problem we'll look at is that evolution violates the law of thermodynamics. Now I know that we all have heard the word "thermodynamics" somewhere in our past, but we might not remember the details. In a nutshell, we have all observed things deteriorate over time. Our new car is not so new anymore. Our house needs a new coat of paint. That is the second law of thermodynamics. Everything breaks down, but evolution tells us that some non-living material decided to become living and develop rather than deteriorate over time. So what is the chance that a tornado passes through a junk yard and assembles a car or a truck? A watch needs a watchmaker and a human needs a human maker. The evolutionist refutes this by saying that living organisms are open systems and the material world is a closed system. In other words we eat food, get energy and evolve according to the evolutionist. The material world can't do that. However, they have no real explanation as to why living organisms are able to violate the laws of nature other than the hypothesis mentioned previously.

You may remember that I stated that evolution is a belief system and tantamount to a religion. Well just as a religious person seeks to believe and grasps upon everything they perceive as a sign or miracle from God to validate their faith, so also the evolutionist is willing to grasp upon just about anything that advances their belief system.

Consider some of the heralded discoveries that were later revealed to be hoaxes. Piltdown man is one of the most famous examples. It took over 40 years for this find to be declared a hoax. However, for all those years the evolution crowd believed in a few pieces of the upper skull of a human and a portion of a lower jaw and teeth that was ape-like. Now, for an evolutionist this represented the “holy grail” of evidence for their beliefs. If real, it would represent a transitional stage of man. Transitional stages of development are just one of the criticisms of evolutionary theory as mentioned previously. Only in the face of overwhelming critical scrutiny did science finally declare it a fraud.³⁷

Consider the Archaeopteryx. This “fossil” was heralded as the transitional stage of dinosaur to bird evolution. The fossil showed a small dinosaur with feathers and for over 100 years this fossil was used to promote the belief in evolution. Careful examination in the mid-eighties proved it to be a fraud. Again, the evolutionist’s transitional evidence transitioned from fact to fiction.³⁸

I did not want to write a complete analysis of all evolutionary beliefs. That would require a whole book on that subject alone. Also there are many books and websites devoted to refuting and presenting the whole story of evolution. What I have endeavored to do here is to present the reader with enough information to show the nature of

the evidence available and the changing theories within the world of evolution that occur over time. I guess you could say that evolutionary theory is evolving. It may be the only thing that evolves over time. Well, maybe science too.

Science And It's Inaccuracies

“One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him. The scientist walked up to God and said, “God, we’ve decided that we no longer need you. We’re to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don’t you just go on and get lost.” God listened very patiently and kindly to the man and after the

scientist was done talking, God said, “Very well, how about this, let’s say we have a man making contest.” To which the scientist replied, “OK, great!” But God added, “Now, we’re going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam.” The scientist said, “Sure, no problem” and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt. God just looked at him and said, “No, no, no, you go get your own dirt!”

Science likes to think that at any one point in time they are 100% accurate and that they hold absolute truth. However, if you look at the history of scientific exploration and study we find that they have had to rewrite their

findings over and over again. Take for instance, DNA coding. While it has given us great insight into the human body they are now discovering that there is something else, something that would further divide DNA into some other subset. Scientists have found that to be true concerning the atom and its structure. They continue to find smaller and smaller particles or they have to theorize that this smaller matter exists. We observe this even when it comes to our consumption of food. Margarine was created to reduce our intake of butter and for many years it was considered the healthy alternative. Now, margarine is considered not as good as in the past and butter is in fashion once again. The same could be said of coffee and other foods. That is the problem of science. It always considers its current thinking as infallible and promotes it as the final word on the matter. After a number of years these “facts” are challenged and found to be erroneous. Then the process of belief, challenge and change begins anew.

Science is not immune to fraud and self-deception.

“Apart from the “experimenter effect”, any scientist will almost inevitably make an error at some pointing his or her investigations because of the vagaries of scientific thought, and may draw the wrong conclusions from the results of an experiment”.³⁹

Kohn continues to state that further experimentation by others can repeat the same errors and confirm non-existent phenomena.⁴⁰ Thus, they are perpetuating and spreading error throughout the whole of scientific research.

So when science says there is no God with absolute authority and confidence, who is to say that some evidence will change the basis of their “evidence” and who is to say that they are 100% correct. Science and its stable mate evolution have no definitive proof or “smoking gun” that proves without a doubt that there is no God.

“God is dead.” **Nietzsche**

“Nietzsche is dead.” **God**

You may think that science is open to all hypotheses and uses scientific methods of inquiry to prove or disprove what is being proposed. You might also think that if something can neither be proved or disproved then science would be open to all possibilities. Scientific methods of inquiry can be summed up with this statement.

“Scientific researchers propose specific hypotheses as explanations of natural phenomena, and design experimental studies that test

these predictions for accuracy. These steps are repeated in order to make increasingly dependable predictions of future results. Theories that encompass wider domains of inquiry serve to bind more specific hypotheses together in a coherent structure. This in turn aids in the formation of new hypotheses, as well as in placing groups of specific hypotheses into a broader context of understanding.

Among other facets shared by the various fields of inquiry is the conviction that the process must be objective to reduce a biased interpretation of the results. Another basic expectation is to document, archive and share all data and methodology so it is available for careful scrutiny by other scientists, thereby allowing other researchers the opportunity to verify results by attempting to reproduce them. This also allows statistical measures of the reliability of these data to be established.”⁴¹

You can see by reading that the scientist is supposed to be unbiased and welcomes all criticism of their hypotheses, theories, observations and experiments. However, when it comes to any phenomena that can't be observed or explained they are not willing to consider any hypothesis or theory that involves intelligent creation.

Let us look at what the scientific community thinks about those who believe in an intelligent creator.

“Scientists are always objective when they do their research and publicly express their belief in evolution. To the contrary, scientists are people and people are not often objective and neutral.

Scientists, of course, work harder at being objective because of the limits and goals of the scientific disciplines, but this doesn't mean personal preferences or ideologies never get in the way of their research. Unfortunately, the scientific community has its share of ambition, suppression of truth, prejudice, plagiarism, manipulation of data, etc. This is illustrated by Tel Aviv Medical School's Professor of Urology Alexander Kohn in his *False Prophets: Fraud and Error in Science and Medicine* (1986), by Broad and Wade's *Betrayers of the Truth: Fraud and Deceit in the Halls of Science* (1982), and other books and articles.”⁴²

The world of science likes to put on a unified face and hide its ugly side under the rug. The scientific community has its share of frauds and biased researchers.

Consider these examples of how creationists are treated by academia.

“One creationist had a Ph.D. in biology from

Harvard University. He had actively been seeking a teaching position for 12 years. One employer told him: “Frankly, I don’t like holy people, fundamentalists, especially Baptists, Church of Christ types, Pentecostals or other seventeenth century retrogressives. If we find out we hired one, especially if they start talking to the other research scientists about their beliefs, I terminate them within the month. Usually they leave without much of a protest. And I’ve never had one bring suit even though firing on religious grounds is illegal, and I

know that it is.”⁴³

There are literally hundreds of examples of people being denied their degrees, having their degrees rescinded, teaching positions being denied for straight “A” students. Teachers and professors are denied tenure for believing in intelligent design. In fact a professor was denied tenure in 2007 at ISU for just that very reason. ⁴⁴ It is evident that the science community is not open minded and is biased against creationist. If you are relying upon the scientists to give you

the straight unbiased truth, you are sorely mistaken.

You might be surprised at who said this:

“My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior Spirit who reveals himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble minds. The deeply emotional conviction of the presence of a superior reasoning Power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible universe, forms my idea of God.”

Einstein

Yes, Albert Einstein said that and more about his belief that there is a great scientist in the form of a creator. He was not willing to say who that creator is, but he recognized the hand of the master. He sought to know this creator in the mathematic precision of the universe and died while he was still writing equations to figure it out. It is not unreasonable to believe that everything we can and can't see was created by someone. It is reasonable to believe that, just as the scientist believes in the hypotheses and theories that make up their beliefs.

Consider what scientists believe about the Big Bang. They believe that all the matter in the universe was com-

pressed in a space smaller than an atom before it exploded into the universe we see today. They have trouble with the exact size because the laws of physics as they know it does not answer that question.

“Even before the Big Bang occurred, the scientists cannot deny the existence of dark, though they claim that first explosion so-called Big Bang occurred from a zero size and within 10 seconds of its explosion, the mean temperature/radiation of the Universe was 10^{30} K. Why it was so, they have probably no explanation according to laws of physics?”⁴⁵

Wow, what a revelation! Before there was something (universe) there was nothing (dark). Gee, I could have told you that. The important point to be made here is that the universe came from nothing. There are other theories such as the string theory and unseen universes from other dimensions that gave birth to our universe.

All these different theories are thought of because science had a real problem explaining how we got here in the first place.

“Numerous explanations have been proposed to support equally numerous expla-

nations “beliefs” and “misconceptions” about the nature of life.”⁴⁶

This of course is written by a scientist and not a creationist. He also had this to say in regards to the origin of the universe.

“Where did the original “matter” for the Big Bang” come from, or exactly of what it consisted has still not been determined. Besides which, we do not know if this is really what happened. It is a theory that is worked out backwards.”⁴⁷

That is not what you would hear from any scientist. According to them this is settled science.

The other theory about the universe is that it is eternal and has always existed. However, if the universe has already existed for an infinite number of years there would be an infinite number of events that would have prevented us from being here today.⁴⁸ Another example would be if we could live for a thousand years what are the odds of us making it that far without being a victim of a fatal accident or event?

There is plenty written about the errors of science

and this is only a sampling of what is available. Again, I want to present the most relevant subject matter in an easily understandable manner.

By now I hope that you are starting to get the picture. The beginning of the Bible tells us that God created everything from nothing. Even the scientists have to admit that the universe started as nothing and was created with a huge amount of energy that can still be heard as noise by receivers on earth. Yet most scientists will not even consider the possibility that the universe was created by an intelligent creator. The real fact is that they don't really know any better than you and me as to the real origin of the universe. Feeling better about believing in God? I hope you do!

The Flood is also one of the Biblical stories that the scientific community is fond of attacking. They claim that there is not enough water to flood the earth. The amount of water vapor in the air to cause that kind of flooding would have created atmospheric pressures that would have crushed every living thing and there is not enough water underground to accomplish this task by God. Well, once again science relied upon what it believed was fact. Recent findings show that there are vast underground lakes in the earth's mantle. Called the "Beijing Anomaly," it is the first one found and it contains the water volume equivalent to the Artic Ocean.⁴⁹ Science will not say that they don't have a way of knowing if there are lakes of water underground. What they will say is that they don't have lakes underground. I guess that "not

seeing is believing” also to the scientists.

Have you ever been to the Grand Canyon, or seen pictures of it? Have you ever wondered how that little river way down there could have carved out that humongous canyon? Better yet, geologists can’t find the river delta that carved out the branches of the canyon, nor can they find where the 800 cubic miles of dirt went.⁵⁰ Lots of questions with no answers, but they are sure there is no God.

The method used to date our world, Carbon-14 is not accurate for anything over a few thousand years. This is even noted by prominent scientists.

“Perhaps the best description of the problem in attempting to use the Carbon-14 dating method is to be found in the words of Dr. Robert Lee. In 1981, he wrote an article for the Anthropological Journal of Canada, in which stated:

“The troubles of the radiocarbon dating method are undeniably deep and serious. Despite 35 years of technological refinement and better understanding, the underlying assumptions have been strongly challenged, and warnings are out that radiocarbon may soon find itself in a crisis situation. Continuing use of the method depends

on a fix-it-as-we-go approach, allowing for contamination here, fractionation there, and calibration whenever possible. It should be no surprise then, that fully half of the dates are rejected. The wonder is, surely, that the remaining half has come to be accepted.... No matter how useful it is, though, the radiocarbon method is still not capable of yielding accurate and reliable results. There are gross discrepancies, the chronology is uneven and relative, and the accepted dates are actually the selected dates””⁵¹

So, when scientists say that something is millions of years old they are using methods subject to varying rates of Carbon-14 decay and the possibility that carbon can be introduced into the object giving false reports on the age of the item. More egregious is the fact that when a scientist submits material for dating they tell the laboratory the age they believe the object is when it is submitted for testing. The lab throws out results that don't agree with the estimate thus slanting the results to the bias of the scientist.

So I hope and pray that you can see that you can't take science and evolution as gospel (pun intended). They are prone to speculation, bias, fraud and error. Their advocates are against God and they will believe a lie if it denies the existence of God. Then they will proselytize others with their supposed "truth." Too many have lost faith because of

them because they speak as if their hypotheses are proven truth and without challenge. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Special Study: I Found Your Soul!

Science, in its endless quest to kill religion thinks it has put another nail in the coffin of religious people everywhere. The scientists believe they have a working knowledge and model of the soul. You might find this alarming or you might reject it outright by faith, but even if it does not affect you and your faith it might affect someone else's faith or acceptance of Christ. So you owe it to yourself and those you may come in contact with to understand this revelation.

You may say, "Could they have really found out what the soul is and could it really be our minds?" Don't get too upset over this discovery. If we study what the soul means and separate it from our spirit we might find that we agree with some of their assertions. That is not surrender to their position, but an acknowledgement of what the scripture has told us all along about the soul.

I often wondered about our future immortal state and what we would remember about ourselves. I think that in order for us to know who we are, we would have to remember ourselves to some extent. Kind of like the amnesia victim in television shows and movies. They knew they existed before, but could not remember their past lives. They still had what psychologists call general knowledge and could function like any other adult. I used to think that the soul was that part of us that remembered our "self" or

what is called the diachronic identity or diachronic personal identity. However, there are conditions where the amnesia affects the portions of the brain that recognizes our image in the mirror as ourselves. Some people will forget who they are and take up another identity. In that new identity they start another life oblivious to their past life. Sometimes, something will happen to cause them to remember their past life again. Schizophrenic and multiple personality sufferers may have different persons within the same mind. So it seems that the mind is responsible for much of what we would call “me.”

One of the first cases ever studied is the story of Phineas Gage. A railroad foreman, who when tamping a charge to clear rock from the railroad right of way was pierced through the bottom of his chin by the steel tamping rod which exited through the top of his skull. After surviving what most thought was a fatal wound he went from being a very responsible person to being a bad mannered liar after a few months after the accident. He essentially became a different person.⁵² It is obvious that the mind is an essential part of who we are as a person.

However, what we have to remember is that we are body, soul and spirit. That is the way God created us and that is the form we will ultimately take in Heaven. The good thing about the ability of the mind to “forget” certain aspects of our past is that all the bad things we went through and all the sins we committed can easily be “erased” so that there is

truly “no tears up there!”

Some would say that self identity or diachronic identity is part of our consciousness. Not to be confused with conscious such as in John 8:9ff or to know right from wrong. We are talking about that quality of awareness not attributed to animals. An animal can be self aware. I have seen dogs get alarmed at seeing themselves in the mirror and react to the image. However, after a while they begin to understand that this is not another dog. It would be hard to discern if the animal knows that it is seeing itself, but it is obvious that they don't see the image as a threat anymore and approach it with a certain curious look in its eyes. We know that the continuity is broken with certain diseases such as Alzheimer's and other brain disorders. So it would appear that who we are as a person and is sometimes referred to as the soul in the Bible is dependent on our mind to some degree. The spirit is that attribute which is not found in our physiology as-well-as when the Bible uses the word soul to refer to our living essence or breathe of life. That is why there is confusion as to exactly what the soul and spirit represent in a person. Some of the terms are used interchangeably in some passages and one must look to the whole passage to determine what the writer is exactly talking about. For example:

“ASV 1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently:”

The Greek word here refers to the breath, mind, inner mind and not the spirit. So the soul is not wholly spiritual and spirit does not always mean a disembodied, supernatural entity. So you can find the soul, at least the part that is referred to in scripture as the inner mind.

Francis Crick, Nobel Laureate and co-discoverer of the molecular structure of DNA declared in his book, “The Astonishing Hypothesis” that the soul is really the brain and not some supernatural entity created by God. I think that he should have studied the scripture and its references to the soul and he could have saved himself some effort. Now, you may be thinking that the soul referred to the supernatural part of our being and you would only be partially right. The soul represents many aspects of man as illustrated in scripture. Consider this definition from Smith’s Bible Dictionary.

“Soul

1. HBÆYDINi(Job 30:15), elevated and happy state.
2. ŠPÅNE~, more than 500 times (Gen. 2:7; 12:5,13). The meanings are:
 - a. breath (Job 41:13)

- b. vital spirit, soul (Gen. 35:18)
- c. life (Exo. 4:19)
- d. ghost (Job 11:20)
- e. pleasure (Ps. 105:22)

3. **HMÆŠÆNi~**, breath; also blast (2 Sam. 2:16; Job 4:9); “spirit,” “inspiration.”

4. Greek: **yuxhÉ** (Matt. 10:28), the vital breath, life; properly, the soul.

The ancients supposed the soul, or rather the animating principle of life, to reside in the breath. Hence, the Hebrew and Greek words where they refer to man are translated “soul” and rendered “life” or “breath” (Gen. 2:7). The immortality of the soul is a fundamental doctrine of revealed religion. The ancient patriarchs lived and died persuaded of this truth, and it was in the hope of another life that they received the promises (Gen. 50:33; Num. 23:10). To save the souls of men, Christ gave himself freely to death.”⁵³

Scripture also equates the soul as meaning the mind as well as other aspects of a person. So our soul was never lost. Science was just looking in the wrong places for it. Many confuse the soul and spirit as meaning the same thing, but they are different as brought out in scripture.

“AV 1611 1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole **spirit** and **soul** and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“AV 1611 Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of **soul** and **spirit**, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

From these examples we can see that the soul and the spirit of humans are different. However, discerning this can be difficult. For example, spirits can mean other supernatural manifestations, beings, an attitude or frame of mind. We know the scripture also says that the spirit goes back to God.

“NIV Ecclesiastes 12:7 and the dust **returns** to the ground it came from, and the **spirit returns** to God who gave it.”

From the many examples in scripture it is evident that soul is used for many physical aspects of man such as

breath, body, mind, etc. The term spirit is used to describe the intangible qualities of mankind in most cases. Our spirit, the intangible, immortal part of our being goes back to God, but our soul appears to be restored when we receive our glorified bodies.

“NIV Philippians 3:21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. “

We may not be able to fully comprehend what the scripture is telling us about our spirit, soul and body, but we can definitely see that the soul is referring to our minds in some scriptural references. Therefore, science again finds what was never lost. The inspired writers of scripture wrote this down many years before the brain was accepted as the seat of our knowledge, thoughts and personality.

“AV 1611 Revelation 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his **forehead**, or in his **hand**,”

The symbolism used here in the scripture represents the worshiper's mind or thoughts represented by the sign on the forehead and their actions repre-

sented by the sign in their hand.

Mr. Crick does admit that there are many questions unanswered in his book and that this book was meant to inspire inquiry.⁵⁴ I guess his “Astonishing Hypothesis” leads to the astonishing conclusion that science still does not have the answers to everything.

Our spirits go back to God and we are “recreated” in whole by God into our glorified state for eternity. We were meant to be body, soul and spirit and that is our future eternal state if we follow Christ.

I hope that this study does not leave you more confused than ever about the soul. I do think that it answers many questions about our future state in Heaven. Many are affected by both the good and bad things they have experienced in their lives as well as what they were taught during the times of their lives. Some of this is good such as reading and learning about God and some is bad such as growing up in a bad home. These experiences cause different people to act and react to stimuli in different ways. It can help or hamper their lives. What we know about the mind tells us that God will take care of what we remember so that in Heaven we are no longer handicapped by our past.

Religion And It's Failures

I finally heard it! On a recent talk show someone referred to some churches as “big box” churches. I guess that they were right in their assessment. We look at churches in the same way we look at department stores, home improvement stores and other shopping establishments. I’m going to go to the store where I can buy what I want to buy and just like retailers, churches are responding by giving the people just what they want. I’m a little vague here, who created who?

“Idolatry is worshiping anything that ought to be used, or using anything that ought to be worshiped.”

Augustine.

I don’t know if it’s all the evolution and science shoved down our throats for many decades or just that we don’t have time for God in our lives, but there seems to be a trend towards a self-centered religious experience.

“And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.”

John F. Kennedy

I think everyone remembers that quote. Unfortunately for many it has become, “Don’t ask me for anything! What are you going to do for me?” This current thinking has permeated the churches and in an effort to maintain and grow the church the pulpits are dispensing only what pleases the crowd.

“2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having **itching ears;**”

Sounds exactly like what has happened in many churches and/or faiths. What are we learning in churches today? Is it what God, Christ and the Apostles wanted us to know and obey?

Some are under the spell of the twin demons, pragmatism and utilitarianism. These two work hand-in-hand with the faith crushing concepts advanced by evolutionary and scientific communities. We no longer believe, or we have doubts of whether God is real and thus churches and religion become nothing but social gatherings where we are entertained and/or enlightened on the best ways of leading a modern life, advancing in position and finances, relating to spouses, children, co-workers, bosses, friends and enemies.

The Bible's only value is what it can do for us immediately, and is no more valuable than any other philosophical treatise. After all, it has to satisfy our selfish needs or we don't want to have anything to do with it. "Harsh words," you may say. Would you rather not know the truth until it is too late?

"Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman told of a distinguished minister, Dr. Howard, from Australia who preached very strongly on the subject of sin. After the service, one of the church officers came to counsel with him in the study. "Dr. Howard," he said, "we don't want you to talk as openly as you do about man's guilt and corruption, because if our boys and girls hear you discussing that subject they will more easily become sinners. Call it a mistake if you will, but do not speak so plainly about sin." The minister took down a small bottle and showing it to the visitor said, "You see that label? It says strychnine—and underneath in bold, red letters the word 'Poison!' Do you know, man, what you are asking me to do? You are suggesting that I change the label. Suppose I do, and paste over it the words, 'Essence of Peppermint;' don't you see what might happen? Someone would use it; not knowing the danger involved, and would

certainly die. So it is, too, with the matter of sin. The milder you make your label; the more dangerous you make your poison!”

Source unknown

When is the last time you have heard a preacher speak on the subject of Hell and the dangers of sin? Those subjects are addressed in the scripture just as any positive subject matter is written of in the Word.

Because we live in a selfish society we are all influenced by it whether we realize it or not. I find its influence affecting me and I am surprised when I realize that I might be acting in a selfish manner. It's not my plan, goal or anything I want in my life, but we are surrounded by it. It will affect us in some way at some point in our lives. So it should be no surprise that people would seek out pragmatic messages from the churches they attend.

So what is a pragmatist anyway?

“Most of the thinkers who describe themselves as pragmatists consider practical consequences or real effects to be vital components of both meaning and truth.”⁵⁵

Persons who subscribe to this form of philoso-

phy look at the value of religion as that which can be applied to daily life. In other words religion's only value to them is what it can help them with today and tomorrow. They do not consider eternity because they either can't fully believe in it or they have to see the value or meaning in order to validate it as truth. Their belief is not really faith in God, but faith in the value of the philosophical statements contained within the Word of God. This leads to people who don't adhere to the scriptural teachings as the infallible words of God, but to abstract concepts that can aid and enhance our lives. This explanation is probably an over simplification of the concept as with any philosophical pursuit there are literally hundreds of "truths" within this family.

“Both Dewey and James have investigated the role that religion can still play in contemporary society, the former in *A Common Faith* and the latter in *The Varieties of Religious Experience*.

It should be noted, from a general point of view, that for William James, something is true only insofar as it works. Thus, the statement, for example, that prayer is heard may work on a psychological level but (a) will not actually help to bring about the things you pray for (b) may be better explained by referring to its soothing effect than by

claiming prayers are actually heard. As such, pragmatism isn't antithetical to religion but it isn't an apologetic for faith either.

Joseph Margolis, in *Historied Thought, Constructed World* (California, 1995), made the pragmatically clarifying distinction between "existence" and "reality". He suggests using the term "exists" only for those things which adequately exhibit Pierce's Secondness. That is, things which offer brute physical resistance to our movements. In this way, such things which affect us, like numbers, may be said to be "real", though they do not "exist". God, in such an accepted linguistic usage, might very well be "real", causing believers to act in such and such a way, but might not "exist". The recommended adjustment would surely help clarify what believers mean when speaking of religious experience, and has certain affinities with what James says above."⁵⁶

So we can see that a pragmatist believes that prayer and faith can have a placebo effect, but there is no proof of a God so there would be no supernatural effect to prayer and faith.

This is how many people view religion. It

may have some immediate practical purpose, but not much more than that. I feel that they should consider themselves agnostics that practice religion as part of their history, tradition and as a social outlet.

Utilitarianism, a form of pragmatism is commonly practiced by many religions today. It follows the pragmatic view that there can be a benefit to religion and expands upon it for its own brand of edification for those who fill the pews in our churches.

“Like Americans, people outside America want fun, want an emotional compensation for the utilitarianism and calculation that mark the rest of their lives”.

Todd Gitlin

It views the Bible as containing answers to all our problems and not just focused on the salvation of our souls.

John Stuart Mill is one of the founders of this concept. It seeks to place religion and the Bible in the position of being the guide book to all aspect of our life.⁵⁷ Don't get me wrong. God's Word, or the Bible guides my life, brings me joy and hope and prepares me for eternity. However, people use the Good Book purely for its supposed guidance in mat-

ters of business, investing, social and many of life's problems. The attitude of many is not necessarily to worship God although they would not admit that they were just there for their own personal benefit. Paul said that he was glad that he had only preached the gospel (1 Cor 9:16). I wonder how many would listen to him today?

The utilitarian Christian asks what the church can do for them. The only value of the church and the Bible is what it can provide in entertainment, guidance in life, social standing and status.

“Utilitarianism began with the philosophies of Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) and John Stuart Mill (1806-1873). Utilitarianism gets its name from Bentham's test question, “What is the use of it?” He conceived of the idea when he ran across the words “the greatest happiness of the greatest number” in Joseph Priestly's *Treatise of Government*.”⁵⁸

Worshiping God, obedience to His Will, encouraging the weak, helping those in need, sharing the gospel and studying to show ourselves approved are ancillary and collateral benefits of the experience. In other words, “What is its use to me?”

“Surely this is a proof that the idea is not really or naturally terrible; that not philosophers only, but the common order of mankind, can easily reconcile themselves to it, and even consider it as a good; and that it is no unnatural part of the idea of a happy life, that life itself be laid down, after the best that it can give has been fully enjoyed through a long lapse of time; when all its pleasures, even those of benevolence, are familiar, and nothing untasted and unknown is left to stimulate curiosity and keep up the desire of prolonged existence. It seems to me not only possible but probable, that in a higher, and, above all, a happier condition of human life, not annihilation but immortality may be the burdensome idea; and that human nature, though pleased with the present, and by no means impatient to quit it, would find comfort and not sadness in the thought that it is not chained through eternity to a conscious existence which it cannot be assured that it will always wish to preserve.”⁵⁹

This philosophy or concept has led to what are essentially churches of hedonism. The only value of anything is how it can benefit me and make

me happy. Selfish motives rule the day once again.

You may say that the Bible does speak of having joy and hope in our lives. It speaks of how to live our lives and to be pleasing to God. However, if we consider what the scriptures tell us, and remember to keep it in context, we have that joy and hope despite the trials and temptations that befall us in our lives. We have all heard the expression, “the tail wagging the dog” and it is the same with God. Do we tell God when, how and why we are going to worship him or do we let Him tell us through His Word and obey it? More about that subject later.

Part of the hedonistic movement in some churches is the “Prosperity Gospel” crowd. For these folks, following God leads to the good life of wealth and good times. If this was the proper view of the gospel then the apostles missed out on it. They all died without prosperity and most were executed for their beliefs.

Other modern groups try to combine science with their own belief system to create a science fiction based religion. While they question the validity of the Bible, they have no problem believing the rants of many modern “prophets” of the New Age.

“As a result, many disillusioned believers have turned to “fringe” religions that seem more in tune with the era of Star Wars and microchips. The huge rise in popularity of cults associated with UFOs, ESP, spirit contacts, scientology, transcendental meditation and other technology-based beliefs testifies to the continued persuasiveness of faith and dogma in a superficially rational and scientific society. For although these eccentric ideas have a scientific veneer, they are unashamedly irrational”⁶⁰

Science has affected all parts of our lives. Instant answers for everyone’s problems while you wait. Now available at the Church of the Microwave Mentality.

Atheism And Its Distortions

It's funny; you have a group of people who believe there is no God or any other gods for that matter. However, have you ever seen a group of people who spent so much time on nothing? I think it is very telling to see how zealous they are in their efforts. I wish some Christians were as fervent as this group. I'm being humorous to make a point. That point is to illustrate that there is something not right in the way they attack Christianity and religion in general.

“I always admired atheists. I think it takes a lot of faith.”

**Diane Frolov and Andrew Schneider,
Northern Exposure, Seoul Mates, 1991**

I think they have a problem with their belief system.

They try so hard to believe and proselytize others to that belief because they have their own doubts about the non-existence of God. Just as some Christians lack faith because they have doubts about the existence of God, the atheist has doubts about there not being a god who created everything. That statement alone will send them into frenzy. I know, I have discussed this subject with a number of atheists and

the reaction is always the same. Really, if I don't believe in Bigfoot or the Loch Ness Monster then I'm not going to waste too much time and energy trying to convince you that they may not exist. Not that I wouldn't discuss it if someone starting talking to me about it, but I really don't care if you do or don't.

“Nobody talks so constantly about God as those who insist that there is no God.

“Heywood Broun

So why does the destruction of religious beliefs which they say are ludicrous and only fairy tales anyway consume them like spreading the Gospel consumes the Christian? Makes you think doesn't it.

“The opposite of the religious fanatic is not the fanatical atheist but the gentle cynic who cares not whether there is a god or not.
“

Eric Hoffer

But, still they try and they have their faith killing arguments that can affect us and diminish our faith or destroy it sometimes. They have several points that they like to make in their arguments.

Atheists say that God was born out of ignorance to explain events we could not explain by man's limited

knowledge at the time and because man was seeking a god. However, that statement is contradictory in nature. First, if man is ignorant, how could he conceive of something that he could not see and did not have knowledge of in the first place? What they are saying is that man, instead of thinking of a reason that did not involve a supernatural, powerful being, thought of something they had never seen or had experienced. If the earth shakes, the earth shakes. They could have thought of that, couldn't they? The key here is that they say man sought a god of some sort. Well, who put that desire in man to seek his creator? Maybe it was Evolution. I'm being facetious to point out the absurdity of their argument.

They also argue that man created God because God has hands, feet and other body parts. That is just silly, anyone who has taken a few English classes knows about anthropomorphism. It is the attribution of a human form, human characteristics, or human behavior to nonhuman things such as deities in mythology and animals in children's stories. It was God's way of relating to man in a way man could understand. Again, even the Bible admits in a way that we can't fully understand God's nature. Using these terms we can visualize and understand things about God, because we understand these physical references in our own lives. God is referred in the masculine in some verses and feminine in others where he is related as a mother figure.

“NASB Isaiah 66:13 “As one whom his **mother** comforts, so I will comfort you; And

you will be comforted in Jerusalem.”

“NASB Isaiah 66:12 For thus says the LORD, “Behold, I extend peace to her like a river,

And the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;

And you will be nursed, you will be carried on the hip and fondled on the knees.”

So the atheist fails again to see that God is trying to relate to us in words and concepts we can easily understand. They think that man created God, so man created a man-like God. God can't be described exactly and scripture proves it.

The atheist also accuses God of hatred. However, the atheist fails to recognize the use of a hyperbole here to make a point.

“Sometimes, however, the word “hate” is used hyperbolically in a relative sense to express only the strong preference of one to another. God loved Jacob, but hated Esau (Mal 1:3; Rom 9:13); father and mother are to be hated in comparison with Christ (Lk 14:26; compare Mt 10:37).”⁶¹

This is similar to when Jesus told people to pluck their eye out or cut off their hand if it would keep them from entering the kingdom of Heaven.

“NASB Matthew 18:8 “If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire.

9 “If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell. “

Jesus was illustrating the point of how important it was to obey God’s commands. Obviously, I think we could all find a way to keep ourselves on the right path. Either the atheist does not understand the use of the English language or he/she does not want to understand because it negates their arguments.

This further illustrates the first point that man could have not created the God of the Bible. Consider the gods of the Egyptians, Grecians, Romans and other cultures. They

all exhibited the evil traits of man in their dealings with other gods and mankind. The Bible tells the story of our failures and God who overcame that by sacrificing His Son, also God, to redeem the faithful.

That leads us to another point they like to make and that is the fact that similar stories are told and written in other cultures such as the creation story, the flood and others. The fact they are missing is that from Adam until Moses the stories of the past had to be handed down in the oral traditions and scattered writings. Moses, who lived approximately 1500 years before Christ, was the first to write down the history of God and mankind as inspired by God. I'm sure there were a lot of distortions in the historical record by that time and with God forming a covenant with man; it was time for a written record. Up until then man was under God's natural law. There must have been some oral tradition of God, because the world was punished once and regions and individuals were punished during that time. So the fact that there is a flood story from another culture does not mean that Moses got it from them, but that these stories would have been told and distorted over time.

Another point the atheist tries to make is that if God created the Bible through inspiration of men who wrote the books then He would have done it in a way that all would understand it the same. However, that would violate the principle of free will. We not only have a choice of whether to accept and believe in God, but we also have the choice of

accepting His Word as is or as we see it. Without God completely controlling us, which goes against free will there is no way for everyone to believe the same. Some will accept the Word and obey. Others will want to see it another way because they don't want to see it as written. I once heard someone say that when Jesus said that no one comes to the Father but through Him, he did not really mean that there was no other way to get to the intelligent creator of the world known by different names in various places. Now, he could read and saw what Jesus said, but because it did not fit with what he wanted to believe, he "read" it his way. I've always said that reading out of context or with a pretext is not the real text. Be honest with the scripture and you are being honest with yourself.

Another reason given by atheists as proof that there is no God is the account in Joshua of the sun standing still. They say that the god man created also did not know that the earth revolved around the sun. Here is the verse.

“NASB Joshua 10:12 Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

“O sun, stand still at Gibeon,

And O moon in the valley of Aijalon.”

13 So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,

Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies.

Is it not written in the book of Jashar?
And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky
and did not hasten to go *down* for about a
whole day. “

It is easy to see that it is Joshua who asks God to intervene in this manner. This is not God saying that He halted the movement of the sun and moon as they appeared to revolve around the earth, but Joshua the mortal man without the astronomical knowledge to know better. Most of us probably still say “the sun goes up” or rises and “The sun goes down” or sinks. From our perspective that is what the Sun and Moon appears to do and we use those terms even though we all know about structure of the solar system.

The atheist points to supposed contradictions in the scripture, but these are easily explained if you are willing to listen. They point to Genesis 2:16-17 where God says if Adam and Eve eat of the forbidden fruit they would die. Then they point out that in Genesis 5:5 that Adam lived for 930 years and then what did he do? He died just as God said he would. God did not say when he would die, but that he would die. The real “death” Adam and Eve experienced was the death of their special relationship with God, or separation from God which was rectified by Jesus on the Cross. This is just one of many lame attempts to discredit the Bible

by the atheists. But, they labor on.

In Genesis 3:22-23 the atheist says that there is a contradiction here because there appears to be another tree which man can't eat from, but the Bible said just one in Genesis 2:16-17 was forbidden. Again, this is a gross distortion of the scriptures. Once man and woman ate from the Tree of Knowledge, God prevented them from eating of the Tree of Life by banishing them from the Garden. Before the transgression took place there was only one tree that was forbidden, but after the sin they were cut off from the Tree of Life. Not a contradiction if you read the easily understandable scriptures. Atheists say that ignorant men created God, but I think it's the ignorant atheists that can't find Him.

Here is a better one. They say that God appears to be speaking to other gods in this verse.

“NASB Genesis 3:22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”

Have you perhaps heard of the Son of God, Jesus, the Word, the one through creation was created. Or,

the Holy Spirit for that matter. The atheist can only distort the scriptures in order to try to discredit God and the Bible.

In Genesis 33:11, 20 the atheist points out another supposed contradiction. In verse 11 it states that God spoke face-to-face with Moses and then in verse 20 God said that no man could see his face and live. Again, the anthropomorphic illustration points out the relationship between Moses and God and not a physical act. Also, Moses wanted to see the glory of God and that powerful representation of the supernatural is what man could not withstand in his mortal form.

Many atheists go on to point out the sex and depravity in the scripture and the violent acts committed. We must remember that the Bible also tells us of what people did, both good and bad. We must also remember that these people were much more primitive than we are today. It was not so long ago that people were hanged for stealing chickens and other offenses that we deem minor today. If God was going to save man, he had to tolerate some of the things man did including divorce and multiple wives.

“NASB Mark 10:5 But Jesus said to

them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment.

6 “But from the beginning of creation, *God* MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE.

7 “FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER,

8 AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh.

9 “What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.”

Whether history or the Bible, it is never good to read in our own values, prejudices and understanding into what was a more primitive time period.

The atheist goes on to say that God killed and allowed to be killed the children of other tribes around the Israelites. Let me remind the atheist that God uses other nations to punish other nations. The Israelites were only carrying out that punishment on their neighbors, their neighbors that rejected God and reveled in wickedness. God created, He has the right to get rid of what does not work. I fact, the children who were killed were better off than one who would reach adulthood and take their part in the iniquity of the nation. Let me remind the atheist that God punished Israel by having nations attack them during the times of the Judges and later when they were conquered

and led into captivity. God, after man's fall could have just wiped us off the earth and started over, but He didn't. He loves us and sought to save us and spared mankind from utter destruction. But why should He love those who hate and reject Him. It seems that they have made the choice, not God to leave the relationship.

If you want to see hatred, just read this from Christopher Hitchens, the most prominent atheist today.

“The discovery of the carcass of Jerry Falwell on the floor of an obscure office in Virginia has almost zero significance, except perhaps for two categories of the species labeled “credulous idiot.”⁶²

I would not talk about the supposed hatred by God of those who reject Him when his ilk vents this type of hatred of someone who only cared for their soul's condition.

The atheist does not understand, or does not want to understand that God is pure, just and true. After the fall in the Garden man and woman became impure, unjust and untrue. God does not exist with such defects. That is why God withdrew His fellowship with man and that is why bad things happen to good people. Jesus made a relationship with God possible, but we live with those who reject him and commit wickedness so there still can't be a relationship

resembling the Garden. Not until the end when we enter the Kingdom of Heaven can we have that kind of relationship with God.

The atheist says that God is evil because He does with His children what we would not do with our own children. Have you seen some of our children! Allowing them to do as they please without retribution is not the answer and one could say that permissiveness is child abuse. We tolerate what our children do because we are flawed ourselves.

“An atheist said, “If there is a God, may he prove himself by striking me dead right now.” Nothing happened. “You see, there is not God.” Another responded, “You’ve only proved that He is a gracious God.”

Unknown

God is perfect and He will save anyone who comes to Him for salvation. What is evil about that?

The atheist also accuses Christianity of proclaiming that it is the one true religion just as many other religions claim. However, there are really only two that make that claim. Islam and Christianity make that claim, but other religions teach that there are many paths to God or enlight-

enment. One must examine the harmony of the Bible with its 40 plus writers of the 66 books contained in it. That based with the growth of Christianity despite the severe persecution by governments in the early years and how it changes lives lets me know that it is the true path to God.

“A Muslim in Africa became a Christian and some of his friends asked him why.

He answered: Well, it is like this: suppose you were going down a road and suddenly the road forked in two directions. And you didn't know which way to go.

If you met two men at the fork – one dead and one alive – which one would you ask to show you the way?”

Unknown

One could write a book showing how easy it is to understand what the atheist claims are contradictions. The fact is they don't want to believe and that is their way to feel good about their disbelief. But, one has to wonder why they need that to feel good. Is there a conscience that bothers them or that innate tug that causes us to believe and seek out our Creator? After all, He seeks a relationship with His creation.

Beginning Of The End

How God Dealt With Iniquity

You might be wondering why it is important to follow God as He desired us to follow Him. Well, He is the creator of the universe and also you and me. God created us so that He and us could commune and love each other. If we reject that, what should He do with us? I think that this is a good time to remind ourselves how God has dealt with mankind in the past when they did not follow or obey Him.

Obviously, Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden with the forbidden fruit put a gulf or expanse, if you will, between man and God. God is pure, just and holy. Man was pure, just and holy before he took the same path as Satan and defied God. That however, was just the first of many times mankind said, "I know what God said, but I think I'll do it the way I want to do it." They were banned from the idyllic paradise God made for them on the earth. The first punishment recorded is also the final punishment for all those who reject His Love and disobey his commands. That punishment is separation from Him.

We also learned of Noah and the Flood Story and the story of Sodom and Gomorrah early on in Sunday school

that illustrated God's displeasure with man's wickedness and rejection of a relationship with God. In the Flood Story, God destroyed all of mankind save 8 faithful souls who obeyed and believed God. God had Noah preach for 125 years without one convert. They all laughed at him and thought nothing would happen to them. They obviously did not believe in God anymore and thought that no punishment would come their way. After all, they lived so many years in wickedness without anything happening. After God determined that He would not punish man with a flood again changed the form of punishment to local and regional actions against mankind's wickedness and rejection of the one true God.

What we may be unfamiliar with is the time of the Judges. We have heard of the great battles between God's chosen people and the heathen nations that surrounded them. People and places such as Deborah, Gideon, Jericho and others regale us with the power of God to deliver his people from the hands of the enemy. What we are less familiar with is the circumstances that caused them to be attacked in the first place. Every time the Israelites strayed from God, they were attacked and/or taken over by some other kingdom. When they repented, God raised a Judge that delivered them from their punishment. That is what it really was, punishment from God through other nations. God would raise another nation to attack the Israelites in the Promised Land when they strayed. Time and time again this scenario played out until the people cried out for a king to

rule them instead of God. God allowed them to have a king for a ruler, but their problems continued.

Now this did not happen just a few times and then the Israelites learned their lesson and stayed faithful. Here is the chronology of the period of the Judges and the years involved..

Oppression of Cushan-rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia (3:8) — 8

Deliverance by Othniel and rest (3:11) — 40

Oppression of Eglon, king of Moab (3:14) — 18

Deliverance by Ehud and rest (3:30) — 80

Oppression of Jabin, king of Canaan (4:3) — 20

Deliverance by Barak and rest (5:31) — 40

Oppression of Midian (6:1) — 7

Deliverance by Gideon and rest (8:28) — 40

Rule of Abimelech (9:22) — 3

Judgeship of Tola (10:2) — 23

Judgeship of Jair (10:3) — 22

Oppression of the Philistine and Ammonites (10:8) — 18

Deliverance by Jephthah, and his judgeship (12:7) — 6

Judgeship of Ibzan (12:9) — 7

Judgeship of Elon (12:11) — 10

Judgeship of Abdon (12:14) — 8

Oppression of the Philistines (13:1) — 40

Judgeship of Samson (15:20; 16:31) — 20⁶³

However, things did not improve once they had kings rule over them. The Bible is really a history of man' rebellion and failure to please God and His love for us.

Twice, during the times of the kings, the divided kingdom of the Israelites were conquered and taken into captivity. The Assyrians in 721BC conquered the Northern Kingdom and the Babylonians in 586BC conquered the Southern Kingdom. The Northern Kingdom was never returned to their land, but were scattered throughout the nations of the world. When the tribes of the Southern Kingdom repented from their sins they were allowed to return to their lands. They did not win their freedom by the sword, but the kingdom that ruled them freed them to return to their land. The Bible tells us of those who warned of the impending captivity, but the people did not listen. During captivity, prophets called for people to repent. After a time they did repent and they were allowed to return to their land.

Before Jesus' time and up until 70AD, Rome ruled the land of Israel. A rebellion by the Jews was quelled by the Roman General Titus in 70AD and the events are recorded by the Jewish Historian Josephus. Beyond these events, we have no recorded Word from God regarding the

disposition of any nation that has declined or disappeared from the earth.

Now, if God has a history of punishing mankind as a nation or as a whole world when needed, why wouldn't he continue to do so after all revelation has been written down? It is important to say here that without direct revelation from God it is impossible to say with 100% certainty that war, famine and other catastrophes are punishments. Tsunamis, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, ethnic cleansing, famine and diseases are also the result of man's iniquity and the resultant distance or separation from God and His immediate influence on our world. The idyllic scene of the Garden where God walked with man is replaced with the "sweat of the brow" world we exist in today.

Remember the sacrificed Galileans and the Tower of Siloam of Luke 13:1-4 and what Jesus said about them. They were no worse sinners than anyone else, but misfortune came their way and they lost their lives. Jesus uses these incidents to warn people to obey Him or perish. When bad things happen to us it may be God chastising us for our transgressions or it may just be circumstance, like the faithful Jews who were also carried into captivity with the wicked ones. These situations are always a time to reflect upon our condition and change if necessary.

If we are Bible believing people then this should

cause us to sit up and pay attention. Time and time again God has punished the human race in general and His chosen people by raising nations to punish them. This pattern should not be considered to be a tool that God no longer uses to correct mankind.

Demise of Empires in the Common Era

“In South Africa, naturist club owner Beau Brummell was irked by accusations from morals watchdogs that a shriveling Transvaal drought was brought on the “sin” of nude togetherness at his 1000-acre farm. So he asked his 370 visitors to get dressed. And, for the first time in two months, it poured rain. “It’s enough to make me become a monk!” Brummell said.”

Ingrid Norton

Even before the Common Era, the empire of Greece reigned throughout the region. As with most empires there grows an arrogance that proves to be fatal in the end. Once a nation forgets that it is God who allows them to enjoy prominence in their part of the world they start to decline. You may say that they worshipped just about every other god but the true God and you would be right. God uses nations, even pagan ones to do his will, but when they turn to their own abilities as the reason for their success, they begin to decline. Where there is a belief in some higher power, there is a chance that they might come to knowledge of the one true God. Also, when God decides that their purpose in the world is no longer needed, they no longer have God propping them up. That is why these empires declined despite being the “big dog” on the block.

“We believe that Heaven, and we know

that men, by a natural law, always rule where they are stronger. We did not make that law nor were we the first to act on it; we found it existing, and it will exist forever, after we are gone; and we know that you and anyone else as strong as we are would do as we do.”

Thucydides

Not exactly a statement of faith for any deity. However, it illustrates the fact that they relied only on themselves and that the ends justified the means in their eyes.

Perhaps the most revealing qualities of the Greeks are made in this statement.

“ Perhaps the most famous quote is “Know thyself”, from Socrates, as “the unexamined life is not worth living”, and attempted to subject everything to logical scrutiny, with universal standards that governed behaviour, rebelling against the mysticism of religion. The roots of scepticism can be found there, a constructive form which encouraged independent thought.”⁶⁴

I’m not trying to denigrate independent thought, but the important thing here is the rejection of religion in general. Every nation or empire without a religious belief system or one that declined over time went the way of history.

One area where thought should be guided is with our youth. They are encouraged to think anything they want

without regard of the damage that may be done. Ancient Greece suffered from the same problem.

“New thinkers in the society argued for “fundamental change” and called for giving the youth a “voice in society.” Without traditional guidelines, the young men grew wild and undisciplined destroying the old order. Slowly Greece devolved into a disreputable and lawless nation. The Romans conquered Greece in 146 B.C. By placing everything under military authority, they were able to restore order and bring back the rule of law.”⁶⁵

Sounds like our youth today, doesn't it?

One of the first books that is mentioned when discussing nations that have declined and have met their demise after the written record of the Bible is Gibbon's “The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.” Now, way back before the rise of alternative lifestyles, socialism, vast entertainment industries, and the decay of religion Gibbon attributed Rome's decline to the diminishing role of religion in the citizen's lives.

Illustrated here again is the role that religion plays in the life of a person. Even a religion that follows what we may feel is not a real god. A belief in a superior being in the heart of a person is that chance that they may be open to hearing about the true God. Consider Paul in Acts 17:23 when he addressed the Athenians about the statue of the

Unknown God. While their beliefs are pretty wild compared with today's religious beliefs, the fact that they had a belief opened them to the possibility that they would listen to Paul about another god, the real God.

He also surmised that the pursuit for pleasure in the form of sports that progressively became more violent as time went on was a contributing factor. Look at the rise in more and more violent spectator sports and movies. We are entertained 24/7 by every imaginable media form and we are terribly upset if we are not constantly stimulated by these entertainment sources.

They were subjected to higher and higher taxes that were distributed to the masses in the form of free bread and circus entertainment. The State created a society that was dependent upon the government as a source of wealth distribution and entertainment. Once the reliance shifted from religious beliefs to belief in the system, religion started to play a lesser role in the lives of the citizens of Rome. There was an increase in divorce and decline of the family unit. That unit, created by God for the good of mankind declined as an essential institution in the empire. The rise of decadence in the people of the empire also contributed to the fall of the empire.

“Teacher: How was the Roman Empire cut in half?”

Pupil: With a pair of Caesars!”

To the student of history and religion this information is probably not new. However, due to the size of Gibbon's work, many would not even want to try to read it in its entirety. There are others besides Gibbon who wrote about the Roman Empire.

Even Niccolo Machiavelli commented on the value of religion in his work, "The Discourses." He concluded that a society was better with a religious belief at its core.

“...for where religion exists it is easy to introduce armies and discipline, but where there are armies and no religion it is difficult to introduce the latter.”⁶⁶

Recognizing that the populace responded positively to a deity has been noted by many. Karl Marx commented that religion was the opium of the masses even though he was an atheist. It is natural for man not only to seek out a higher power, but to also trust in their deity. However, when man controls religion, corruption creeps in society declines.

“And certainly, if the Christian religion had from the beginning been maintained according to the principles of its founder, The Christian states and republics would

have been much more united and happy than what they are.”⁶⁷

Just think what a belief in God would have done for them. We are created with the desire to bond to our parents and trust them. In that same way we were created to seek out our Heavenly Father and trust him for all our needs.

Many nations have risen to prominence in the past and then without explanation they began their decline from the pinnacle of power.

“So it is also with nations. Napoleon’s cynical answer to someone who asked him whether God was on the side of France was: “God is on the side of the heaviest artillery.” Then came the battle of Waterloo, the loss of his empire, and, finally, exile to St. Helena. There, chastened and humbled, he said, “Man proposes; God disposes.” What Franklin saw so clearly and Napoleon learned so painfully is that nations, like individuals, can lose their right to exist. “The powers that be are ordained of God, “ (KJV) writes St. Paul in Romans 13:1, and J.B. Phillips translates I Corinthians 2:6 as referring to “the powers-that-be, who soon will be only the powers that have been.”⁶⁸

Having to admit that his arrogance and reliance in what he thought was his own abilities, Napoleon realized who is in ultimate control of the universe.

In more recent times we have seen the rise and fall of the Soviet Union. This empire, founded on a total rejection of religion probably lasted the shortest amount of time of any great nation that existed upon the earth. Religion that was once forced underground now flourishes in that country. Historians Will and Ariel Durant observed in their summery volume, The Lessons of History, that There never has been a significant example of morality apart from belief in God.

Signs of Our Demise

“It is clear that when we think of the word “wrath” as applicable to God, it must be divested of everything that is like human passion, and especially the passion of revenge. It is one of the most obvious rules of interpretation that we are not to apply to God passions and feelings which, among us, have their origin in evil. [God’s wrath] is the opposition of the divine character against sin; and the determination of the divine mind to express that opposition in a proper way, by excluding the offender from the favors which He bestows on the righteous. We admire the character of a father who is opposed to disorder, vice, and disobedience in his family, and who expresses his opposition in a proper way. We admire the character of a ruler who is opposed to all crime in the community, and who expresses those feelings in the law. Why shall we not be equally pleased with God, who is opposed to all crime in all parts of the universe, and who determines to express His opposition in the proper way for the sake of preserving order and promoting peace?

Albert Barnes

I hope that it is clear to you now that we may be experiencing our own decline as a nation and as a society. Let's look at the similarities between the empires or nations of the past with our nation today.

The first and main attribute that is lacking in a declining society is religion. We no longer listen to the council of God, but seek to mold God into a palatable image we can tolerate. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and look what it got them. Noah's contemporaries no longer believed and did what they wanted and paid the ultimate price for their iniquity. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for their sins which included sex and unnatural relations. Just as the Israelites suffered for their straying from God we may face a time when we will suffer for straying away from God. More importantly, even if the nation suffers for its iniquity as a whole, those who are faithful will persevere. God will see to it. Once religion goes a society loses its higher purpose.

Many of the same conditions attributed to the decline of the Roman Empire can be found in America and many other nations of the earth. The entertainment industry consumes our money and our time. We are thrilled when our team scores, but we have no enthusiasm for the forgiveness of our sins. When we tire of the old, new sports and other games are invented to keep us engaged in the competition.

We are addicted to being entertained. Just like any other drug we require more and more over time. We require more intense sports to get the same thrill. More violent sports are gaining popularity throughout the world. More and more violent movies are being made that explore the depravity of man and moviegoers are thrilled by the spectacle. How long will it be before gladiator type sports are allowed somewhere in the world? Extreme sports has risen as the newest fix for the adrenaline junkie as nothing else can satisfy their desire to be stimulated to the maximum degree.

Just as in Rome, divorce and the breakup of the traditional family unit has left us with many who can only be described as “damaged goods.” With less parental supervision and absent parents our children are allowed to do anything possible before someone of authority gets home to supervise them. We allow them to be unsupervised and do whatever their creative minds come up with in the course of a day. There is little or no guidance to help lead them on the right path.

“Many men can make a fortune but very few can build a family.”

J. S. Bryan

Rome produced generation after generation of these

undisciplined individuals and their prominence in the world diminished.

“The negative effects that we associate with divorce are actually evident in teens at least one year before the marriage has ended.”⁶⁹

The news of today are filled with stories of our own undisciplined youths with no morals and no conscience. The family unit is important to the survival of society and the perpetuation of religious beliefs.

All of the problems outlined in the first two chapters detailed all of these condition and more. We face many enemies who want to destroy us and they do not hide the fact that they want to do that. However, many do not see the dangers. Maybe, that is God setting the stage for our demise and takeover by a “punisher” country.

“History does not repeat itself, but it does rhyme.”

Mark Twain

France’s pride and arrogance as articulated

by Napoleon led to their eventual downfall. When you think that it is by your hand that you have success, you are worshipping the wrong god.

The leaders of the revolution in Russia saw religion as useless, unnecessary and forbidden. The Godless masses labored for the equality of nothing and without hope the communist nation floundered and died in approximately 70 years. They thought that religion brought a nation down and hampered its rise to power. However, religion lifts a nation with hope and confidence and if properly applied can be the hope of many around the world.

Will we learn from the past and change our ways, or will we follow all the others into oblivion?

“Ancient Rome declined because it had a Senate; now what’s going to happen to us with both a Senate and a House?”

Will Rogers

Let us pray it is not too late.

Out Of The Handbasket And Into The Light

“Man is the only animal that laughs and weeps, for he is the only animal that is struck with the difference between what things are and what they ought to be.”

William Hazlitt

It is interesting to note in the account of the fall of man and woman the wordplay used in the scripture.

“Genesis 3:1 is connected with 2:25 by a Hebrew wordplay: Adam and Eve were “naked” (,,YmÉwR^á~)~; and the serpent **was more crafty**(,,wR^Æ~, “shrewd”) than all. Their nakedness represented the fact that they were oblivious to evil, not knowing where the traps lay, whereas Satan did and would use his craftiness to take advantage of their integrity.”

While we normally look to this scripture to show how sin was introduced into the world through

Adam and Eve's disobedience there is more here to learn. While Genesis 3:15 is the verse that introduces us to a Savior who will destroy Satan we can't avoid the fact that man and woman are powerless against sin and temptation. The aptly illustrates that we have no weapons or special knowledge (naked) with which to defend against evil. We can't make it without God. To live forever and be in the presence of God we must submit to His will and obey His commandments. Yet, so many still want to call the shots in their lives and decide what they want to do concerning God.

We go about our business thinking that we are in complete control of our lives, but we only fool ourselves. Natural catastrophes can befall anyone anytime and destroy all we hold dear. Pensions, savings and other assets may be wiped out without notice leaving us without the security we thought we had for our future. Our health can change overnight leaving us in fear of the future for us and our families.

One may say "Why can't I worship God the way I want to?" A valid question and one we can go to the scriptures to see what God has said about how we should worship Him. The first response to the question comes from NASB Matthew 10:35

“For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW;”

Literally, the Greek word used here means to cause a separation between people.

“1369 *dixazō*; *dichazō*: 1 aorist infinitive *dichasai*; (*dicha*); to cut into two parts, cleave asunder, dis sever: Plato, *polit.*, p. 264 d.; metaphorically, *dichazō tina kata tinos*, to set one at variance with (literally, against) another: Matt. 10:35. (Cf. Fischer, *De vitiiis lexamples etc.*, p. 334f.)*
“70

Does that sound like Jesus did not want us to take his commands seriously? He is telling us that not everyone will agree with what He commanded by His word and by the words of His apostles. If we want to follow Jesus and be saved, then I think it is important to listen to His council and instructions.

It is kind of like this. If I told you that you will have to learn and perform some lifesaving activity in order for you to survive, would you pay atten-

tion and learn to do it right? I think you would. If your life is dependent upon knowing something, you will probably do everything in your power to learn and practice how to perform the activity. Saving your soul for eternity is no different.

Remember in a past chapter I wrote about the time of the Judges and how God punished the Israelites through other nations. Here, in the words of the scripture is why they were punished.

“NASB Judges 2:1 Now the angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you,

2 and as for you, you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.’ But you have not obeyed Me; what is this you have done?

3 “Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they will become *as thorns* in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.’”

4 When the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept.”

The key phrase in these passages is “have not obeyed Me” and that is critical for us to understand. Many people say that God will not punish us for doing anything wrong. These people who espouse that belief do so with no scriptural authority to back up their statements. If God says he will punish those who don’t obey Him as he has done all through Biblical history why would we think that He does not anymore?

Another lesson to be learned from the Book of Judges is what the Israelites did not do that displeased God. They failed to completely conquer the land given to them by God. Subsequently, the sinful activities of their neighbors slowly crept into their culture and society and they were punished for that sin. If we don’t rid our own lives and the lives of our families of the evil influences that surround us today we will be influenced and fail God. From our study of Adam and Eve’s vulnerability (naked) we should be able to understand that we are weak to the constant bombardment of sinful images, words and music that we come in contact with every day.

If we are not willing to rid our lives of these influences, then maybe we love it too much. If we love it too much, then we have to ask if it is not

already too late for us to turn and repent. Not that God would ever forgive us, but that we love it too much to ever turn back. Quite a scary thought, but one that we must entertain if there is any hope for us.

If you still do not think that God wants us to obey his commandments, then consider these verses.

NASB Exodus 23:21 “Be on your guard before him and **obey** his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will

not pardon your transgression, since My name is in him.

NASB Exodus 23:22 “But if you truly **obey** his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.

NASB Leviticus 26:18 ‘If also after these things you do not **obey** Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

NASB Leviticus 26:21 ‘If then, you act with hostility against Me and are unwilling to **obey** Me, I will increase the plague on you seven times according to your sins.

NASB Leviticus 26:27 ‘Yet if in spite of this you do not **obey** Me, but act with hostility against Me,

NASB Deuteronomy 27:10 “You shall therefore **obey** the LORD your God, and do His commandments and His statutes which I command you today.”

NASB Deuteronomy 30:2 and you return to the LORD your God and **obey** Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons,

NASB Deuteronomy 30:8 “And you shall again **obey** the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you today.

NASB Deuteronomy 30:10 if you **obey** the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul.

NASB John 3:36 “He who believes in

the Son has eternal life; but he who does not **obey** the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

NASB 2 Thessalonians 1:8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not **obey** the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

NASB Hebrews 5:9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who **obey** Him the source of eternal salvation,

NASB 1 Peter 4:17 For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not **obey** the gospel of God?

NASB 2 Corinthians 10:6 and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your **obedience** is complete.

Now this is a very small sampling of just a search on the words obey and obedience. Still think that God is okay with us doing what we want and worshiping Him any old way we please?

Let me illustrate another way. Here is a conversation between God and Abraham if Abraham lived today and thought like many people do today.

God: “Abraham, I want to make a covenant with you.”

Abraham: “Great God! I like that!”

God: You must first circumcise yourself.

Abraham: “Okay, I’ll do it. Uh, by the way, what’s circumcision?”

God explains and Abraham listens.

Abraham: “Uh huh, yes, hmm, WHAT! Uh, God, you sure there’s not another way we can do this?”

Many would rationalize that this practice is archaic and really not necessary as long as you accept God and obey the rules man deems as relevant. Or consider the conversation if Moses was

living today.

God: "...and the pig, though its hoof is split, does not chew the cud, so it is unclean and you can't eat it."

Moses: "God, do you think we could choose another animal? There is just too many good recipes that contain pork in it and I would really hate to give it up. Maybe we could trade you two other animals for the pig."

We don't think of the patriarchs acting in such a way. What the Bible tells us about these great people of faith is that they obeyed God's commandments without questioning and rationalizing them as antiquated, useless and therefore unnecessary in order to worship God.

I hope that I have shown you that God requires us to live our lives and worship Him in the ways He instructs us to and we seek that knowledge of those commandments in His Word.

AV 1611 2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself **approved** unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing

the word of truth.

I like the King James Version here because it uses the word study. It clearly says we must learn in order to be approved. How can we know if we don't read?

You may be thinking, just how much of myself and my time does God want from me.

NASB Deuteronomy 6:5 “You shall **love** the LORD your **God** with all your **heart** and with all your soul and with all your might.

NASB Mark 12:30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’

31 “The second is this, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

So, do you love God? Maybe you're stunned because you never really considered the cost of what God required of us. Or are you saying, “That is too much!”

It is a lot. Well that may be an understatement. It is everything. But I think I can help you to achieve that level of love for God in your life. If you have read this book, or any book that outlines the ways we have disappointed God and how he still loved us enough to come and live with us in human form with all the problems we go through to live on this earth you can start to realize the depth of His love for us. Consider Philippians Chapter Two that tells us how Jesus sacrificed his place in Heaven to become man and then, even though He is God allowed himself to submit to death for my sake and your sake.

You might say to me that we aren't that bad. Well, many feel that way, but consider that we neglect God and give into temptation and sin against Him. He created us out of love for love and many times we do not love Him back. One of the best illustrations for this relationship is in Hosea. This little known prophet was commanded to take as a wife a prostitute named Gomer. He preached to the Israelites of their infidelity to God and at the same time he rescued Gomer from her infidelity to the prophet. We are the bride of Christ. Do we have a spousal-like relationship with Christ? Do we return the love He has for us back to Him?

If doubt is your problem then you must work

on the reasons for that doubt. I only touched the surface of what is available to refute science and evolution's attacks on religion. While there are vast amounts of information to contradict what our enemies tell us. The bottom line is that it is just as reasonable to believe in God as it is to believe in evolution. They can't produce proof any more than we can produce God for them to examine. God calls people to believe by faith and by faith we live. I have shown the depths of fraud and deceit that take place in the name of proving their theories which are really hypotheses. If they had irrefutable evidence they would not need the hoaxes, frauds and lies that have been put forth as evidence of evolution. Believe in the Truth, not the deception.

Do you have doubt because you're not quite sure that the Bible and Jesus represent God Almighty? While there are atheists that say that Jesus never existed. There is secular evidence that prove that he did. By the way, no serious scholar will say that Jesus never existed. They may not believe that He is the Son of God and Savior of the world, but they know he lived.

Consider what Josephus wrote.

“”so he [Ananus, son of Ananus the high

priest] assembled the sanhedrin of judges, and brought before him the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others (or some of his companions) and when he had formed an accusation against them, he delivered them to be stoned.”⁷¹

Josephus was not a Christian, but a Jewish historian. Or, consider the Talmud. The writers of this document did not deny that Christ existed. They did not even deny that Jesus performed miracles. They explained his powers as coming from evil and not from God. ⁷²

“Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus.”⁷³

This quote is from Cornelius Tacitus who was another Roman historian. Thallus, another historian tried to explain the earthquake and sun darkening at the time of Jesus’ death as just a coincidence that an earthquake occurred at the same time that an eclipse was happening.⁷⁴ There are other accounts, but these represent the best accounts confirming the historical Jesus.

Archeology is another area where the Bible has never been wrong. Many have doubted that some of the events, people or places described in the Bible are real, but time and time again diggings have revealed what the earth had swallowed up.

“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever contradicted a biblical reference.”⁷⁵

There is no evidence that evolution, science, atheism nor any other persons or groups critical of Christianity can produce that can cast doubt on God’s Word and His Son being anything other than what they claimed.

If Jesus had not resurrected, do you think that Christianity would have survived the persecution it endured over time? Consider this chilling account from Pliny the Younger, Governor of Pontus Bithynia from 111 to 113 CE. Pliny reported to Emperor Trajan

“They asserted, however, that the sum and substance of their fault or error had been that they were accustomed to meet on a fixed

day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god... Accordingly, I judged it all the more necessary to find out what the truth was by torturing two female slaves who were called deaconesses. But I discovered nothing else but depraved, excessive superstition.... Meanwhile, in the case of those who were denounced to me as Christians, I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed. For I had no doubt that, whatever the nature of their creed, stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy surely deserve to be punished.”⁷⁶

This is typical of what early Christians went through for their beliefs. Do you think that the Apostles and the witnesses to the miracles that occurred would have died for a lie if it were not true?

Conclusion

You've read the whole book. What do you think? Do the words alarmist, unfounded, ludicrous, paranoia or other similar terms come to mind? Or, do you think accurate, timely and true? I think it would be difficult to ignore what is happening around us every day, but it seems that is what a lot of people are doing these days.

Before you draw your own conclusion, consider that most of the sources I used in this book are from secular, anti-God, and neutral positions. While they may have been critical of their professional colleagues, they certainly were not friends and advocates of religion. Consider what is written on the jacket of Norman Macbeth's "Darwin Retried:

“How convincing is Darwinian theory today? Is it a science? Does it explain? Or have we merely substituted the jungle ethics of survival for the fairy-tale philosophy of the creation, and does a mystery still remain for a new generation of scientists to solve?”

Norman Macbeth

Not exactly a churchgoer from that statement. He believes religion is just a story with no authority over us and no proof for its claims.

Even these people have to admit, if they are honest, that they do not have the definitive answer to why you and me are here. They speculate, hypothesis, theorize and yet they have no proof that we were not created by God.

More insidious than the evolution/science attacks on religion is what has happened to how we worship God today. We have left the gospel of salvation for our sins to the gospel of social utilitarianism. Many no longer worship God as He required, but worship as they see fit and when they can fit God into their busy lives.

From that lack of spiritual and moral grounding, many and their children run wild doing whatever they want without a conscience to govern them or call them back to God. They are so “inebriated” with their supposed freedom from religion they will look at you and say, “Oh, we’re not so bad. “ Like the drowning man who takes his first breath of sea water and sees the light above fade to dark, there is no escape; sin and Satan have another captive.

If you are saying, “I trust and believe in my faith” then hopefully this book has been an encouragement for you. If you find that you can say the same and you are offended by this book. Remember this, I have said nothing that is not written in the Bible and I have kept it in context. My illustrations did not change the meaning of the scrip-

tures, but amplified the message of the passage. If you have a problem, then your “beef” is with God. Like you, I am just a sinner that can’t save myself. That is why I turned to God through Christ so that I could have forgiveness for my sins and a relationship with God and Jesus. I cherish that relationship and am thankful each and every day that I repented before it was too late and I want to share the love He has for me with others. Unfortunately, few will find the way.

“NASB Matthew 7:13 “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

14 “For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

The word “wide” used here means to be led away or astray and took away. Don’t be led astray. Study the Word so you won’t be led astray.

Index

I

1 Corinthians 3

19 43

1 Peter 1

7 43

1 Peter 4

17 on obedience 118

18 killed in collapse of tower in Siloam..... 98

2

2 Corinthians 10

6 on obedience 118

2 Thessalonians 1

8 on obedience 118

2 Thessalonians 2

10 42

2 Timothy 2

15 on studying God's Word..... 120

A

Abortion 22

Acts 102

Adam and Eve..... 24, 52, 86, 88, 95, **108**, 112, 116

addict..... 9, 30

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Albert Barnes | 107 |
| Alexander Kohn..... | 56 |
| America..... | 15, 22, 77, 108 |
| American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences..... | 34 |
| Amish..... | 17 |
| Antelope..... | 45 |
| anthropomorphic illustration..... | 90 |
| anthropomorphism | 84 |
| Apostle Paul..... | 29, 60, 78, 81, 102, 105 |
| Archaeopteryx dinosaur to bird fossil | 50 |
| Archeology and the Bible..... | 124 |
| Assyrian captivity | 97 |
| Atheism..... | 82 |
| Augustine | 72 |
| <i>B</i> | |
| Babylonian captivity | 97 |
| Bat..... | 45 |
| behavior... 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 19 , 20, 21, 22, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36, 84 | |

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Beijing Anomaly..... | 61 |
| Big Bang..... | 58, 59 |
| Biogenetics disproved..... | 47 |
| Brachiopod defies evolution..... | 45 |
| Brothers Karamazov | 19 |
| <i>C</i> | |
| Carbon-14 | 61, 62 |
| Charles Darwin | 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 126 |
| Christ... 11, 39, 43, 56, 64, 68, 70, 73, 85, 86, 121, 123, 124, 127 | |
| Christian..... | 4, 10, 22, 31, 78, 83, 104, 123 |
| Common Era..... | 5, 100 |
| Cornelius Tacitus, Roman Historian | 123 |
| Corporal punishment..... | 36 |
| Crime..... | 14 |
| Crimes..... | 12 |
| <i>D</i> | |
| Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire..... | 102 |
| Defining Deviancy Down..... | 31 |
| Destruction of Jerusalem | 98 |

Deuteronomy 27

10 on obedience117

Deuteronomy 30

10 on obedience117

2 on obedience117

8 on obedience117

Deuteronomy 6

5 on Greatest Commandment120

diachronic..... 64, 65

DNA has subsets..... 52, 67

Dr. Benjamin Spock 33

Dr. J. Wilder Chapman..... 73

E

Edward Gibbon 102, 103

Einstein 58

Evolution.....4, 42, 45, 49, 84

evolution is a belief system 50

evolution violates the law of thermodynamics..... 49

evolution, despite what they say, is a hypothesis..... 48

Exodus 23

21 on obedience116

22 on obedience116

F

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| female sexual predators | 8 |
| Flavius Josephus | 98, 122, 123 |
| Flood | 60, 95 |
| Francis Crick..... | 67, 70 |
| Fraud in science and evolution | 50, 51, 53, 56 |

G

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| Galileans sacrificed by Rome | 98 |
| Genesis 2 | |
| 16-17 | 88, 89 |
| Genesis 3 | |
| 15 112 | |
| 22 89 | |
| 22-23 | 89 |
| Genesis 33 | |
| 11, 20..... | 89 |
| Genesis 5 | |
| 5 88 | |

God..... 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 27,
31, 32, 37, 38, 39, 43, 49, 50, 52, 54, 57, 60, 61, 63, 65, 67,
68, 69, 70, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85,
86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 102, 103,
104, 105, 107, **108, 110**, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 120,
121, 122, 123, 124, 126, 127

God is pure, just and true..... 92

God spoke face-to-face with Moses 89

God's punishment during the Judges 91, 96, 97, 114,
115

Greece66, 67, 100, 101, 102, 113, 114

H

Harvard University 14, 56

Hebrews 5

9 on obedience118

hedonism..... 80

Hell..... 1, 3, 74

Homo sapiens..... 44

Hypothesis..... 67, 70

I

Ingrid Norton 100

| | |
|---|--------|
| Internet | 9 |
| Isaiah 66 | |
| 12 84 | |
| 13 84 | |
| <i>J</i> | |
| Jesus 5, 11, 17, 43, 49, 68, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 92, | |
| 98, 114, 118, 121, 122, 123, 124, 127 | |
| John 3 | |
| 36 on obedience | 117 |
| John Stuart Mill | 78 |
| Joseph Ratzinger | 40, 41 |
| Joshua 10 | |
| 12 87 | |
| Judges 2 | |
| 1-4 on obedience | 114 |
| juvenile delinquency | 34, 35 |
| <i>L</i> | |
| Laura Ingraham..... | 21 |
| Leviticus 26 | |
| 18 on obedience | 116 |
| 21 on obedience | 117 |
| 27 on obedience | 117 |

| | |
|---|-------|
| Lingula defies evolution | 45 |
| Luke 14 | |
| 26 85 | |
| <i>M</i> | |
| Malachi 1 | |
| 3 85 | |
| man and woman became impure, unjust and untrue .. | 92 |
| Mark 10 | |
| 5-9 | 90 |
| Mark 12 | |
| 30-31 on Greatest Commandment | 120 |
| Matthew 10 | |
| 35 113 | |
| 37 85 | |
| Matthew 18 | |
| 8 85 | |
| Matthew 7 | |
| 13 narrow vs. wide gate | 128 |
| morals | 9 |
| Morals | 9 |
| murder | 7, 12 |
| <i>N</i> | |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Napoleon..... | 105 |
| Nietzsche..... | 54 |
| no man could see his face and live is correctly no man could see His glory and live | 90 |
| Noah..... | 95, 108 |
| O | |
| Opossum defies evolution..... | 45 |
| Oyster defies evolution | 45 |
| P | |
| Parent | 9, 10 |
| parents..... | 20, 25, 30, 104, 109 |
| people were much more primitive than we are today | 90 |
| personality..... | 65, 69 |
| Philippians Chapter Two and Christ's love and sacri- fice..... | 69, 121 |
| philosophy..... | 77 |
| Pitldown man hoax | 50 |
| Platypus defies evolution..... | 45 |
| Pliny the Younger, Governor of Pontus Bithynia ... | 124, |

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Popular psychology..... | 39 |
| Porn..... | 20 |
| Pornography..... | 28 |
| Pragmatism practiced in churches..... | 75, 77 |
| Promised Land..... | 96 |
| psychiatrist..... | 13, 14 |
| Psychology..... | 4, 33 |
| Punishment free parenting..... | 34 |
| R | |
| Randall Terry..... | 40 |
| read in our own values, prejudices and understanding into what was a more primitive time period..... | 91 |
| Relativism..... | 39 |
| Religion..... | 5, 72, 106 |
| religious..... | 76 |
| Robert F. Kennedy..... | 20 |
| Ronald Reagan..... | 38 |
| S | |
| school..... | 7, 8, 9, 10, 29, 95 |
| Scientific methods of inquiry..... | 54 |

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Sea Lion | 45 |
| self..... | 21, 25, 38, 53, 64, 65, 72 |
| Sex..... | 7, 8 |
| sex XE “Sex” among children..... | 8 |
| sex and depravity in the scripture..... | 90 |
| shifting between shapes in the fossil record..... | 48 |
| Society..... | 16, 22, 40 |
| Socrates..... | 101 |
| Sodom and Gomorrah..... | 28, 95, 108 |
| Soul | 64, 67, 68, 70 |
| Soviet Union | 105 |
| Spirit..... | 5, 57, 89 |
| <i>T</i> | |
| Talmud and Christ | 123 |
| television..... | 14 |
| The Factor | 21 |
| Theories..... | 54 |
| Thucydides..... | 101 |
| Tod Gitlin..... | 77 |
| Transitional stages | 50 |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Tree of Knowledge | 89 |
| Tree of Life | 89 |
| <i>U</i> | |
| Utilitarianism practiced in churches | 77, 78 |
| <i>V</i> | |
| Vagina Monologues | 12 |
| <i>W</i> | |
| William Hazlitt | 112 |

¹ <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,256070,00.html>

² <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,147179,00.html>

³ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/738699.stm>

⁴ <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,251296,00.html>.

⁵ http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=54289

⁶ <http://thefire.org/index.php/case/661.html>

⁷ <http://thefire.org/index.php/article/5119.html?PHPSESSID=eb58cfd0623186e7422cb317f43e4ef1>

⁸ <http://www.straightdope.com/columns/020712.html>

⁹ Christianity Today, August 16, 1993, p. 30.

¹⁰ Hollywood vs. America by Michael Medved (Harper Collins/Zondervan, 1992), quoted in Leadership, Summer 1993, p. 76.

¹¹ Seligman, M. E. P. In J. Buie (1988) 'Me' decades generate depression: individualism erodes commitment to others. APA Monitor, 19, 18. "People born after 1945 were ten times more likely to suffer from depression than people born 50 years earlier."

¹² http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1175/is_n10_v22/ai_6652858

¹³ *Christianity Today*, February 3, 1989, p. 52-3.

¹⁴ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml?xml=/money/2001/04/06/happy.xml>

¹⁵ Bonisteel, Sara, (2007) Tennessee High School Students Make Porn Film Between Classes Retrieved March 1, 2007 from <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,255746,00.html>

¹⁶ Our Daily Bread, July 9, 1994

- 17 Sir Fred Catherwood, Evangelicals Now, September, 1994.
- 18 <http://www.uta.fi/FAST/US7/REF/genguide.html>
- 19 http://www.wfaa.com/sharedcontent/dws/wfaa/latestnews/stories/wfaa070224_lj_civale.b30f411.html
- 20 Drew Anderson (Tucson, AZ), Reader's Digest.
- 21 http://mesh.medill.northwestern.edu/mnschicago/archives/2003/08/pornography_hit.html
- 22 <http://www.cwfa.org/articles/12546/MEDIA/family/index.htm>
- 23 <http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=6180780&nav=9Tai>
- 24 <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,255746,00.html>
- 25 Christian Research Institute letter, December 6, 1993.
- 26 http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/66349.stm
- 27 <http://aabss.org/journal2002/Hwang.htm>
- 28 http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1175/is_n10_v22/ai_6652858
- 29 http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1175/is_n10_v22/ai_6652858
- 30 De Beer, Sir Gavin R., 1966, "In The Genes" New Your Review of Books 6: 14 April, page 27; 1970.
- 31 Macbeth, Norman, 1971, "Darwin Retried", Gambit Incorporated, Boston, page 118.
- 32 Simpson, George Gaylord, 1949, "The Meaning of Evolution", Yale University Press, rev. ed. 1967, page 202.
- 33 Macbeth, Norman, 1971, "Darwin Retried", Gambit Incorporated, Boston, page 121.
- 34 Ardrey, Robert, 1961, African Genesis, Dell, pp 252-253.

35 36 Macbeth, Norffiman, 1971, "Darwin Retried", Gambit Incorporated, Boston, page 2.

37 <http://www.newgeology.us/presentation32.html>

38 Kohn, Alexander, "False Prophets: Fraud and Error in Science and Medicine," 1988, Barnes and Noble Books, New York. Pp 132-141.

39 Kohn, Alexander, "False Prophets: Fraud and Error in Science and Medicine," 1988, Barnes and Noble Books, New York. Pp 141-143.

40 Kohn, Alexander, "False Prophets: Fraud and Error in Science and Medicine," 1988, Barnes and Noble Books, New York. Page 18.

41 Ibid.

42 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Scientific_method

43 http://www.ankerberg.com/Articles/_PDFArchives/science/SC2W1299.pdf

44 Jerry Bergman, The Criterion, Richfield, MN, Onesimus Publishers, 1984, page 54.

45 [http://www.midiowanews.com/site/tab1.cfm?newsid=18333457&](http://www.midiowanews.com/site/tab1.cfm?newsid=18333457&BRD=2700&PAG=461&dept_id=554432&rfi=6)

[BRD=2700&PAG=461&dept_id=554432&rfi=6](http://www.midiowanews.com/site/tab1.cfm?newsid=18333457&BRD=2700&PAG=461&dept_id=554432&rfi=6)

46 <http://www.internationalreporter.com/news/read.php?id=287>

47 Krebs, Robert E. Scientific Development and Misconceptions Through the Ages: A Reference Guide, Greenwood Press, page 67.

48 Ibid, page 15.

49 Davies, Paul, "God And The New Physics", Simon and Schuster, New York, 1983, page 10.

50 http://www.underwatertimes.com/news.php?article_id=61034081952

51 <http://www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/>

HydroplateOverview.html

- 52 <http://contenderministries.org/evolution/carbon14.php>
- 53 <http://www.cerebromente.org.br/n02/historia/phineas.htm>
- 54 Smith's Bible Dictionary, Electronic Version, Subject: Soul.
- 55 Crick, Francis, "The Astonishing Hypothesis: The Scientific Search For The Soul," Touchstone, New York, 1994, page 257.
- 56 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism>
- 57 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism#Philosophy_of_religion
- 58 <http://www.la.utexas.edu/research/poltheory/mill/three/utilrelig.html>
- 59 <http://www.probe.org/content/view/921/77/>
- 60 <http://www.la.utexas.edu/research/poltheory/mill/three/utilrelig.html>
- 61 Davies, Paul, "God And The New Physics", Simon and Schuster, New York, 1983, page 2.
- 62 International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Electronic Version, Hate.
- 63 <http://www.slate.com/id/2166337/fr/flyout>
- 64 International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Electronic Version, Judges, Book of.
- 65 <http://library.thinkquest.org/04apr/00281/greeks/06.html>
- 66 <http://www.leaderu.com/common/nationsdie.html>
- 67 Machiavelli, Niccolo, "The Discourses", Random House, New York, 1950, Page 147.
- 68 Machiavelli, Niccolo, "The Discourses", Random House, New York, 1950, Page 151.
- 69 <http://www.ldolphin.org/govern.html>
- 70 <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/divchild.htm>
- 71 Thayers, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament

Electronic Version, 1369.

⁷² Josephus, Flavius *The Antiquities of the Jews* 20.9.1.

⁷³ *Talmud P. Ta'an.* 65b, and the *Sanhedrin* 3a

⁷⁴ Cornelius Tacitus *Annals* 15.44

⁷⁵ <http://www.christian-thinktank.com/jrthal.html>

⁷⁶ Shelly, Rubel. 1990. *Prepare To Answer.* Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, p 103.

⁷⁷ Pliny,

