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"The Powers That Be", or
Controlling Forces of Life

To put the various specific factors in proper perspective, they must first be oriented to the infinite controlling power, which is God, the sovereign creator, and administrator of the universe. Or, as the song says, "This is My Father's World".

Acknowledging the latter premise to be absolute, immutable, and irrefutable, it is important (especially for Christians) to establish the fact and purpose of all things God has created.

First--contrary to the theory of evolution, whether independently conceived, or philosophically concocted--the simple phrase "intelligent design" concisely gives the causative answer to the question of the supernatural origin of all forms of life, and inanimate materials, and substances.

The environmental intelligentsia reject, and denounce "intelligent design" as simply a religious belief, when it is the only logical reasoning about the origin of life, and the physical world, irrespective of religion, but self-evident, factual observation--which, simple study method, should be their operating principle, as well.

How does anyone abandon the basic tools of logic, and reason, and be so foolish as to commit their minds to chasing a fantasy, that will never be anything but an imaginary vision, cloaked in pseudo-biological "discoveries" of facts contrived to support their manufactured scheme.

Evolutionists claim that nature (their god) is the mysterious source, or fundamental origin of life. The essence of which is a mysterious natural biological process which, ironically, calls for much more unsubstantiated faith than logical belief in a supernatural creator!

They disingenuously call their theoretical fantasy, science, the true

basis of which is "knowledge of facts"*, not speculation, and imagination!

*Webster's College Dict., 4th Ed.

So intent are the evolutionists not to concede anything to the fact of creation, and deity, especially because it implies the existence of God, that they engage in sophistry, and intellectual obfuscation, and shamelessly present the false theory of evolution as the origin and cause of life, even daring to call it evolutionary "science"

To re-emphasize their blatant departure from true scientific observation, and study, the dictionary "science" reference cited, states in definition 4a), that it is "the systematized knowledge (true, not feigned) of nature, and the physical world. The evolution classification is nothing more than "science fiction".

Probably the arrogant, and condescending attitude of the evolutionist elitists, especially since they are flat out wrong in their concept, is the hardest thing for creationists to tolerate! And, why are the evolutionists so persistently wrong, and unyielding to the overwhelming evidence (proof) of the truth of supernatural creation?

Referring to the "controlling forces" of life, as in the title of this commentary, anyone that can deny the logic of creation, and become deluded into believing the imaginary concept, or fantasy of natural evolution, must be under the mental domination of someone, or something beyond his control, and ability to think rationally, and responsibly. The identity of that overpowering force, is Satan, the ruler of this present world, over the lives of unbelieving mankind, who holds them "captive at his will."

Whatever happened to the principle of open, honest discourse, wherein people are unconditionally committed to pursuit of specific truth? Yet, upon reflection, because of the typical human disposition of self-serving, competitive pride, and envy, there has not been much of a historical precedent for honest, objective study, even in the church! Hence, the Calvinist/Arminian gospel controversy, which has remained unsettled for centuries.

But know this, the truth will eventually prevail! And, though the vast majority of Christians' defection from the true gospel is disappointing to God for the dishonor to Him, and the destruction of the church, nothing can prevent, interfere with, or thwart God's sovereign will, and plans, that He does not allow, and control.

Various unreconciled, or unresolved problems of the world ultimately may be due to, or controlled by one of the key forces alluded to in the title, and opening paragraph of this commentary.

I am, of course, referring to Satan. "the god of this world". 2 Cor. 4:4, and Eph. 2:2, "the prince of the power of the air". Satan, having first committed sin in heaven by rebelling against God, later introduced the temptation to sin to Adam, and Eve.

Then, God, after Adam's fall from grace and innocence, put dominion over the sinful race in Satan's power, with certain limitations, and always subject to God's absolute control, and administration of mankind's affairs.

God's dispensation of earthly conditions, and judgments relating to the "law of sin and death" (Satan's domain) will continue until God later intervenes, and carries out His ordained plan of Israel's judgment, after the church is raptured at the beginning of the prophesied tribulation period.

The effect of which, in simple terms, means that man's life is continually subject to either God's control, at His will, or to Satan's influence, and action, as he may desire. 2 Tim. 2:26. There is no independent freedom in the world, that is not always subject to one, or the other controlling power!

A Christian is potentially free from Satan's control (Rom. 8:3), even his influence, if the Christian is obedient to the governing principle of that freedom, which may be stated as faithfulness to God's word, including "walking in the Spirit, and not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh", and actively "resisting the devil", with the "whole armour of God", continual prayer to fulfill the foregoing biblical injunctions, and all other pertinent mandates of God.

Technically, everything is covered by one word, "faithfulness", but to rework a statement normally applied to Satan, "God is in the details" of faithfulness, whereas the "The devil is in the details" of unfaithfulness.

To illustrate that a Christian can be involved with God, and Satan, whether he realizes the latter connection, or not, (1) if he is following God in some specific ways, i.e., tithing, various forms of service, praying, studying scripture, worship- ping, etc., there could (?) be some degree of faithfulness to God, but (2) if he for a major example, believes in a false interpretation of the gospel, he has given "access to the devil", by betraying the Lord's word, which is, of course, serious unfaithfulness to God!

In the previous postulate, I noted certain acts of Christians, which would in themselves be faithful conduct. But, when a believer commits the sin of continu- ing to believe false teaching, i.e., the Arminian "gospel", I believe he has negated and besmirched the otherwise positive parts of his testimony, rendering himself to be categorically unfaithful! Confirming support for that logical conclusion, is the fact that when a Christian is not faithful to the true gospel, he has broken fellowship with the Lord, which continues unless and until he repents from that disloyal act of idolatry (submission and allegiance to false teaching).

To believe false doctrine is to fail to "walk in the Spirit", and, instead, to act in the flesh! This fact is self-evident, because the Spirit of God fully followed, can only teach the truth, while the flesh, or old nature cannot discern spiritual truth! 1 Cor. 2:11-14, etc.

And, if one "walks in the flesh", in such a fundamental doctrine as the gospel, the foundation of his Christian life, he cannot (will not) "walk in the Spirit" in other areas of his new life. But, if after accepting the Arminian gospel, a Christian purposely started "walking (thinking, and acting) in the Spirit", he would defin- itely see the error of his gospel beliefs, and repent, and be reformed!

There is a revolutionary difference between the Calvinist, literal gospel, and the Arminian, liberal gospel. No enlightened former Arminian gospel

believer could conscientiously stay deceived by the mass of errors in that radical, contradictory doctrine.

But, it is nothing less than practically unbelievable that with all the thorough, and accurate expository writing, and teaching, that there has been pathetically little positive reaction from the millions of Christians enslaved with the Arminian, brain-polluting gospel indoctrination!

Even the solemn prophecy describing the end-time church's spiritual degeneration is either not seen by them, or woefully ignored, and neglected, for its dire, vital message. Yet, it is just one more powerful example of the church's spiritual malaise!

There is much that is not understood about the possible effects of the use, and abuse of the human free will. The God-endowed capacity is probably the most valuable faculty that a human being could possess! The decisive freedom that Adam had in a state of innocency, to choose essentially between life and death, is the supreme example of the power man originally possessed to determine the future of mankind, both temporally, and eternally!

Considering the extreme negative consequence of Adam's disobedience to God, by failing His test in the garden of Eden, it may be natural to wonder whether Adam had complete innate ability to resist Satan's temptations, and make the decision which would have given him, and us immortality!

Any tendency we may have to second-guess, or doubt the wisdom, and works of God, should be quickly dismissed as foolish thought. Why? Because, it ought never be questioned, or doubted that God is perfect! Which means, that He cannot make a wrong decision. And, when He tells us that His ways are not our ways, it ought to make us realize that our severely limited minds compared to God's are like an ant compared to a human genius, and that is far short of the true magnitude of the vast difference.

And, it needs to be emphasized as well, that we are completely subordinate to God, and to be faithful followers of Him, and students of His

word--not ever to be judges of Him, or editors of the holy scriptures.

Whenever, then, a Christian expresses his own, or follows others' opinions, or interpretations of biblical doctrine that are not proven to be true, he violates his fundamental responsibility to "rightly divide" (interpret) the true meaning of God's word, and never to "add to", or "take away" from it!

The principle of the solemn warning of Rev. 22:18-19, while it specifically applies to false teaching by apostates, prohibits tampering with the truth of God's word by anyone, especially Christians who are able, and obligated "by the Spirit of truth and error" to learn and represent "sound doctrine", and that only!

The main theme of this paper is the subject of controlling powers of the world, and the universe, with illustrations, or examples of the overwhelming evidence of the phenomenon.

Two particular situations exemplify the observation particularly. (1) In religion, a negative case involving the Mormon Church. First off, Mormons are not Christians, except possibly in some rare instances, but not as a result of the Mormon religion! The Mormon church has no bona fide basis in scriptural truth, nor spiritual personal life, as they are not predestinated by God to be Christians, and regardless of the Arminian gospel theology, there is no other way to become a believer!

To make the point of an overriding, intervening power to deceive and control Mormons' religious beliefs, the following examples are noted--per the Book of Mormon Doctrine:

1. You cannot be saved in your sins Refer to Item 5, below.
2. By grace are ye saved, after all you can do!
3. You must give your best. (Ezra Taft Benson).
4. You must deny yourselves of all ungodliness.
5. Turn from all sins, and commit them no more. (Pres. Woodruff).
6. If you commit any sin again, the former sins return.
7. Therefore, in order to remain forgiven, you must never commit the sin

again. (Mormon Missionary Discussion F).

The Mormon religion is based on works, plus what they call grace, which is misconceived. My reaction to their ridiculous tenets above, is that they are not even plausible, let alone possible, for man to accomplish!

Of course, as a Christian, knowing the word of God, they contradict the principles of the gospel, the sovereign authority of God, and probably every fundamental institute of the Christian faith!

Commenting further that these religious conditions are not only illogical, and preposterous, they reflect the extreme vanity and pride of self-willed, superior-minded unregenerate man, to think that they could be good enough, mainly by their own efforts, to merit salvation!

No rational person could believe in such slavish impossible religious requirements, unless his mind is indoctrinated, and controlled by an irresistible force, which could not be the God of the Bible, who would never impose such demands upon sinful man. It would violate the righteousness of God to require, or accept anything of unrighteous man.

Therefore, the controlling, captivating supernatural power is Satan, the "prince of the power of the air" (Satan's hierarchy of fallen angels, and myriads of demons), who can make man, who is "taken captive by him at his will", act in almost any way he desires, which only a Christian can prevent, or escape from.

I have already commented on the causation theory of evolution, being entirely void of factual knowledge. To essentially say that from a nondescript mysterious inanimate substance (variously described in scientific (?) terms as a "bang", "blob", or "ooze"), the whole world of complicated, unique, minutely designed life forms has developed, is to strain credulity beyond the limits of everything conceivable, except wild, unbridled fantasy!

So, who or what is the controlling power behind it? No cause of illusion, small, or as far-fetched as this one, can be ascribed to God, but only to Satan, who influences, and controls the evolutionary pseudo-science, as well as

the unspiritual thinking of most of mankind.

Moving to the realm of the church, particularly the gospel, we have the most consequential human failure since Adam's transgression, for its effect on the church's relationship to God, and its spirituality.

I am referring to the radically altered gospel, known as Arminianism, which is the constitutional salvation doctrine of practically the entire universal church today, and to its unrealized shame, has been for centuries!

Expository proof abounds disproving and denouncing the church's perverted gospel; all to little avail in its history. What, then, is the root of the church's incorrigible obsession with the false teaching, that it maintains to be the scripturally true interpretation of the gospel? Also, they don't appear to be affected by Calvinist opposition to it, but regard the contention against its beliefs to be doctrinal extremism, or heresy!

But, those who believe the literal, true gospel, know how wrong the contemporary gospel believers are, and are more than a little stunned, that the Arminian gospel Christians do not respond to reformative appeals, and warnings of the impending judgment of those who remain falsely indoctrinated, and unrepentant of the grievous sin they have committed against God, and continue to disseminate!

A commitment that the Apostle Paul faithfully maintained is quoted below: "Herein do I exercise myself, to have always, a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward man." Can you honestly say that? Not if you believe the false gospel principles of Arminianism, which are)1) universal atonement, or that Christ died for everyone, and (2) free will opportunity, and ability to believe the gospel, and obtain salvation. Such ones cannot have a conscience void of offense to God, but are guilty of very much offense to God, and His gospel!

The truth should always become obvious to a conscientious Christian, who, if he adequately studies the controversial subject, will see if he is deeply entrenched in error, and being responsible for what he believes, should learn

what he did wrong when he accepted, along with most Christians, a false concept of the gospel, and who, or what was involved in its corruption, and perpetuation!.

The answer is the controlling influence, and power of the "father of lies", Satan, to whom unwise new believers capitulate, by not doing what the bible teaches about learning doctrinal truth, as in the precedent of the early Berean Christians who "received the word gladly, and then went home, and searched the scriptures to see if those things be so".

And, of course, much other advice, and instruction is given throughout the new testament, especially of the necessity of learning "sound doctrine", i.e., "rightly dividing the word of truth, an approved workman that needeth not to be ashamed". But, Arminian believers will be very ashamed at the judgment seat of Christ, if they have not repented, and been reformed from the sin of believing a corrupted gospel!

In summary, everyone and everything is always subject to one, or the other of the two supernatural powers of life, (1) God, with unlimited authority, and power, and (2) Satan, with temporary limited ruling control in the world, over unregenerate mankind, under "the law of sin and death."