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Truth To Wonder
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Welcome

Yuletide felicitations to you. So goes the greeting given by the character of Margo in the classic BBC Comedy *The Good Life*. The beloved Christmas Special of this TV show has a warm and jovial setting of two families brought together to share the seemingly meagre feast of a self sufficient couple. It is a heart warming sight for sure and it's message of joyful contentedness amongst loved ones is something many of us hope for each Christmas.

However at this point the vast majority of us will have images of the family gathered together smiling and laughing over a board game, playfully fighting over the last strawberry Quality Street chocolate (in my household at least) as fairy lights twinkle and a Christmas carol plays gently in the background. This we often believe is *the good life*. While it is a time of welcome blessing indeed, it is not the true *good life*. In fact what many of us will be missing in this moment of light hearted celebration is the blunt reality that so many gatherings are filled with people who are dead in their sins. As we sit around a packed dining table, filled with its seasonal delights, we hush up in our minds that painful witness that so many we care for are wandering blindly into eternal damnation for their sins. Our conscience is pricked but we silence it out of fear of upsetting loved ones with our witness to their eternal peril. Or we run from being a faithful witness to Christ in such settings for fear of mockery and derision from those closest to us. Such fears are certainly understandable, for we are weak creatures and always prone to place the immediate pleasures as far more important than the eternal consequences.

However the consequences of our inaction are eternal. We hold in our hearts and minds knowledge of the greatest gift that can ever be given, the free gift of Gospel. It is a terrible truth that we are glad and eager (in the most part) to give generous gifts of material things that shall inevitably break, corrode and fall apart, and yet we withhold the **one** gift that cannot break, corrode, fall apart or be taken away; the gift of the Gospel being shared.



Though it may seem a meagre gift to the material world as it does not come in expensive and unnecessary packaging replete with fancy bows and glittering wrapping paper, it does come with the unseen but certain promise of a crown of righteousness for all eternity for those who treasure it. How much more delighted we shall be to see their eyes light up in joy and wonder when they are so crowned by Christ Jesus Himself come the day of glory, than we could ever be

when we give even the most generous of worldly gifts.

So when you are gathered with your friends and family this Christmas and you know those gathered with you are lost in their sins before the God you love, hear the convicting voice of the Holy Ghost and pray to God for the words to speak so as to share the light of the Gospel that same hour. Do not be dissuaded by fear of offending or mockery, for Christ IS an offence and He suffered great mockery and insult, far more than you shall ever experience! So do not be timid, for He endured all horrors so that you might be set free. Can you not endure potential derision and mockery from friends and family for a season, when eternal glory and peace has already been secured for you by your Lord in the house of your Heavenly Father? Assuredly you can, simply call upon the strength of Christ, cry out for the Holy Ghost to guide your words and trust in your Heavenly Father that He is the giver of good gifts.

Pray that this Christmas time, He might use you to bring one of His chosen to His loving embrace so that when you sit to dine with those you love this festive season, you can smile knowing that you shall sit and dine with them in the presence of God forevermore through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Opening Prayer

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time and rest, reflection and thanksgiving for the wondrous provision of thy Only Begotten Son, Christ Jesus, who came to this world in the flesh of man so that He might offer Himself up as a pure, full and final sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Give us we pray a strong but loving heart of faith so that we might be bold to share this wonderful good news of the Gospel with those who we shall be gathered with this Christmas time. Keep our hearts and minds sharp Lord against the temptation to revel and delight in the excesses of the world and thus forget what is truly to be delighted in, the atoning work of Christ Jesus, Our Lord and Saviour who gave Himself freely so that we might be restored unto thee. This we pray in Jesus name. Amen.

How to reach people today

It is a sad and in many ways disheartening title for a such a work. The Gospel is the lifeblood of the Holy Bible, the beating heart of the Holy Scriptures with it's unique message of good news towards the sinner. The message of atonement of sin made through Christ Jesus on the cross at

Calvary, whose perfect life was offered up as a sacrifice, a full and final payment for our sins so that we might be delivered from the just judgement of God for our many sins against Him. It is the glorious message that death could not hold the righteousness of Christ and so He rose again on the third day, a full physical resurrection from the dead, anointed in all power and glory having fulfilled His appointed labour in providing a way of salvation for all who would believe in Him. It is the joyful news that though we too shall die, death will not be able to hold us either for we die in Christ, trusting in the provision of His pure blood to cleanse us of the filth of sin that was once laid to our charge yet no more because of His grace.

It is a simple message. It is a death overcoming message. It is a life giving message that is applicable to all and yet who would hear it today it seems? As the world's population continues to grow, the numbers of lives coming to Christ appear to be dwindling all the more each year, particularly in our Western churches.

It is not surprising however given how the power of the Word, the depth and might of the Gospel was traded away decades ago by liberal theologians and preachers. Men who were afraid of the sensibilities of mankind and did not want to cause offence by calling people 'sinners' and their



Preachers are too afraid to tell people that they are sinners

evil actions and thoughts as 'sins'. This complete lack of warning given by preachers and ministers across the developed world was brought into terrible union with a society that has become sterilised of the reality of death. Our modern world is full of remarkable accomplishments that has made the daily life of modern mankind a far more comfortable thing and this is a blessing without question. Yet as with anything, any development can be used against mankind just as easily as it is used for mankind. Our health systems are for the

most part very efficient and professional, so much so that death has gone from being a tragically common sight in this very land not that long ago (just consider the child mortality rate in the Victorian era alone), to a thing that is kept behind select hospital ward doors. The universal reality of humanity that we all die is so hidden from our daily lives that it's creeping inevitability has all but been dismissed. The populace lives its life happy and content that death is far away and that it is something that happens to other people. Then when it does smash into their own existence through the death of a loved one they are so shaken by its arrival that they pour out heart broken and confused challenges to God such as, 'If God exists why is there so much death and suffering in the world?'. This is the great question of our age in many respects, the often used silver bullet against the existence of God. It is a simple question full of emotion no doubt but it is easily and fully answered by Scripture, just turn to the first few chapters of the Book of Genesis to find out why evil exists and who is responsible for its corruption of life. Yet pastors, preachers, ministers and the like are too weak to stand up for the truth of ALL the Scriptures and have thrown away its certainty of statements so as to appease a sinful populace. So the broken hearted are left confused and grow increasingly bitter towards God for the encroachment of death into their lives.

It always amazes me however that when people ask this question on 'how could a loving God allow so much pain and death?', and then use this as a supposed justification for dismissing God and the Bible, that this question was far less posed in eras when daily death and suffering was far greater than what we experience today! Consider the millions that would pour into churches every week in this very land during the day of Wesley, Whitefield, Spurgeon, Moody, Finney, and the like. Consider that in that age child mortality was horrifically high and that being sent to the hospital was seen as a death sentence due to the awful hygiene practised by medical professionals. It was common practice for the coffins of deceased loved ones to be kept in the family home until the day of burial. Unsettling photographs of deceased loved ones in final portraits was commonplace as families grappled with frequent deaths within their families (see example below).

Bodies of the poor and homeless were tragically commonplace in the streets of major British cities. Death was seen around every corner and yet the masses didn't cry out against a 'cruel and capricious God' as Stephen Fry calls God. Not at all, great swathes of the nation trusted in the Lord



This dear little girl is absent from the body but present with the Lord

God as their deliverance from the reality of death. They knew death would come and that it would come for them. Perspective to their own lives and the conduct of them was refocused with regularity and yet they knew of God to a level that makes a mockery of the weak willed populace today.

These souls who experienced death so frequently understood its terrible reality far better than we do today and as a result looked for a remedy to this universal disease. They understood that they were sick and in need of treatment, they saw that their disease was sin and that death is the wages of sin and so they searched for an adequate payment for their sins. Their correct search was faithfully aided by the correct teaching of pastors and preachers who held to sound doctrine, doctrine such as the fallen sinful nature of all mankind and its need of a Saviour. They taught a simple but potent message of the uselessness of works to attain salvation, they preached the grace of God. They taught of the certain hope of life after death for all who believe in the risen Lord Jesus. It was all a testament to the ministry of the Holy Ghost Himself. He convicts the sinner of their sin, alerting them to the reality of the wages of sin that is death. Then through the provision of faithful men He instructs them of the One who has paid all their debt of sin before God and so they are free of sin through faith in Christ Jesus. No worship groups were needed. No knitting groups or Bridge afternoons, no youth groups, coffee mornings or the like were required to bring the people into the churches; it was a reliance on the power of the Gospel to heal the wounds of sin.

Herein is our hope. That the Holy Ghost has not changed in His methods or His earnestness in delivering this good news of everlasting life to mankind. What has changed is our awareness of the reality of death and our attitudes towards God as a result. Death is no longer seen as the great universal leveller, it is now an unpleasant inconvenience that we can run away from and pretend won't come for us. Our lives are too busy to be thoughtful on such matters anyway, it is

easier to attack God and say it's His fault death exists and therefore we don't need Him. It never dawns on such frantic lives that blaming someone for a real problem on someone you claim doesn't even exist doesn't even make logical sense! No grown adult blames the Tooth Fairy for toothache because they know the Tooth Fairy doesn't exist for them to blame! Yet they are quite happy to suspend logic if they can deny the reality of death and most importantly the reality of the existence of God.

We must therefore return to a solid foundation. The foundation of the Holy Bible. We must return to the simple practice of alerting people to their inevitable condition, that they are mortal and that one day they too will be cold, lifeless and lying in a box laid down in a poorly kept cemetery. It is not to be seen as too bleak a message to deliver, this is reality! For a populace that is so caught up in 'promoting love', they should be pleased to learn that we are providing that very thing by bringing them the realities of life. It would not be very loving to fob someone off about a great danger so as have them like us, that is deception, not love. Yet this is all modern churches are providing, a deceptive message constructed out of fear of not being liked. It is indicative of modern humanity, we are more interested in being 'liked' than being truly loved. Thus the Gospel when read with modern eyes seems like an 'attack' rather than a deliverance from danger. Modern readers have come to this position because no context is given to the Gospel in churches today. Preachers, pastors, ministers and the like are as previously mentioned, afraid to call someone what they are, a sinner. There is little to no awareness of the perilous condition of the soul to modern man so that when they are given the Gospel message it ends up in one of two pitiful camps. One being outright disinterest. This is founded upon the completely understandable thought that 'if I'm not a sinner and there's nothing wrong with me ('Jesus loves you just the way you are so don't change a thing...just love Jesus' methodology) then why do I need to listen to some guy called Jesus, who probably never existed anyway and apparently lived 2000 years ago in place I've never heard of? It's a logical dismissal to be fair. A compromised Gospel devoid of grounding in the realities of life and the historicity of it's claim often leads to such dismissal.

The other camp is filled with a gathering of well meaning souls who find some appeal in living a 'noble life according to the teachings of Jesus' but have never repented of their sins and so do not fully trust in the One they say they trust! They got to this tragic state because they were never

shown their awful state before a thrice Holy God and that they are in desperate need for a Saviour. Thus their faith is built on an initial high of acceptance into a pleasant social group but struggles to maintain any genuine interest in living a true Christian life and so requires all the various church activities and music filled 'services' to keep them interested. They don't know anything of substance regarding faith so they are forced to rely on what they 'feel' about faith. This ebbs and flows like any emotion and so has to be topped up with overly repetitive, emptily optimistic religious music whilst they attend the church quiz evenings and curry nights. Then when a real challenge to their faith comes along, such as the death of a loved one or the betrayal of someone within their church, they fall apart and blame God for their predicament.



Preach as it is written with the power of the Holy Spirit

For the Gospel message to be delivered in it's full power it must be delivered in it's entirety. That is what the problem is in Christendom today. The Gospel has been stripped down to it's cuddly parts and then ministers wonder why it has no strength to withstand sceptical attacks. For the Gospel to be the good news that it is it must be delivered in context of the Law. All humanity has fallen short of the glory of God and is deserving of judgement for through Adam, sin was brought into the world bringing with it all death and suffering. We are born into this sin as offspring of Adam all of us sharing the same fallen and rebellious spirit that defies God at every turn. We are condemning ourselves each day with new and fresh acts of rebellion and sin against a Holy God who demands justice against any crime committed against Him. We are in the most perilous position of all! We are due eternal judgment for eternal crimes against an eternal God. Yet this message is not delivered to the masses today. No alert is given, no alarm sounded for the certain judgement each soul shall face before God. As there is no alarm given, no alarm is felt in the hearts and minds of the gathered souls within the churches.

Ray Comfort of Living Waters gave an interesting analogy to the usefulness of a full warning being given. Imagine you are on an airplane and the steward hands you a parachute and tells you to

put it on. Now the plane hasn't taken off yet, the weather is good, you assume the plane has passed all its checks and the pilot is highly experienced so there doesn't appear to be any need for the parachute. So you initially put the parachute on to please the steward before you remove it due to its bulky, uncomfortable and seemingly unnecessary nature. The steward gave you no explanation as to the importance of the parachute and so you didn't consider it needed. Yet if the steward had given you the full message that you needed the parachute because at any given point during the flight some significant mechanical trouble could be experienced meaning you will have to jump out of the plane to survive, you would likely keep that same parachute on regardless of how uncomfortable it was! In many ways the delivering of the Gospel is the same, without it being delivered in its entirety that is with a clear alarm as to the sinful state of the unredeemed and the awaiting judgment before God for all things done, thought and said, then the desire to seek a Saviour is severely diminished.

Modern ears must be brought a reality filled truth. Many youth of today are carrying on about 'their truth'. Well that's all well and good but I know a bigger truth that will one day impose itself on 'their truth' whether they like it or not, that bigger truth is that they will be dead one day too! Now given that they will die also they must think long on whether they die into nothingness, that they are simply snuffed out and forgotten. If this is correct then why should anyone care about them and 'their truth' because it's soon going to be irrelevant anyway. Furthermore why cry over anyone dying, they were just as inconsequential as you are in all reality. Or will they die and continue to exist? If so then what will happen to them, their consciousness? Where will it go? To heaven? Who says they will make it in? How can they be sure they are worthy of such a reward? If there's no 'cut-off' in who makes it into heaven then do they find it appealing sharing heaven with people such as Hitler and Jack the Ripper? They'll probably want a standard of entry imposed then! Suddenly they are filled with a multitude of questions that they cannot possibly answer with any great certainty. Yet the Gospel provides a certain answer to all these questions and a thousand more. The Gospel is certainty, it's reality, it's truth itself for it is the revealing of the deliverance of sinful mankind by the blood of Christ Jesus! As Spurgeon said, 'unleash the Bible like a lion' and let it do its full work, to the glory of God forever. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Separation Before Growth

Turn if you will to Genesis 1 and read verses 1 to 13. Study it well and see if you see a clear Gospel message being delivered to all who would desire to see the stunning depths of knowledge and wisdom contained within God's Holy Word.

In these opening verses we read of God's awesome power in simply being able to speak all time, space and matter into existence. Yet notice how He moves to do a particular aspect within Creation three times on three separate days, each time He does this thing before He accounts the product of His work as *good*. Do you see it? It is a much disliked doctrine in today's weak and diluted version of Christianity, namely the consistent Scriptural truth that God *divides* or *separates*.

Genesis 1:4 – God divides or separates the light from the darkness, creating Day and Night.

Genesis 1:6 – God divides the waters above from the waters below with a firmament in-between them.

Genesis 1:9 – God creates dry land, separating the seas from the land.



Within the very first three days of the Creation Week, God defines Himself through His amazing acts of Creation as a God who *divides* or *separates*. Now any true Bible believing Christian would not be surprised at this observation, yet in modern Christendom, the teaching that God *divides* is seen as cold, insensitive and isolating. It is held in such disdain that churches are fearful of teaching this clear truth for fear of driving away church attendees. However this teaching of the desire of God to *divide* is one of the most fundamental Christian doctrines ever revealed to mankind.

Throughout all the Scriptures we witness a God who acts consistently in dividing between good and evil, righteousness from wickedness, truth from falsehood, life from death. We see it first between Cain and Abel, a division made between a sacrifice acceptable unto God, this being the shedding of the blood of a lamb, and an unacceptable sacrifice made under the determination of Cain's fallen interpretation of what is sufficient and good.

Next we see it in the division of the line of Cain and the line of Seth, for we read in Genesis 4:26, that it was in this line that men began to "call upon the name of the Lord". Within one generation of mankind, it has been separated by the grace of God into a line that has chosen to dismiss God and a line that has chosen to seek after God.

Then consider Enoch. A man who walked so closely with the Lord, living in such separation from the world that the Lord took him straight to paradise without tasting death (Genesis 5). Now think on Noah, a descendant of Enoch and one was counted righteous in the eyes of God. He was graciously separated from the depraved world in which he lived, along with his family, so that God might cleanse the world of mankind's utter wickedness and depravity.

In Abraham, God called out a man from his homeland of Ur so that he might father a peculiar nation, a people separated from the world so that a Redeemer might be gifted unto mankind for the atonement of sin. Jacob, a twin and yet separated by God from his brother for God loved Jacob and yet hated his brother Esau. Jacob's dearly beloved son Joseph, separated from His scheming brothers so that through God's provision they might be cared for in a time of terrible famine.

In Moses, a man divided from his own people by the mercy of God for a season so that he might become the vehicle for their deliverance from under Egyptian oppression and then become the great Law Giver for mankind.

In the Israelites themselves, they were divided from the Egyptians so that they might know freedom from tyranny and oppression and receive the blessings of God's provision in the gifting of the Promised Land whilst Egypt, as a symbol of the world, would receive the judgment of God for it's wickedness against Him.

Furthermore how the Israelites were given the Law to separate themselves from the foul practices of the people around them. How they were instructed to wipe out and remove all of the

depraved Canaanites from the land that God has given them to possess. How they were to have no king as the other nations but be separate from them and have the Lord God as their ruler.



Moses dividing the Red Sea to deliver the Israelites to safety

These are but a few examples of how just within the Old Testament, the desire and actions of God are to *divide* and separate so that light might be made known from darkness, form to be made known as separate from being void, good from being against evil. God is a God who *divides*. Yet why so? As observed earlier, this undeniable Scriptural teaching that runs throughout the Bible has become deeply unpopular amongst many 'Christian's' today. But at what cost to themselves and the watching world is this dismissal of the nature of God come to? Is God cruel to divide, or is it for our welfare? Why is it important for Christians today to see the importance of *dividing* themselves from the world and what benefits are there to those who embrace this Scriptural teaching and do not throw it away?

To answer this, read Genesis 1:11-13. It's an account of what takes place *after* the good divisions of God have taken place, namely *life* emerges. In the creation of all plant life, we have the 'first fruits' being yielded of God's Creation. These first fruits are the literal means of sustenance and physical provision for all the world so that they might thrive and live abundantly according to the goodness and will of God. Yet this amazing provision for the world could only have taken place *AFTER* division had been established. If God had not divided day from night, the waters above from the waters below and the dry land from the seas, life itself would've never begun let alone thrived. For anything to grow and thrive division must take place beforehand. Ask any gardener, if they have a piece of land and they do not separate the good soil from the stones, the rocks, the weeds, the thorns and thistles before they plant their seeds,

their efforts will be in vain as the young fledglings would soon wilt for a lack of sustenance amongst the stones, thorns, weeds etc. Separation is necessary for life to exist and then to thrive.

It is no different in matters of the spirit. How can a Christian even become a Christian if they have not been divided from the lost by the grace of God?! Then how can they possibly thrive and grow in the knowledge of God and develop strong roots in faith if they do not separate themselves from the weeds of this world in all it's many temptations and sins? If the redeemed heart does not seek to divide itself from the world it will struggle and become entangled with the sins of the world, it is inevitable, just read 2 Timothy. Rightful, God led division is GOOD for the Christian and not something to be feared, derided or shunned. It is to be studied and embraced as the glorious means that the Lord has provided so that you might be made perfect and become a suitable vessel for the works of God (2 Timothy). It is how the Christian grows in faith, in mercy, in forgiving nature, in truthfulness, in patience, in temperance, in love; it is how we become ever more like Christ, something that should be our goal every waking hour!

A tragic irony is being witnessed in Christianity today in that it has separated itself from the doctrine that God *divides*. Through this separation it has willingly separated itself from the power of God, the Holy Ghost. The modern church craves the presence of Holy Spirit and yet it grieves Him immensely every hour in it's denial of who God has revealed Himself to be! The church is so busy trying to unite itself with the world, something the Lord has expressly and repeatedly decreed as SINFUL, that it cannot see how it has fallen into the deception of Satan. The Devil is keen to unite. He is eager to pull all mankind together in defiance of God. This was his aim in Babel and his aim has not altered. Though he is now a beaten enemy he is still an angry and violent enemy that desires nothing more than to destroy all that God has created and called good.

So in conclusion for any Christian's seed of faith to grow strong and thrive in this age as in any age, it must be nurtured through correct separation from all things that would do it harm. Attacks to the believers walk with the Lord are plentiful and daily, hence Our Lord's instruction for total reliance of His strength to overcome the devil and his demons for "sufficient is the evil of the day thereof". There are so many pitfalls and assaults on the Christian's faith every single day that we are to concentrate on the goodness and provision of the Lord from one day to the next without ever getting ahead of ourselves or

becoming arrogant and presumptuous in our faith. Such presumption comes from a laziness of application and dismissal of the repeated warnings as to the ferocity of the spiritual battles we face each and every day. When we fall complacent in our studies of Scripture and grow cold in our daily prayers, our sensitivity to the guiding hand of the Holy Ghost is severely dulled. This then clouds our eyes to the ever present danger within our walk amidst a sin riddled world. So rather than shunning a foul language filled movie complete with 'some nudity and sexual innuendo' as the censors note, we justify our viewing by stating boldly that 'I'm aware of the evil in it and so because I'm aware of it I am therefore safe from it's influence'. This rationalising is commonplace amongst Christians today. The logic of this is as absurd and deeply flawed as looking at a car with flat tyres, an exhaust that's barely attached to the car and entirely covered in mismatched paint and rust and declaring, 'I have noted the dangers and so because I know there are dangers I shall be safe from them'; it's completely ridiculous but the Christian today lives by this mentality. Similarly, if you were to open an online bank account and during the application process you observed that there were no security measures put in place to protect your financial information and glaring warnings that your credit rating will be adversely affected, you wouldn't continue with the application would you. You'd delete your information and close the application quick sharp if you had any sense! Yet how often we happily place ourselves in situations where we KNOW we should not be or are partaking in something we KNOW is full of evil and temptation, however we continue by deluding ourselves that we are alert to the dangers and so we are safe. It is spiritual madness of the highest degree!

So we are to separate or divide ourselves from the world and from worldly people. Such lost souls will be used by the devil to persuade you to abandon the narrow path to glory and instead join them on the wide avenue to hell. They will likely not be aware that they are being so used but that matters little, the effect is the same, the devastation of your walk with God.

Remember that Christ came to divide. He came to divide mother from daughter, father from son, friend from friend so that His chosen children would be snatched away from eternal hellfire through His atoning sacrifice made at Calvary. You are bought with the highest price in all existence, the blood of Christ and as a result you are not your own, you are His. So be a good soldier of Christ and live to please your Heavenly Captain through faithful application of His call to "come out" from the world and to be a "peculiar

people” reserved unto Him. Then in our division from the world, born of a desire to lift the light of the Gospel high unto all nations and peoples, all might see that to turn from the world and to turn to Christ Jesus is to turn from death unto life eternal.

By Jonathan Badger

Shining Light Of Christ Jesus

Christmas cards featuring a star-lit scene of ancient Bethlehem complete with a silhouetted image of the Nativity are commonplace on shop shelves. People pick up these cosy, aesthetically pleasing cards based usually on the artistic merit of the card mingled with an acceptable price point for their budgets. What actual history the scene depicts though is often sadly not factored into the decision making process. This in itself is a heart breaking confirmation of the Holy Scriptures when it says concerning the Incarnation of Christ in **John 1:5, “And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”**

Here within God’s Word we have a powerful and tragic assessment of the blindness of mankind to the miracle that was the Incarnation of Christ Jesus in the flesh so that He might become a perfect atoning sacrifice for our sins. For the unredeemed heart does not possess the eyes of heaven and so it cannot take in the glorious light that is the Gospel message that Christ came to die so that we might live.

The light of Christ’s ministry, sacrifice and risen glory was a brilliant, death shattering light and yet the darkness of sinful man’s heart cannot understand by itself what has taken place for them. We see the truth of this revelation every day but it feels especially poignant at Christmastime. The roads are clogged with shoppers hurrying about filling trolleys with all sorts of seasonal delights; school Christmas nativities are attended but the content is thinned down and dismissed; seasonal specials of popular TV shows are aired and all of this could be indulged in without any real ray of light that is Christ Jesus and His miraculous Incarnation ever taking place in the hearts and minds of the masses.

As the country plummets ever further into a cost of living crisis making Christmas TV adverts abandon their usual message of excess and greed as the reality of many going without this Christmas hits home, the darkness is descending evermore into our land. Yet as it did 2000 years ago in Bethlehem so it does now, the light of

Christ still dazzles to all who would gaze upon His blessed face.

By Jonathan Badger

Stop the world, I want to get off!

This time of year is frantic! There always seems to be much to do with Christmas arrangements but never enough time to do them. We may get to a point where we’re so stressed about the whole affair that we declare as my Nana used to, “Stop the world, I want to get off!” It’s an understandable thought for sure but have you ever wondered what would happen if the world did actually stop? What would happen if the earth stopped spinning and instead came to a grinding halt? I imagine you are like me and have never really given it any thought and yet here we have just another evidence of the goodness of Our Lord’s provision that we simply take for granted.

If the world were to suddenly stop spinning, a whole raft of cataclysms would take place that would eradicate all life on earth within the matter of hours. Firstly, depending on where you were located on the planet at the moment of planetary inertia, you would be catapulted at speeds up to 1000 mph across the globe! You see whilst the world itself would stop spinning, your momentum would still carry and so you would simply be propelled at immense speeds across the planet!

If by some remarkable turn of events you survived this immediate effect of the ceasing of the earth’s spinning action, you would simply greet the next catastrophe. The world’s seas would be similarly catapulted across the globe in a series of utterly cataclysmic tsunamis and tidal waves that would be reminiscent of the watery devastation witnessed in Noah’s Flood!

The world’s tech tonic plates would slam into each other at enormous speed causing massive earthquakes and volcanoes that would tear apart the globe as we know it within a mere matter of hours. Furthermore the atmosphere would still continue to move even after the earth had stopped spinning causing a massive windstorm with winds of 1000 mph. Now given that the most



powerful hurricanes generate winds of 150 mph and cause massive destruction, you can only imagine what havoc 1000 mph winds would cause!

After this initial windstorm, the gravitational pull of the poles would pull the wind streams to themselves thus drawing warm air to the extremes of the poles. This would make the poles the most hospitable locations on earth whilst the desert areas in the equatorial regions would be terribly flooded.

The Earth's rotation causes the world to form a bulge around the equator that means someone stood at the Equator is 13 miles further away from the centre of the Earth than someone stood at either Pole. If the world's spinning action ceased thus disrupting the effecting centrifugal force on the planet, this bulge would disappear and cause a massive altering of the world's sea levels thus completely flooding many countries (permanently flooding after the massive initial tsunamis and tidal waves discussed earlier). The rise would be so dramatic that it has been asserted that nearly the entire Northern Hemisphere would be flooded up to Southern Spain and would also see regions such as Southern Argentina submerged. Whilst a new land mass would emerge as a result around the equator, it's barren landscape having been under water for thousands of years means it would be starved of life.

Interestingly the speed of the Earth's spin is decreasing. I wonder if anyone is exploring the direct link on this decrease in spin speed to the effect on the advertised 'rising sea levels' that are being pushed as evidence for climate change? An area of investigation that could be highly profitable in more ways than one

As the world would no longer rotate, the day/night cycle that we know today would be completely obliterated! Instead of a day lasting just that a day, it would instead last one year. That is because our day/night cycle exists because of the Earth's rotation in relation to the Sun. With no rotation, the angle of the Earth in relation to the Sun would remain fixed even though it would remain in it's orbit. This would cause havoc with living creatures circadian rhythm's which are programmed to interact with the 24 hour day/night cycle. Furthermore with the Earth's angle being locked in relation to the Sun as it went about it's orbit, one side of the globe would experience 6 months of unadulterated sunlight whilst the other side facing away from the Sun would experience 6 months of constant darkness. The affect this would have on the climate would be devastating as the accumulated heat from 6 months of pure sunlight

(remember the weather patterns would be completely altered towards the poles as well) would mean that the temperatures experienced would near 200 degrees Celsius! Conversely the side away from the sun would experience temperatures of -200 degrees Celsius! This would render any life outside of some bacteria impossible!



Deep freeze 6 months of the year with no rotation of the Earth

The only possible option for any surviving life at this point (which would be some fanciful stretch all things considered!) would be to live as nomads following the 'twilight region' that would exist along the boundary between these two 6 month day/night halves of the globe. Yet to remain in this region as the Earth continued it's orbit would mean that any surviving nomadic people would have to travel up to 68 miles every 24 hours to remain in this region! This would be along the Equator so to save some travelling you would still have to travel around 27 miles every 24 hours to achieve the same twilight region existence. However given that the poles would be massively submerged this would be out of the question. Life would not be able to exist!

All of this is built upon a model of the surface and outer layers of Earth ceasing in their rotation. However if the core also came to a standstill the results would be even more catastrophic, if that's possible! It is believed the Earth's core is a churning mix of iron and nickel that generates a powerful magnetic shield that surrounds the Earth. This shield is extremely important in protecting us from deadly cosmic radiation and solar flares. Without this shielding, the Earth would essential bake from the Sun's radiation as life would undergo excruciating boiling and highly destructive cellular mutations. Any solar flare emitted from the Sun could vaporise all life on Earth if it were not for this magnetic shielding!

As you can see, the fact that the Earth spins as it does and that all life systems are so finely tuned into this rotation of the planet cannot help but SCREAM of a Creator God. I find it remarkable that as I viewed a breakdown of this subject online, the commentator

repeatedly referred to how well suited life is to the Earth's rotation and how this had been achieved over millions of years! Really?! Even with this list of delicate circumstances that are ESSENTIAL for life to exist all miraculously continuing at the same time as each other, still the fallen mind cannot see that it is all here by design and that NO accident could EVER produce such a stunning system, it is simply IMPOSSIBLE!!!

Yet there is still hope, as many of the comments left by viewers highlighted with staggered trembling at how fragile life is and how 'finely tuned for life' our world proves to be consistently. It is important for Christians to know such things as it can show others the impossibility of Evolution and that even the sceptics own conscience shouts at them that they are created, just as the Bible says. When we know such clear facts of Creation through the gift of a 'sound mind' (2 Timothy) made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1), it emboldens and strengthens our own faith so that we might earnestly contend for the faith (Jude v3) so that others might come to saving faith in Christ Jesus.

By Jonathan Badger

A Theologians View of the Virgin Birth

The Church of the 21st Century is full of heresy and vain imaginings. We have pulpits, conference platforms, seminars and 'bible study' meetings that would rival the First Century in misleading the believer. Doctrine doesn't matter, theology is boring and dusty, solid bible exegesis is too much like hard work. No, we need to clap, dance, sing endless choruses etc. and have a five-minute sermon. Ask a believer this Christmas season, do you think the Virgin Birth matters? If you get an answer and not a vacant look then you will be doing well. Now ask them why it matters.

What I want to do is share a few simple theological points, you know that subject that is akin to nuclear physics in your mind. Let me begin by putting to you that the Virgin Birth is vital to the Person of Christ. This miraculous happening is first seen in Gen 3v15. We have the promise of the Redeemer but notice it clearly states 'her seed', the Redeemer is the seed of the woman. However, a woman carries the male seeds of reproduction, why does it say then, 'her seed'? Because no man will be involved in this birth.

Let's just consider then some thoughts on this matter. First, if the Lord is not Virgin born then He

doesn't differ from you and me, indeed by Jewish law He would be illegitimately born. Further in Isaiah 7v14 we are told a 'virgin shall conceive', yet the RSV says a 'woman', what's so amazing about that? Didn't the translators know it's not unusual for women to have children? What's amazing about such a sign? Yes I know all the academic arguments around the Hebrew word but it can only be correctly translated virgin as I have heard leading Jewish Hebrew scholars admit.



Well, why was Jesus Virgin Born? To answer that we need to be aware of our condition of sin. God had made man in Genesis who was not created to die, but he sinned. He received the condemnation of death. By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin, and death came on all men because all had sinned. Death had mastery over man. God saw His creatures were to perish, death reigned over them by corruption, all men were under penalty of death.

So, not willing that death should hold dominion over man the Eternal Son takes unto Himself a body. A body of flesh and blood like ours but without sin. Because He is the Mighty God as Isaiah 9v6 tells us, He will be born of a virgin, a vessel to carry 'that holy thing', Lk 1v35.

Now, in Mt 1v18-19 we see that Joseph was not our Lord's father. Does it matter? Oh count on it. If our Lord were born of a human father, then Jesus was born of a mother stained with the sin of unchastity. Look at Mt 1v18 Mary was 'espoused' to Joseph. In the eye of the law she was solemnly bound as a married woman. Yet, if the Lord was begotten by a natural father and that father wasn't Joseph then when Mary gave birth to Jesus she was as guilty as a woman who breaks her marriage vow. So if Joseph wasn't the father (and he wasn't), then if this is not a God ordained miracle then Jesus was begotten by an unknown father of an unmarried woman, that makes Him illegitimate. Of course this blasphemy has been taught by some. How can any person claim to be a Christian (and many do) including the late Bishop of Durham and yet believe that He whom they count upon for the next world has his mothers unchastity and faithlessness on Him?

If our saviour were born of a human father and it is generally taught as true that personality comes from the father then the personality of Jesus was natural. So, what consequences does that have theologically? Well, if He were born of man he was not God. That affects yours and my salvation. Why? If Jesus is not God, since forgiveness of sin belongs only to God, then He had no right to nor could He forgive sin. He certainly had no right to make Himself the object of faith and the issue of eternal salvation for all that will ever even live. Yet Jesus does so.

If our Lord is a natural man, then He is not God of God, Not God the Son. Not even the Son of God. So, then He was not the Second Person of the Trinity. Then who is? Oh I know the Jews deny God is a trinity but the very first Hebrew word for God in Gen 1v1 is plural. You see if we have no Trinity the doctrine that God exists in Three Persons in one undivided substance or being collapses. Is that a problem? Well, yes. That dumps us in the theological mess of Unitarianism. Don't relax we haven't finished yet. If our Lord was born of a human father, then He is not Infinite, that affects redemption and salvation. Why? Because only an Infinite Person can atone to an Infinite Person. A saviour not quite God is useless. Look, if Christ didn't need to be Infinite as some argue then why couldn't Moses or Aaron atone for your sin? Let me tell you. Only God can satisfy the Law of God.

If our Lord is not Infinite, He cannot be better than the Levitical Priesthood, why? Because like it He cannot give full atonement to God. Further, while we are thinking of the Levitical system we can point out another problem. If the father of Jesus were a natural man then the death at Calvary was not an atoning sacrifice, because to be an acceptable victim for sacrifice our Lord would have to be free from the penalty of sin. To be free from such a penalty He must be sinless not only in word and deed but in essence and nature. A sinless humanity can only be produced from a sinless Father. If it could be proven that Jesus had a natural father then that makes Calvary of no profit.

Now, if our Lord was begotten of a human father and if He could not offer an atoning sacrifice or act as a substitute, then as only God can raise the dead, if He is not God He could not fulfil His own promise that after laying down His own life He would take it up again. As a man He couldn't raise Himself. Further, as God the Father is said to have raised Him and the Father and the Spirit are represented as co-operating with the Son, if He were a natural man not God; He could not co-operate with the Father and the Spirit in a

supernatural act. So, no resurrection.

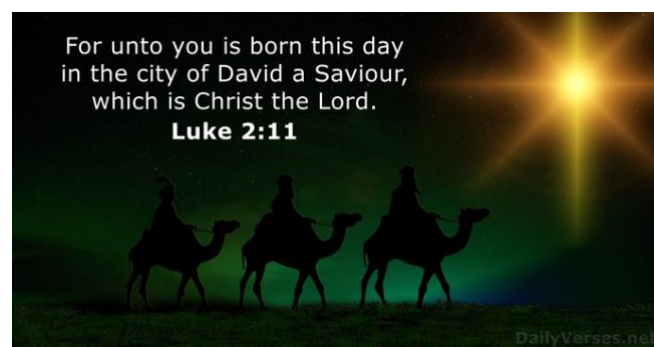
Let's go further, if He was just a natural son of a natural father then He is not alive today. Immortality has not been revealed. The grave is just dark, no heaven awaits, Christmas and Easter have no meaning. It makes a great deal of difference who Jesus father is. If it is not true that in Mary's womb the Second Person of the Trinity became the God-Man then Christianity means nothing.

As we sum up we might ask, if He were not Virgin Born how comes it He was sinless? Even the Pharisees couldn't prove sin in his life. Also, the Church has held the truth of the Virgin Birth from its foundation, her greatest minds have defended it and seen the vital need to do so. The Virgin Birth is indispensable to the integrity of the scriptures. The Bible states He was Virgin Born, if the Bible could be proved wrong on this statement, we would have to consider it all unreliable.

The men who deny the Virgin Birth do so because they refuse to believe God can work miracles, they don't believe in miracles because they do not believe in the God of the Bible. As a theologian I do and I might add, as someone who also has a science degree I still do.

Yours in Christ,

Dr David Badger



The Christmas Chameleon

A little Christmas story to share with your children/grandchildren

When you think of Christmas you think of an ancient land filled with lush palm trees and sweeping seas of sand that greeted the birth of a most amazing baby boy. You may think of camels carrying wise men and their dazzling gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. You may think of the cold animals taking shelter in the same straw filled room as that special little baby. Have you ever thought of Christmas and pictured a chameleon?

Well that is what this story is all about, a little chameleon called Cunha. You see this little chameleon was nothing special, he was not strong, fast or really clever. He was just a normal chameleon. Cunha was actually quite a nervous little fella, always getting scared at the slightest of noises or strange shadows that would appear in the middle of all the jungle trees thanks to the sunlight hitting all the different shaped leaves. He would often sit lonely in his tree, staying the same colour as the green leaves so that no one noticed him. He was so good at hiding though that everyone would forget he was there! So poor Cunha often felt alone and forgotten. He wanted to have people come and be with him, he was just too afraid to be himself and so he felt no one loved him.

Little Cunha lived a long time ago, at a special time when all the world was talking about a strange new star that had popped up in the sky. The jungle was full of animals busily chatting about what they had heard over this strange star. Colourful birds that had come from across the seas told all the jungle creatures from the creeping ant to the prowling jaguar about this star and what or should I say who it led them to!

They spoke excitedly about a group of rich men carrying beautiful gifts travelling many miles to a little town far away. This town had a special little boy living just as any normal boy would do, but it was this special little boy that these rich and wise men were travelling to see and give their amazing gifts to.

Some of the animals listened with excitement and interest as the colourful birds spoke. Others laughed and quickly left. Cunha sat quietly in some flowers listening carefully. He thought hard on why a group of rich humans would travel so far, following a strange star to a town many miles away just to see a little boy? It didn't sound like this boy was a prince or anything. He wasn't to be found in a palace or castle so why go so far to give him so many wonderful gifts? As Cunha sat puzzling, a voice popped up near him.

"The boy they're talking about is not just any boy you know. He's the Son of God!" Cunha was startled! Who was speaking to him and how could they see him?! He was camouflaged! Well it turns out Cunha had been thinking so hard about this boy and why he could be so special, that he had forgotten all about matching his colour to the brightly coloured flowers he was hiding in. So an exotic little bird had spotted him and landed nearby.

The little bird continued, "I saw it all myself. The

sky was full of angels all singing in joy to God that this little boy, the Son of God had been born into the world!" Little Cunha was amazed but the bird wasn't finished yet! "Shepherds came that same night to worship the Son of God who laid asleep in an animal trough." This puzzled little Cunha. "Why was he asleep in an animal trough?" Cunha asked the bird. "Ah because his family were so poor and because they had nowhere to stay that night so they had to stay with the animals. "That's sad." Said Cunha. "No it's not!" Joyfully replied the bird, "It shows how good God is in that He showed us through the arrival of His only Son that He watches over and cares for even the poorest, coldest, loneliest of His creations. It shows us that we need never be scared or worried because He is there with us in even the darkest, coldest and loneliest of times." Cunha simply stared with his mouth open at this news. The little bird smiled seeing Cunha's amazement and carried on giving the good news. "Do you know what else?" He questioned Cunha as the little chameleon continued looking on in open mouthed wonder. "Just some months later, those rich men came to see that little boy, the Son of God, and gave him beautiful gifts. So you see my friend, God does not leave us alone in the dark for long, just be patient and trust Him and He will bring amazing wonders to you also just as the rich men did to that special little boy."

Cunha smiled with a beaming smile and his eyes lit up like a sunbeam. The little bird saw his work was done and began to fly away but not before the joyful Cunha could shout after him, "What is the little boys name? I want to know how to find him!" The bird paused and shouted back from a distance, "Jesus. His name is Jesus, and He is always with those who love Him because He is God." And so the little bird flew away to tell others of the good news of Jesus.

Cunha thought hard on what the little bird had said. "If Jesus is God and God cares for even the littlest and poorest of things then surely He cares for me," little Cunha thought to himself. Just as he thought that thought, a warm feeling swept through his tiny body and his heart thumped with excitement and joy! "Jesus is God and He does love me, even little, scared and frightened me!" Cunha was overjoyed! "He loves me and I love Him!" Cunha shouted across the jungle and his colourful skin dazzled with a beautiful rainbow of colours so that everyone could see. You see now little Cunha was not afraid anymore and didn't want to hide away. Why? Because he now knew that Jesus, the Son of God, loves him and so he would be safe always.

By Jonathan Badger

The Lunacy of the Great Filter Theory

The Great Filter Theory, first proposed by Robin Hanson, an economist at George Mason University, is receiving fresh support from NASA in regards to it's search for extra-terrestrial life. Given that life in outer space and contact with it has proven unsurprisingly unsuccessful has sparked a NASA research group to suggest that we have not made contact with other planetary civilisations not because they do not exist but because they do not *currently* exist as intelligent societies tend to wipe themselves out (this is the Great Filter Theory).

This wild argument is now being used to act as an explanation as to why tens of billions of dollars have been wasted on attempting to contact ET's to no use. It's not because we are alone in the universe and always have been in regards to alien life but because advanced alien races have annihilated themselves before they could make contact with ourselves. Poor ET was trying to phone home when another alien shot him with a plasma rifle before he could dial Earth's number. Always the way.

This is quite a ridiculous but brilliant argument to defend abject failure. Yet to further deflect from the extent of their empty findings, NASA is using this stunningly strange and without any evidence to support it theory of the Great Filter, that because mankind is an advanced civilisation, it too shall wipe itself out. Now this argument being put forward by a NASA based research group has yet to have been peer reviewed so we do not know yet as to how well/poorly received this wild postulation has been greeted by the scientific community. My guessing is that there will be a vocal minority who will back this fairy tale notion, most likely led by people such as Richard Dawkins, the militant Atheist. He has long suggested that because the origins of life cannot be explained by Evolution, it was likely brought to Earth by aliens. Amazingly though these aliens came into existence through a similar means of 'Darwinian evolution' according to Richard Dawkins.

This unfounded and unsubstantiated backing could then be manoeuvred into motivation to further unite mankind to find a universal solution to avert it's own destruction. As NASA is involved in this project this could easily mean several more billions of dollars being wasted on trying to establish a colony on the Moon or Mars, as is the ambition of Tesla and Twitter owner Elon Musk. Whilst this would all prove to be a tragic waste of tax payers money, money that would be

far more beneficial supporting crumbling health care systems for example; what is far more sinister is the fuel being thrown on the fire of mankind's ability to save itself. It is this rebellious spirit first brought into the world through Adam's sin in Eden as he followed after Satan's lies that he could "be as gods" (Genesis 3:5). It is this uniting of mankind to defy God and raise itself up as god that was evident at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11). So you see what is evidently lunacy to the person of a "sound mind" (2 Timothy 2), the Great Filter Theory in this case, is expertly used by Satan to further deceive the nations and have them unite under the greatness of their own strength to deliver themselves from destruction.



As ridiculous as the explanation of no communication from E.T's because they all wiped themselves out before they got a chance to send us a message, there is one thing that the Great Filter theory has correct. Mankind will indeed wipe itself out. You see in the midst of these absurd lies of defunct alien races, the Devil has acknowledged a Scriptural truth. As Winston Churchill said, 'the truth is so valuable that it is often surrounded by a bodyguard of lies'. In turning to Matthew 24:22, Christ warns us that the last days shall be filled with so much evil and bloodshed, that if He does not return "no flesh shall be saved". This He shall do for the sake of His elect. As a side note, why would Christ say He shall return to stop the horrors for the elect's sake if they've already been raptured? Just a thought and worth meditating on through Bible study.

So we can see that yes mankind has the *potential* to wipe itself out, as the extrapolation of the Great Theory is used to assert, but that it shall be stopped from doing so by the Lord's return. The Devil is keen for humanity to either unite and attempt to overthrow God thus worshipping him, or annihilate itself in the process thus destroying the crowning glory of God's Creation and furthermore prohibit Christ's return. The Devil is a beaten foe and he knows it but that doesn't stop his rage and violence against God and His Creation. For a striking example of this just look at

the last days of Adolf Hitler, himself consumed with demonic possession as attested by his closest advisers and generals. Nazi Germany was done, finished, yet Hitler sat in his bunker ordering the sick, elderly and children to fight to the death. He was so angry with Germany for failing him in his dream of a thousand year Reich that if he could not have the world he would rather see it annihilated. This was the preview. Even greater horrors than those witnessed across the globe between 1939-1945 are coming, Jesus Christ said so Himself as we have seen. So make sure you have taken sanctuary in the ultimate Ark that is Christ Jesus, just as Noah took his refuge in the wooden Ark that Christ Jesus provided. The world of Noah was destroyed by water, and as we approach similar wicked days, the world shall be this final time with fire. Do not find yourself in the eternal fires of hell for dismissing the free gift of grace (Romans 5:5-12) but call on Jesus Christ, repent of your sins and acknowledge Him as your Lord and Saviour. Then you shall not fear the appearing of Him, but instead you shall long for it! (2 Timothy 4).

By Jonathan Badger

Psalm 101 – A Determined Walk Part Two

We continue our studies of Psalm 101 by looking at verse 3. The Psalmist has a keen determination to keep themselves from indulging in or even looking upon 'wicked things'. It is this singular determination to ensure that a holy life is led each day that sets apart the truly redeemed in Christ from the pretenders and fair weather Christians that are more concerned with things of the world than things of heaven. Sadly we see it today amongst many Christians who think it no evil to watch violent and pornographic TV shows and movies. It is terrifying how many of today's Christians are quite happy to view foul shows such as *Game of Thrones*, *House of the Dragon* etc. Just these two programmes alone are full of Satanic characters and rituals, extreme violence that makes even secular media comment in surprise and graphic scenes of a sexual nature including reprehensible topics such as incest. Yet the plague of Christians taking in devilish darkness through their eyes is not limited to the small screen. Again many modern Christians see no issue with watching horror movies. Furthermore it is staggering how many Christians today view pornographic material regularly; it is an epidemic within the Church that is not limited to the lay persons. It was documented in a recent survey of American Pastors that 30 per cent admitted to regularly indulging in viewing

pornography.

Well with this being noted it is no surprise to see modern Christians full of doubt of faith; fumbling to answer challenges to Christianity by the world and succumbing to every vile imagination for they have filled their eyes with wickedness. As Our Lord Jesus Christ warned in Matthew 6:22-23,

²² The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.²³ But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

By setting wickedness before the eyes the Christian is filling themselves with nothing but darkness and that darkness is of the devil! The result of which is the confused, weak, apologetic Christian of today that constantly seeks to rationalise it's sinful behaviours. It is nothing short of a tragedy in the fullness of the expression.

However the godly soul that is intent on 'being holy as He is holy' (1 Peter 1:16) is convicted by the Holy Ghost to "hate the work of them that turn aside" (emphasis mine). The godly person is to never justify the sinful behaviour of the wicked. We are to not peer down our noses at the lost sinner for we were once such as these (1 Corinthians 6:11) but nevertheless we are to not justify their wickedness and pardon it by pretending God is not angry with them. The truth is God is furious with unrepentant sinners! Are we as Christians to freely indulge and justify the behaviours of such who have spurned the free gift of grace from the very hands of God? Perish the thought! We are to hate the work of the wicked and have no part of it! We are to be separate, a peculiar people (1 Peter 2:9) unto God so that He might smile upon us and thus we receive the bounty of His blessings!



Turn away from those who love wickedly

Why are we to be so determined in our stand against the wickedness of others? The Psalmist answers why in the same verse, "it shall not cleave to me". This deep expression of bonding two things together or 'cleaving' is first seen in

Genesis 2 as Adam and Eve 'cleave' together in the fullness of marriage so much so that they are "one flesh" before God. This then is the extent of the evil you are inviting into yourself when you refuse to separate from the wickedness of the world. When you take no care as to what your eyes take in, you are bonding yourself in the deepest of ways to darkness. This is why indulging in violent and/or pornographic materials is so, so dangerous as it adheres itself to your very being. It literally becomes an addiction, something you must indulge in or you will lose your mind. It has become part of you. Interestingly studies have shown that those who have such addictive natures and desires have altered brain chemistry that feeds the addiction. Thus the Psalmist was way ahead of modern medicine and psychiatry when he warned against letting your eyes take in evil and indulging in the wicked behaviour of others.

We conclude here this month after just this one verse as I feel it an important warning to focus on particular in our modern age. We are surrounded by wickedness particularly within the visual medias. Here is just one example of how epidemic these attacks are on Christians today and how careful we must be as to what we take in with our eyes. I watch the NFL highlights (American Football) each week on ITV through the 'on-demand' service. Anyone familiar with this will be aware that even though the programme is not being aired live, you are still subject to a raft of adverts during the programme. Well ITV had on a loop Virgin Atlantic advert that depicts people of every walk of life, openly promoting LGBTQ+ lifestyles all to the soundtrack of the pride filled tune, *I am what I am*. Now because of how well crafted this advert is, it draws the attention, even that of my five year old daughters. Aware of the sinful message being delivered on a loop, my wife Donna is so tuned into the opening bars of the song and thus the advert that she leaps up to stand in front of the TV and then distracts our youngest from the brainwashing on the screen. It is this level of spiritual care that **must** be lived daily if we are to emulate the words of the Psalmist. The modern liberal Christian may take vocal annoyance at this 'sheltered' behaviour but I have no interest in their estimations. Their thoughts are temporary and of the age, fuelled by the brainwashing of the world which they have willingly taken part in. Their demonstrations against our stand for the Lord will be forgotten in just a few years at most. However the words of the Lord through the Psalmist have reached us in their fullness after 3000 years. One stand has lasted the test of time, the other will not!

By Jonathan Badger

Pride Before The Fall

This is the logo (see image below) being used by the US Soccer Team at the 2022 Qatar World Cup. This affront to God has been designed as a protest against Qatar's anti LGBTQ+ stance. It is a remarkable and sobering sight to see a nations badge at an international sporting event be overtaken with the gay pride symbol. Herein is the hypocrisy of the situation. Such minority groups contend for 'greater representation' in society. According to the most recent poll by Gallup in the USA, 7.1 per cent of the country identifies as LGBTQ+, with only 1 per cent being in a 'married' same-sex relationship. For such a small proportion of the population to have the **national** badge changed to suit their message is a sad statement of western society and it's pushing of a lifestyle that does not actually 'represent' the bulk of the population.

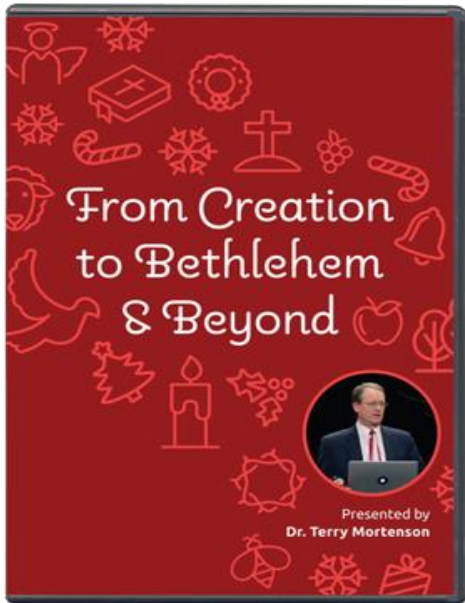


By following the same logic as the LGBTQ+ community for 'greater representation' to the point of having a national logo altered to suit their message, why not change the USA Soccer Team logo to the Mexican flag? After all 19 per cent or 61 million people in the USA are Hispanic, a far higher proportion of the society than those who identify as LGBTQ+. It is well known how much of the Hispanic community in America struggles in terms of living standards so why not give them national prominence through redesigning the USA Soccer Team logo?

The LGBTQ+ community is an activist community and eager to not just ensure 'representation' but domination. However as history has shown that when such behaviours are indulged on such national approval, that society does not thrive and instead dramatically declines (just investigate the history of Ancient Greece or Rome for example). When a society embraces such activities that God has declared to be an **abomination (Leviticus 20:13, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Romans 1:26-27, Jude 7, 1 Timothy 1:10, Genesis 19)** it merely stores up for itself the anger of God which will one day come crashing down. As the old saying goes, 'those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it'.

By Jonathan Badger

Resource Corner



From Creation to Bethlehem & Beyond (DVD)

At Christmas time we look back at the amazing events surrounding the birth of Jesus. We know those events point to his saving work for us on the cross and in the resurrection. But to really understand the significance of his birth, we need to start at the beginning of creation and also look to his second coming. Dr. Mortenson explains these “big picture” truths using AiG’s Seven C’s of History and shows how the lies of evolution and millions of years destroy the gospel message. The babe in Bethlehem is first our Creator, then our Saviour, and then our coming King and Judge.

Available from Answers in Genesis

Smoky Mountain Christmas (CD)

Recorded at his log cabin home, singer/songwriter Buddy Davis presents 10 beautifully arranged instrumental Christmas classics, with all instrumentation by Buddy himself.

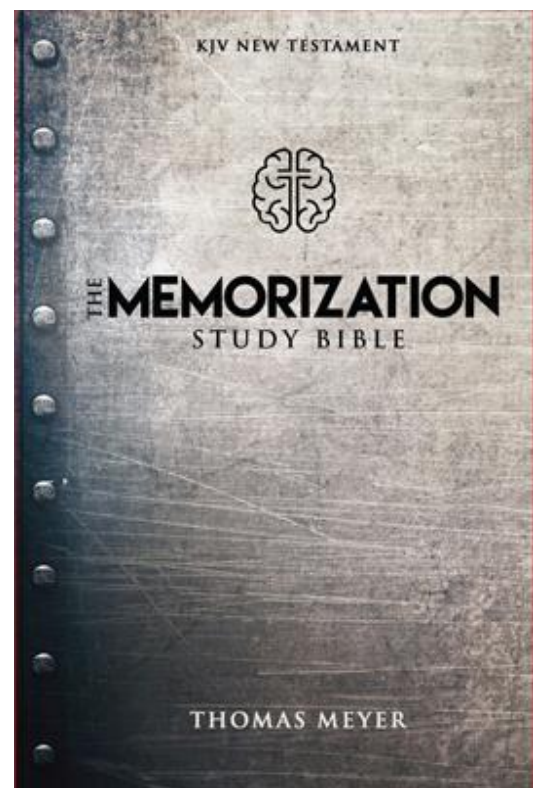
Featuring the beloved Appalachian dulcimer, mandolin, fiddle, and more, your Christmas will be even more reminiscent of childhood holiday celebrations!

10 Jesus-focused songs: Go Tell It On the Mountain, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, Drummer Boy, The First Noel, Joy to the World, Away In a Manger, While

Shepherds Watch Their Flocks By Night, Silent Night, and Angels We Have Heard On High.



Available from Answers in Genesis



The KJV Memorisation Study Bible

Technology has placed a flood of information at our fingertips. But our relationship with God needs to be one of the heart, not the smartphone. Get engaged with the Word of God in a refreshing new way! Memorize verses, chapters, and even whole books of the New Testament by using the powerful techniques of the “Bible Memory Man,” Professor Tom Meyer. The unique method he learned while studying in Jerusalem works well for all ages. Go deeper into Scripture and understand God’s Word better than ever before! KJV New Testament.

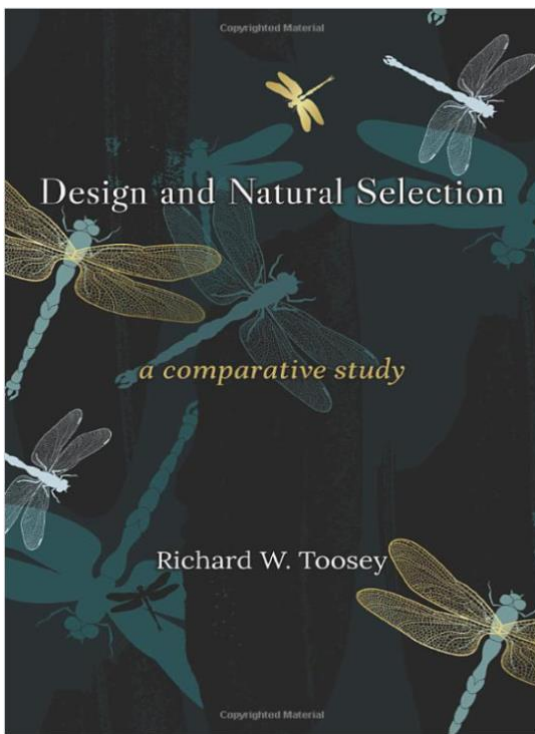
Available from Answers in Genesis

Design and Natural Selection (Book)

Conceived as a general theory of design, natural selection assumes small improvements that favour survival, while unfavourable changes do not survive. This might sound logical, but does it really work as a design method? Can it be tested?

To answer such questions, Richard Toosey engages with the realities of practical, systemic design, something he is very familiar with from his long career in design/architecture. Can real design proceed by unguided incremental steps, as the theory of evolution requires?

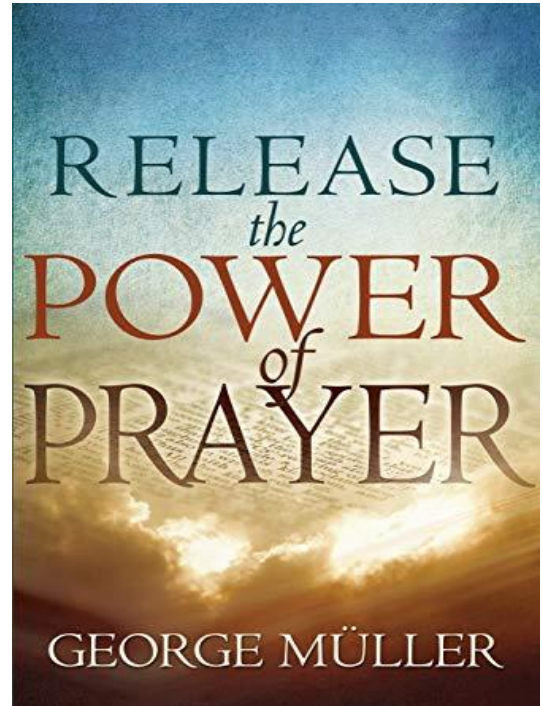
This short book is clearly and cogently argued. It will make readers think carefully, including those with a strong background in biology.



Available from Creation Ministries International

Release the Power of Prayer (Book)

Receive Your Miracle from God George Müller was the worst of sinners--a thief and a liar. But after turning to Christ, he provided for over 10,000 orphans--without ever asking anyone but God to supply his needs! He testified that he knew of at least 50,000 specific answers to his prayers. Here are his reports of a few of the most spectacular ones. From his amazing personal experiences, you will find the secret to receiving miraculous answers to your prayers.



Available from Amazon

The Case For Christmas

In The Case for Christmas, Lee Strobel puts his training as an investigative reporter to work on finding out the truth about the Christmas Nativity story.

This well written and down to earth investigation is interesting and very helpful for anyone of any age seeking to understand the events of the first Christmas or defend the identity of the baby in the manger.

With the experiences of his own faith journey, The Case for Christmas opens with the author's own encounter as a non-Christian journalist with a poor family. Here he discovered that, even in their poverty, they showed an extraordinary generosity born from their deep and living faith in Jesus Christ.

Lee Strobel goes on to thoroughly examine the reasons why people might argue against believing in Jesus Christ, taking their argument apart with answers from to key questions from Bible scholars, historians, thinkers and pastors.

By consulting experts on Bible archaeology and messianic prophecy, Lee Strobel searches out the true identity of the child in the manger. He asks the tough, pointed questions you'd expect from an award-winning legal journalist, sifting through the Eyewitness Evidence;

Can the biographies of Jesus be trusted?

What does archaeology reveal?

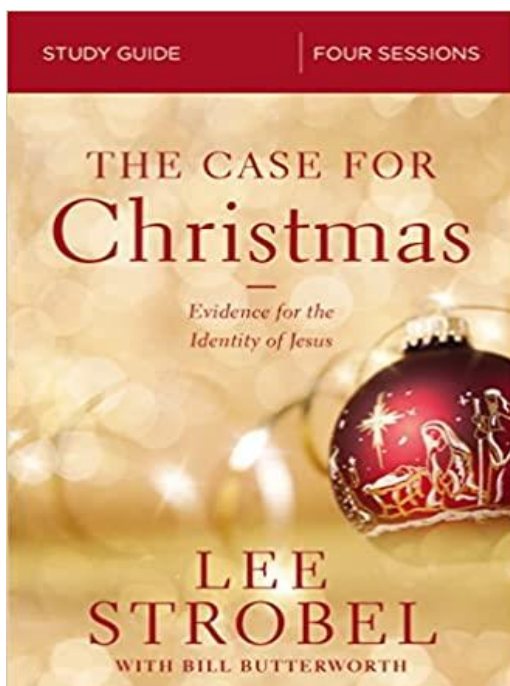
Did Jesus fulfil the attributes of God?

Did Jesus uniquely match the identity of the Messiah?

Somewhere beyond the traditions of the Christmas holiday lies the truth. It may be more compelling than you've realized. Weigh the facts...and decide for yourself.

The award winning and best selling author does an excellent job in presenting the most persuasive arguments against aspects of faith, marshalling an array of facts from a wealth of sources, and refuting the critics.

In this neat little volume, Strobel produces a convincing case for the truth and accuracy of the scriptural record. This book gives you the evidence for The Nativity and helps you respond to the critics of the Christ's existence, identity and mission.



Available from Amazon & Eden.co.uk

Looking for an A.V/KJV Church?
Join us at Truth To Wonder Church

We are a family run church that focuses on the study of Holy Scripture and how His revealed Word is just as applicable to us all today as it has been throughout history.

Learn how good and unbiased scientific practice supports the Genesis account of world history.

See how archaeological discoveries uphold the Bible's claim to be recording of history and not just a collection of moral teachings and virtue filled myths.

Enjoy fellowship with other believers who love the God of the Bible and delight in His commands and precepts (Psalm 119:97).

Join us and be strengthened knowing that there are others who seek to glorify Our Lord God by sharing the Gospel with others so that they might know the love of God (Romans 1:16, 2 Timothy 4:2, Mark 16:15, John 3:16).

Sundays at 11am, Iford Scout Hut, Iford Lane, Bournemouth, BH6 5NE – for more information visit truthtowonder.org

Check out the Truth To Wonder website as well!

Find out about TTW Church, access our back catalogue of TTW Magazine, enjoy fun kids activity ideas, discover useful resources to aid your Biblical studies, keep up to date with the article of the month and more!

Happy Christmas to all and glory to God in the highest, for unto us a Saviour born!

