

Truth To Wonder

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Don't Say The 'S' Word

Many Christians today favour modern bible versions simply because of the much propagated idea that the 'easier to understand modern language' helps 'unlock the Scriptures' by removing old, 'archaic' words. Well according to the NKJV, one of these archaic words that needs removal for the benefit of the modern bible reader is 'study'.

However study of Scripture is an easily understood instruction and clearly beneficial for anyone who is searching for the gift of salvation as revealed most splendidly in God's Holy Word. Study is also beneficial to the growth of a believers faith as it is by study of the Lord's Word that we learn more of Our Lord's wondrous nature and attributes and how we can live in ever growing communion with Him. What good therefore could possibly come from removing this clear and easily

understood instruction even to the modern eye? There simply is no justifiable reason to completely remove the word 'study' from modern bibles such as the NKJV! The only impact such an omission makes is a negative one, one that could easily lead a reader away from careful investigation of Holy Scripture. We see what this approach has done to modern bible users, it has produced a flimsy, weak, emotionally lead but intellectually vapid Christendom that falls over itself to appease the world because it cannot refer to clear Scriptural teachings on many flash points in society today (women preachers/ministers, gay marriage, pornography, sexual immorality, abortion, gender identity, etc, etc).

If you are a modern bible version user just ask yourself, 'what benefit is it to my walk with God, or anyone's if the instruction to study God's Word is removed?' Does it encourage us to live in the Spirit more as we rely less on knowledge and more on emotion? To achieve a Spirit led life, one must know who the Holy Spirit is and how to grow a relationship with Him. How is this achieved? Through study of the Book that He breathed out and into existence. It's all very simple you see but it's made all the muddier by the usage of modern bible versions going against their reason for being!



The desire of a simple life and ease of existence is an understandable one and especially so given the hectic nature of modern life. Indeed the Scriptures prophesied that such a time as now would come (Daniel 12) and thus

such a warning gives us hope that God is all knowing and all powerful for what He had said would take place is taking place before our eyes. Yet we only have this comfort of trusting in such a powerful God with the soundness of our minds if we have studied Scripture, something your modern Bible does not want you to do.

Ultimately we must ask the question who profits from unknowledgeable Christians? Quite simply the devil does. Poorly versed Christians are easily disrupted in faith and prove ineffective witnesses to the world no matter how good the intentions are. The end result is the potency and purity of the Gospel is compromised and souls are lost forever. Ease of living is attractive but all that glitters is not

gold. The greatest treasure in all existence is the blood of Christ; that same perfect blood that was shed to pay the debt of yours and my sins. Yet it was not easily shed. It was given by the Almighty God who moved all time and space so as to give His Only Begotten Son so that fallen mankind might be given a way back to Him through His perfect and full sacrifice at Calvary. This is the assurance given to all who believe, an assurance that grows ever stronger in the soul with each hour spent in study of it's eternal truth. Amen

By Jonathan Badger

He Was Crucified. The Tomb Was Empty. He Did Appear.

Part One - He Was Crucified

Let me state as we consider the above, that without the truth of the Resurrection there is no such thing as CHRISTIANITY. You should read right now 1 Cor 15v13-14, 17-19. As we move through the 21st Century it should be noted even in this godless age that the Life of Jesus is not really disputed in regards to him having lived. Further, his death, is generally accepted by unbelieving historians, why?, because there are secular accounts referring to him having being executed under the governorship of Pontius Pilate. That then leaves us with the resurrection. However, we must not get ahead of ourselves, we need to examine the Crucifixion again in a way you may never have.

The Cross was used for what Rome saw as the dross of the criminal being. Cicero, the famous Roman orator, refers to crucifixion as 'that most cruel and disgusting penalty'. A word was invented to describe it: Excruciating, taken from the Latin to refer to pain 'from the cross'. The executioner didn't have any laid down procedure to follow he was free to be totally brutal. There is no record in recorded history that anyone ever survived a full Roman crucifixion. Seneca describes a victim by the time he is crucified, as a 'battered and ineffective carcass'.

Seneca the Younger wrote, 'Can anyone be found who would prefer wasting away in pain, dying limb by limb, or letting out his life drop by drop, rather than expiring once for all? Can any man be found fastened to the accursed tree, long sickly, already deformed, swelling with ugly tumours on the chest and shoulders and draw the breath of life amid long-drawn-out agony?'

Further, Crucifixion often was after a horrendous flogging, as with the Lord. A whip of metal and bone used by the Romans (I have seen one), could turn muscle to pulp. Josephus refers to victims who could be whipped till the bones could be seen. In fact often their intestines were revealed. Roman nails could cause huge damage (I have also seen some of them), don't imagine nails like you might use, these are more like chisels. If these were used on a victim then gangrene would set in. Dehydration was massive in the heat, blood pressure could rocket as the heart and lungs fought to support life, the kidneys would start to fail. It was relatively easy for the executioner to know if those suspended were dead, if they had stopped moving it was because they were not breathing.

When a victim was hung on the cross, their rib cages were fully expanded and their rib cages could not generate pressure to exhale. Therefore, in order to breathe out, they had to push up against the cross with their feet (which in the Lord's case were nailed), and they could inhale as they sank down. As the intense pain, blood loss, cramp,



Some context for the physical agony Christ Jesus experienced for our sins

dehydration and total trauma overwhelmed their physical being their bodies would sink down and thus they could not breathe out, death by asphyxiation followed. If the Romans wanted to get matters over quicker, they would break the legs or smash the knees to pieces. Let us be clear, no mistake was made in reference to Jesus being dead, but as extra evidence the Roman lance is thrust forth. Even the order of blood and water pouring forth is medically correct as the

pericardium had seemingly been punctured. Why were His bones unbroken and Him pierced? Prophecy. See John 19v36-37. Now, some may say that the Bible is biased in reporting the Crucifixion. Okay, well let's understand this, all historical sources are biased. The presence of bias is not a solid enough reason to discredit reports. There are sources written by people of mixed backgrounds, many of those people were not believers. Some converted at great personal cost, that being the case you could argue that what they testify to has an extra weight of credibility.

Look, before the New Testament was written, believers agreed on core doctrines amongst which the death of Jesus was paramount. If you take a report like that in 1Cor15 which is also recognised by non-believers you find a creed that was formulated within approximately five years of the Crucifixion. In fact in the first one hundred years after His death Romans, Jews and Christians tell us He died by Crucifixion. There is a creedal statement in Phil 2v8 that not a few scholars believe pre-dates the N.T compilation.

Men like Josephus writing in the first century tells us that the Lord was Crucified. In fact, after one hundred years of The Faith you will not find a single account that Jesus may not have died by Crucifixion. There was those who said His body was stolen, yet they had the perfect opportunity to argue He did not die by Crucifixion, it suggests that such an argument did not enter their mind.

Let me tie things up at this stage. For those who do not believe that Jesus died, I will turn to three non-believing scholars to refute them. First, Gerd Ludemann a German scholar wrote, 'The fact of the death of a Jesus as a consequence of Crucifixion is indisputable, despite hypotheses of a pseudo-death or a deception which are sometimes put forward'.

Paula Fredriksen another scholar states, 'The single most solid fact about Jesus' life is his death: he was executed by the Roman Prefect Pilate, on or around the Passover, in the manner Rome reserved particularly for political insurrectionists, namely crucifixion'.

John Dominic Crossman, said, 'There is not the slightest doubt about the fact of Jesus crucifixion under Pontius Pilate'. He also stated, 'That he was crucified is as sure as anything historical can ever be'.

Accepting that Jesus died then is not difficult for believer and unbeliever, but for those who try to argue he never died you have given yourself a host of questions to answer. Don't delude yourself into thinking your work is done.

Yours in Christ

Dr David Badger

The riches of heaven vs the riches of the world

Having ascertained the importance of study, even if only for brief periods each day, let us continue to see what benefits Scriptural study can reap for the soul of each believer in Christ.

Luke 19 v1:10 is the well known account of Christ Jesus' call to the thieving tax collector that was Zacchaeus. It is an easily understood and digestible passage that often becomes the subject of nothing grander than a pleasant Sunday School message. This is itself can be extremely advantageous especially when talking to young children or those who are new of faith. Yet to dispense it as merely a light and pleasant interaction between Our Lord and a repentant sinner is to miss an enormous bounty of heavenly riches that have been recorded so that you might know the eternal purposes of Christ in restoring you to the Heavenly Father.

Verse 1 has the scene set as we are informed that Jesus entered and travelled through the city of Jericho. On a hurried reading this is the sum of the matter, a recording of the logistics of Christ's journeying through Israel. However pause and consider one simple fact before you rush through

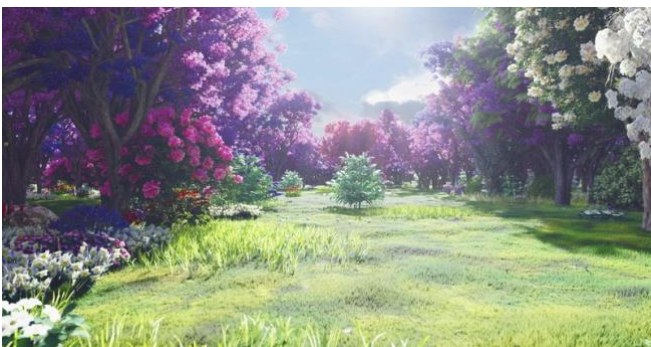


your Christian duties of the day in reading a Bible passage, that is with the eternal wealth of knowledge and wisdom that God holds, He selected these words, these passages and accounts as the necessary information you need to come to a full knowledge of Him and His eternal love for you. Do you honestly think that there is any 'filler' content in the Bible that can be skipped past so that you can get to the meat of the matter? I contend that every word in it's proper context is 'the meat of the matter' and I point to Holy

Scripture as my validation of assertion in that, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Now after my digression let us return and see that verse 1 is a wonderful encapsulation of the movements of Christ throughout all history. What is the purpose of Christ’s movements and purposes throughout history you ask? To seek and to save those that are lost. As the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Timothy 1:15, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”. This mission of Christ did not commence in His earthly ministry however. Such an idea only demonstrates a complete lack of understanding the eternal nature of salvation and how it was undertaken in the mists of eternity long before the world was even formed. We can be certain of this by once again studying Scripture, for we read in Ephesians 1:4, “Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”

So Christ’s mission to seek out those that are lost was set in place in the heart of God in the mists of eternity and that this is basic Christian doctrine even if it is poorly understood and taught in Christendom today. Yet as wonderful as these words are as given in Ephesians 1:4 by Paul under inspiration of the Holy Ghost, do we have any action by Christ that can be grasped that will satisfyingly underpin such glorious declarations?



In Genesis 3:8 we read of a pre-incarnate Christ walking in the Garden of Eden, “in the cool of the day”. This physical act of Our Lord openly and actively demonstrates His heart’s desire to commune with His Creation, Adam and Eve. This is the nature of the Biblical God being laid out to all humanity in that He is not a cold and aloof God as seen in the pagan religions of the world, whether these be the past faiths of antiquity or the repackaged false religions of today. The Biblical God is personable and desires to be known and enjoyed by His Creation.

The wondrous nature of God and how it is duly reflected in the text does not end here though. Our Lord entered the Garden of Eden here **after** Adam and Eve had rebelled and sinned against His one command. He would’ve known full well what they had done and would’ve by all rights been perfectly justified in cutting off Adam and Eve from His presence for all eternity and condemning them to death. But this is not who He is for He is rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:4) and so entered the Garden so that He might find them and deliver the astonishing promise of Genesis 3:15. The Lord entered to seek out those who were lost and Adam and Eve were certainly lost at this point!

Thus we have an active demonstration of who God says He is and just what He does to show who He is. He went into the Garden of Eden to seek out the lost in Adam and Eve so that He might save them through His own righteousness. The actions and purposes of Christ as first seen in Genesis are no different to those He reveals through His call of Zaccheus. His Word even closes the passage of Luke 19 v1:10 with the glorious announcement of His power to fulfil His very declaration that “the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost.” What was lost through Adam and Eve in Eden He immediately set about to remedy through His own holiness, power and righteousness and has provided graciously to repentant sinners ever since.

We must consider here the troubling fact that so many Christian’s today subscribe to the notion of jettisoning the Old Testament as they find it too hard and cold. They struggle to ‘reconcile’ the God of the Old Testament with Jesus Christ. They listen to the attacks of the sceptics and rather than study the Scriptures to find the answer to such assaults they seek to pacify the enemy through compromise. All they do however is compromise the very purposes of the Gospel, the thing they declare to be their backbone and reason for being. They completely miss the fact that the mercy of Christ as seen in His call to little sinful Zacchaeus is no different whatsoever to His provision in seeking out Adam and Eve in Eden after they fell into sin. They defy the statement of Christ that He is unchanging so that they can placate a wicked world who despises Christianity in the hope that they might be accepted by the world. They have spiritually bankrupted themselves by seeking after the riches of the world, that is a peaceable life with all the acceptance and luxuries of the modern world. They have bargained away the treasures of

heaven so that they might cling onto some vain fantasy that they can have both the riches of heaven and the riches of the world. Yet is it not written that a person cannot serve two masters, for they will love one and hate the other? (Matthew 6:24) It is most assuredly written so.

By giving up on study, whether this be under the thought that time is not available, energy and motivation not forthcoming, ability not present, is to take the riches of heaven and drop them in the gutter. How foolish we are that we break ourselves physically so often to ensure we have the bigger house, the newer car, the exotic holidays and yet we can't even bring ourselves to devote a small amount of undistracted time from study of Our Lord's Word.

When we do this we trade away the source of our peace, our consistency, our very identity for we are bound up in Christ, ransomed by His blood and yet we abandon it so readily. The modern Christian is surrounded by luxury unknown to those of previous generations and yet we are constantly exhausted, stressed, restless, covetous, frightened, easily discouraged and we bumble from one day to the next puzzling as to why we in such a state every day. It's simply because we have not valued the riches of heaven. We have forgotten that heavenly, eternal, unbreakable, incorruptible treasures are only gained through application of faith and that application is of the heart, the soul and the mind. So study your Bible and ask the Holy Ghost to reveal the stunning depths of wisdom contained in each verse and you will be transported to the very halls of heaven in your own heart as you see how each word has been written to you so that you might put on the incorruptible in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:53). Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Amazing Reindeer

Reindeers are amazing witnesses to the goodness of God's provision in ensuring that His Creation is cared for even in challenging environments.

The fur of the reindeer is double layered with a thick, dense inner layer perfect crafted for insulation alongside an outer layer consisting of hollow hairs that trap warm air helping keep them warm in temperatures of -45C.

The underneath of their hooves are uniquely furry to ensure their feet do not freeze in the thick snow.

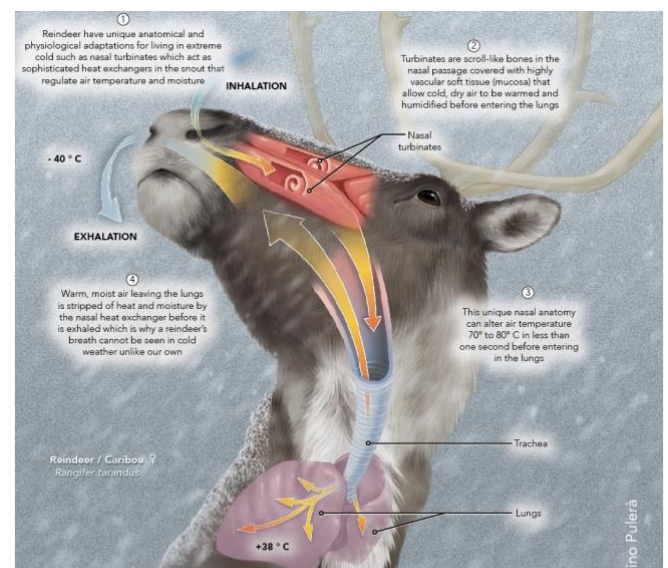
Also their wide and furry hooves are perfect for helping them from sinking into the deep snow and retain grip as they walk and move.

Their noses are again uniquely hairy amongst the deer kind. This means their noses do not freeze as they push through the snow and ice to reach 'reindeer moss', a nutrient rich lichen/moss that provides sustenance in the frozen tundras of the Arctic.

Reindeers eyes are able to see UV light which gives them increased ability to see plant life for food and predators amidst the blinding sun that bounces off the snow in the Arctic Circle.

Perhaps most amazingly though is the inside of a reindeers nose. Within the nasal cavity of a reindeer is a remarkable system of scroll like tubes called 'nasal turbines'. These bony turbines are covered in blood rich tissue and a thick layer of mucosa. When the reindeer breathes in the frigid Arctic air which can often be at temperatures below -40C, the frozen air is passed through these nasal turbines and rapidly heated so much so that the same air that reaches the reindeers lungs is then at a toasty 37C!

Incredibly this amazing heating of the frozen air



The incredible nasal turbines of the reindeer through the reindeers nasal cavity all takes place within 1 second! Take a look at the picture above to see the structure of the reindeers nasal turbines and marvel at the level of complexity required to enable such an engineering feat! For such a thing to have evolved by chance is just illogical nonsense and can only be explained by the genius of a Creator God.

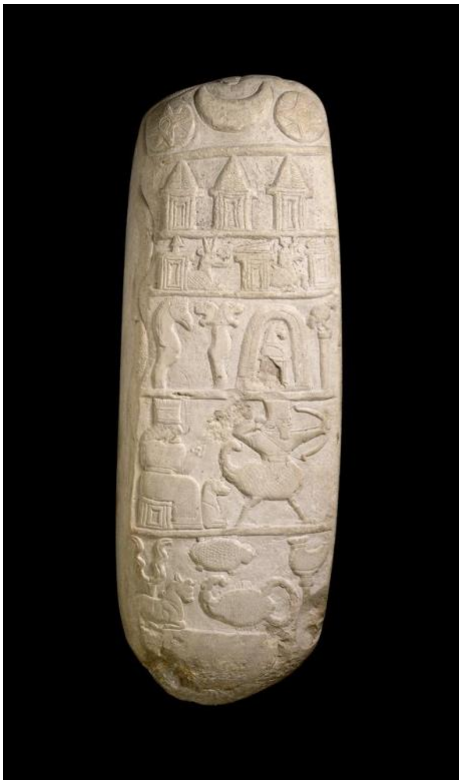
By Jonathan Badger

Literal Not Figurative

Many liberal Christians make the worrying assertion that the Bible and the Old Testament in particular are to be read as allegory's or figurative texts that do not correspond to actual history. Well such an interpretation of Scripture is fundamentally **wrong** and is the root of the alarmingly weak and apologetic Church we see today.

This incorrect foundational approach to God's Revealed Word is found wanting through that most pesky of things to the Bible scoffer, physical evidence of the Bible's historicity.

In Deuteronomy 17:17 and 19:14 we read of a clear command that, "**Thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark**". Now many find reading these chapters delineating OT Law as dry reading and happily skip over the text. However by doing so we miss valuable information. This seemingly unremarkable instruction finds it's fulfilment in physical history through the field of archaeology.



Numerous excavations throughout the Middle East, particularly in Iraq (what was the heartland of Ancient Babylonia) have unearthed what are known as 'boundary stones'. These boundary stones were

commonplace in the ancient Middle East and were used as physical landmarks to outline the boundaries of an individual's land ownership. These stones known as *Kudurru*, would be inscribed with land ownership details with a clay copy also being made and stored in a temple much like we use a bank vault today (there is nothing new under the sun). These stone *kudurru* would then be placed at the borders of an individual's land ownership to notify others as a means of guarding against encroachment or land theft. Indeed many

of these boundary stones would also have curses against any who moved their position seeking to steal land from it's rightful owner.

Thus the instruction recorded in Deuteronomy, given by the Lord as a means of guarding against land theft accurately reflects a common practice amongst the ancient peoples of the Middle East. The Scriptural references to these boundary stones are seen elsewhere in Proverbs 22:28, 23:10. We also see how seriously this instruction was taken by the prophets as we read in Hosea 5:10, "**The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: therefore I will pour out my wrath upon them like water**".

So we can glean from this discovery that there are again no 'filler' texts in the Holy Scriptures and that even the most seemingly underwhelming passage can be utilised as a brilliant proof of the truth of Our Lord's written Word.

By Jonathan Badger

Kinkeeper. A Blessed Role Attacked

You may be unfamiliar with the term 'kinkeeper'. It's a term first coined in the 1960's as a disparaging label to describe the traditionally feminine role of being the 'glue of the family'. Women in the family unit have long been seen as the 'glue' that brings a family together whether this be for organising family activities, providing meals together, being the emotional support for struggling members of the family, and so forth. It is a valuable role each of us who have been so blessed will have likely seen our own mother's fulfil in our upbringing. Many lives have been wonderfully guided and moulded into useful tools for the Lord's work by such consistent, unconditional love and provision as given by devoted mothers.

It is a beautiful daily fulfilment of God's ordination that men and women are indeed different and have different strengths and skill sets. For the most part men are more emotionally reserved and resilient than women which as a benefit means they are more suited to be stewards of the family unit. However the failing in this characteristic is that many men struggle with compassion, sympathy and observing the emotional condition of others. Their strength finds it's limits and if unchecked/tempered can cause significant detriment to those around them.

This is where women's emotional intelligence/sensitivity is such a valuable skill for the welfare of not just themselves and their husbands but for their entire family unit. The women's

sensitivity in such fields means they are more likely to be called upon to assist family members who are experiencing great distress. This familial source of consistent love and support can be a perfect harbour for a soul to shelter in during the great storms of life.

It is a beautifully complimentary system that God has put in place under the ordination of marriage and the role of 'kinkeeper' is a crucial pillar in this impressive and loving provision through the grace of God.

Yet in the media today there is a growing resentment amongst women towards this role of 'kinkeeper'. A Tiktoker (@thought-dumpy, an apt name at least) has gained significant social traction through her assertion that the role of 'kinkeeper' is the, "root of stress in most women's lives." 1.2 million likes later on TikTok and an article in *Stylist* magazine, this feminist argument is fast spreading as the latest attack on God's ordained role for men and women as seen in the family unit. For those who are reading this and assuming that I am jumping the gun by saying that it is a feminist attack need look no further than the hashtags @thought-dumpy put in her TikTok post - "#feminist #feminism". She has no qualms in making her stand under the flag of feminism, an ideology that is deeply anti-Biblical and has its roots in 19th century Satanism.



TikTok user @thought-dumpy, a promoter of feminist propaganda

The role of 'kinkeeper' is now being viewed not as a treasured role but as a role that is to be avoided for the sake of one's own mental health. Those who fill this role (predominantly women but occasionally men also) are being told to love themselves first over loving others and if you do 'put yourself out there' for friends and family then you should only do so if it doesn't affect **your** happiness. This astonishingly overt indoctrination of society to consider only themselves under the guise of seeking the welfare of the populace smacks unmistakably of Satan. One only needs to look at his workings in the Garden of Eden to the striking

similarities. Satan posed as an agent of assistance to Adam and Eve, one who was trying to free them from the 'limitations' imposed by God so that they could be as gods. The plan worked, mankind fell and we have fallen for the same trick generation after generation.

Alarmingly we are so far away from basic Biblical knowledge in society that something as simple and previously unchallenged as the beautiful and vital role of being the 'glue of the family', something that was even just a generation ago seen as a great accolade and compliment, is now being rewritten as an unwanted burden that degrades and depresses the self. We have got to this point because the awareness of the tactics of Satan and his unoriginal methods have been abandoned because the book containing the alerts to spot his devious methods has been thrown out by even much of Christendom. That book being the **Book of Genesis**. As Ken Ham recently noted, the **Book of Genesis** is fundamental to **all Christian doctrine**. **Remove the foundation and the structure collapses.**

The media today is overflowing with articles relaying the 'death' or 'demise of Christianity in the West'. It has come about because Christians bargained away the foundation stone that is the authority of Scripture so as to appease society in the hope of securing its existence through the goodwill of man over the provision of God. Well thank God that the true Church is not dependent of the goodwill of mankind but is sustained by the power of God and will be always be so. So be courageous in your stand for Christ and be aware that even a seemingly simple, unremarkable witness as being a contented and faithful Christian husband/wife is a potent testimony of the nature, provision and love of God to all who would hear.

By Jonathan Badger

A Study of Psalm 101 verse 5

Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will I not suffer.

The intensity and conviction of the Psalmist is palpable in this verse as we recommence our studies of Psalm 101. Opening with a clear statement of intent that those who are gossipers and two faced of nature shall not be indulged by the Psalmist is a strong but wise instruction for each of us to adopt into our own lives.

Many of us will have encountered others who are gossips, those whose 'two-faced' natures have been a consistent irritation to our own lives. The psalmist is making no qualms in his statement against those who flatter to the face and yet speak slanderous words in secret against the same person they were speaking sweetly to earlier. He gives no ground to such individuals for such behaviour is of the devil, whose subtlety and devious spirit poses as an angel of light, inviting us to join in sinful thoughts, words and deeds and yet seeks to accuse us with utmost speed of our sins when we have been taken in by the ploy. The tremendous wound to the soul that comes from yielding to such succumbing to sin can devastate a life if not lives and so its impact should never be underestimated. As Karen Salmansohn noted, "gossips are worse than thieves for they steal another person's dignity, honest reputation and credibility...which are challenging to restore." If the world can see the repugnant nature of such persons then how much more vile is such a character unto the Lord God?! There is a French proverb that rightly equates the motivator of such wicked behaviours as it states, "Gossipers are the devil's trumpeters".

Individuals who share this wicked trait can lure the unsuspecting into a trusting position only to assault them when they're at their most vulnerable in having their backs turned. Those who have received such horrible treatment know that it can undermine one's very identity, making them doubt the strength or validity of others thoughts and feelings towards them. This brings about a tremendous pain of existence and doubtful life of even the most basic of things, namely human interaction. For example, my wife and I had to deal with such a gossiping, slanderous soul in the form of my father-in-law. He would flatter and jest with family members to their face and yet when they left his presence, he would attack them often quite intensely on a personal level. This would then impact on how others treated that poor, slandered against family member as the poisonous words corrupted others views against them. Then as the weeks and months would pass you could see the awkwardness grow between the family members as the poisonous words took their effect and thus pushed once friendly souls away from each other. My father-in-law would do this against myself towards my wife Donna, when he would sit and chat with us when we visited him but would then speak horrible words against me to other family members who I'd never met. When the time came to meet them finally in the flesh, they were cold

and condescending to me to my surprise as I had never seen them before let alone spoken to them for them to form an opinion on me. As a result my confidence would take a hit and I would begin to self analyse and then attempt to adjust my character so that I conformed to a manner of which they approved. This manner was undeniably anti-Scriptural and so I would be left attempting to blend the world with faith, a blend that never works. Thank the Lord that the witnessing of the Holy Ghost to my conscience meant that I could never bring myself to adopt such godless behaviours. Yet the temptation to fall was put there and its root was in the deviousness of the privy slanderer.



Such souls are scheming and manipulative and well aware of what they are doing as they seek to disrupt and damage the peace and faith of God's elect. This is why the psalmist is so determined in his declaration that he will *cut off* such people for the wisdom of God has revealed to him the devilish nature that lurks behind such manipulative individuals.

The verse continues with what has become a familiar refrain in this psalm, the determination to remove oneself from the presence of the proud and arrogant. As we have repeatedly seen in our studies, those of a proud heart have absolutely no desire to repent of their sins and no desire to seek a Saviour and will make no attempt to accommodate the faith of the Bible believer. A true faith will irritate them to their very core and they will seek to mock it and belittle it as much as they can.

Again I use my father-in-law as an example of such a soul. He was an extremely arrogant and proud man who refused to listen to any conversation regarding faith or God. He defiantly stood up at my and Donna's wedding in the speeches and declared, "We only get one life and that's it, believe me." Only a blind, proud and immensely

arrogant heart can come out with such foolishness for in what existence could he declare with any sort of confidence that when you die that's it?! How can anyone claim that?! Has anyone ever died, come back to life and revealed, "that's it folks, I can confirm when your put in that box that's you done forever." Of course they haven't and it is a moronic statement in it's most portent form and yet in this moment we had such an idiotic declaration made. The fool certainly has said in his heart there is no God.

So the psalmist says not to suffer such fools, for that is what they are. Yet what do so many of us do, we suffer them. We indulge them with our silence and we continue to bring them into our lives with regularity. We then wonder why we are troubled in our spirit, why our faith feels weak but heavy. It is because we are allowing a God defying soul in amongst our days when we are daily convicted by the Lord's Word to be holy as He is Holy. How can we be holy as Christ is if we sit apologetically amongst the defiantly wicked and proud of heart. It is an impossible task and the only outcome is that our faith becomes sick and wounded to the point that our very identity is eroded. This not melodramatic but truthful for each soul in Christ is exactly that, a soul IN Christ! Our very identity, who we are as an individual is bound up in the love of Christ and if this love is being consistently undermined and flagrantly attacked then why would we think that our own identity is also not being wounded. We need to be of the truth that when Our Lord is attacked **we** are attacked. Do we not plead as the saints and the psalmist does that when we are wounded He will know our pain and defend us? If we are Christ's and Christ is ours then it works both ways. For if we are to enjoy the glory and peace of Christ forevermore we must expect to suffer in the name of Christ also. Suffering for Christ in this instance is to feel the wounding that He feels when His holiness is attacked and assaulted by the proud and arrogant of heart.

So in action against such assaults against Our Lord and Master we are not to suffer such individuals. In this we are to speak against them, make them aware of the folly of their words and deeds, direct them to Scripture that corrects them vehemently for their foolish words and deeds. Thus we are acting as the psalmist had sworn to do so, by suffering their attacks against Our Lord and Saviour but to take up spiritual arms for Our Captain and defend His Word with joyful thanks that we have been elected to guard His testimony to the world.

It is not a cruelty to do such a thing towards the proud of heart, those with a high look, it is a singularly loving thing. How else can they be alerted to the eternal peril they face by defying the Almighty God but by being made aware of the danger in which they stand each second?

As for those who speak against others secretly, be alert to such traitors for they operate in similar manners to those of their father Satan. To be so prepared for them is to be prepared in the Word of God and put on His armour daily through prayer and Bible study. Then you will have both the wisdom and will to remove yourself and your family from such souls, sealing yourself off from spiritual wounding and giving an unmistakable witness to the conviction and consistency of words and action that come from true saving faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

Lockdown On Prayer

A troubling article appeared on the Bournemouth Daily Echo on January 26th. It detailed how a local man had been fined for 'silent prayer' inside the 'buffer zone' around the town's abortion clinic in Ophir Road in November 2022.

The individual in question, Mr Smith-Connor, claimed that he was praying silently in memory of his son who was aborted 20 years prior. Bournemouth Council officers prosecuted Mr Smith-Connor for breaching the zones *Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)* which criminalises "protesting, namely engaging in an act of approval/disapproval or attempted act of approval/disapproval, with respect to issues related to abortion services". This apparently includes prayer or counselling.

Mr Smith-Conner is gaining legal support from ADF UK, a faith-based legal advocacy organisation to fight against the fine.

The British Pregnancy Advice Service (BPAS) has thrown it's weight behind Bournemouth Council officers for it's application of a fine against Mr Smith-Connor and expects to comfortably win it's case following similar incidents in Richmond and Ealing.

BPAS have commented, "Individuals are entitled to hold their own views about abortion, but we ask that they respect women's right to access healthcare with privacy and dignity." What BPAS ignore

however is the right of the unborn child to access healthcare, namely to have their life protected. Their murderously violent ideology is based on an evolutionary belief that a foetus is merely a collection of cells without personality or individuality and therefore easily terminated (murdered more accurately, let's not sanitise the issue with vague language as the Nazi's did with the Jews and the 'Final Solution' and the 'extermination' of unwanted people groups). As evolutionary theory dictates we are all just animals and if we are happy to end animals life over fears of quality of life, then why can't the same rationale be applied to human life? It is a tragic conclusion to a heinous life philosophy and religion.

Mr Smith-Conner's 'crime' was to simply pray silently in the surrounding roads of the abortion clinic. How this would effect the 'dignity' of anyone using or considering using the terrible facilities at the clinic is beyond me! If the authorities are so concerned that women's minds might be changed so easily by one man **silently** praying, what does that say for the confidence they have that what they are doing is completely justifiable?! Their conscience although seared by their murderous actions still shouts as it fights back the screams of the the infants they have killed.

So we are witnessing the progression of the criminalising of Christian prayer in the UK and it's happening in my hometown. It will not be long before bowing your head in silent prayer **for any reason, in any space, will be a crime** as it will be deemed offensive to someone, somewhere in the populace.

The hypocrisy is loud though. The activists who promoted the installation of the 'buffer zone' around the clinic were allowed a prominent position in the middle of Bournemouth town centre, displaying aggressive banners and t-shirts whilst they eagerly approached shoppers hoping to peddle their one-sided arguments. Such aggressive, anti-Christian protesting is against my beliefs and identity, affecting my dignity of individuality so where's my buffer zone from such militant agitators? Bournemouth Council defends their approach to this whole issue by saying that out of 2000 responders to the installation of a abortion clinic buffer zone, 75 per cent were in favour of the action. Yet how many people actually knew of this ability to respond to the query? Having seen the aggressive promoters of the buffer zone in action I can tell you first hand that most of the people they approached blanked them. Yet sadly the majority that rightly ignored these militant propaganda

peddlers did not respond against the proposal for a buffer-zone around the abortion clinic. It is another tragic example of the saying, all that evil needs to succeed is for good men to stand by and do nothing. It is all another example of the voice of the vocal minority criminalising the thoughts of the silent majority.

Friends, we are to be alert to what is happening in our nation, that the day is fast approaching when you will be criminalised for praying, reading a Bible or even owning one. An old friend of mine wisely said that he picks up every KJV Bible he comes across because you never know when they will be banned.

Yet we are not to be fearful. For as Daniel was prohibited from praying by the law of the land, he was not dissuaded from doing so for his faith witnessed to him that God would deliver him. We have that same assurance to us given in God's Holy Word. As it says so beautifully and assuringly in Psalm 34 verse 7, "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them".

By Jonathan Badger

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.

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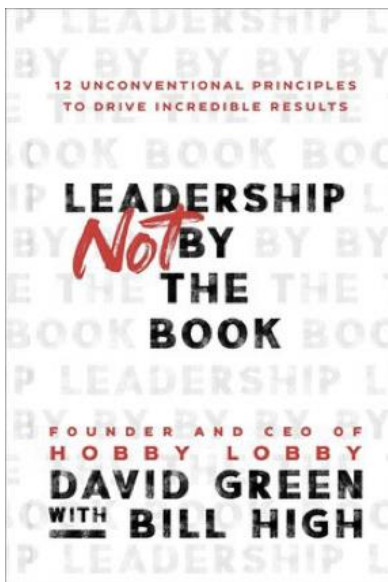
God (Romans 1:16, 2 Timothy 4:2, Mark 16:15, John 3:16).

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

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Resource Corner



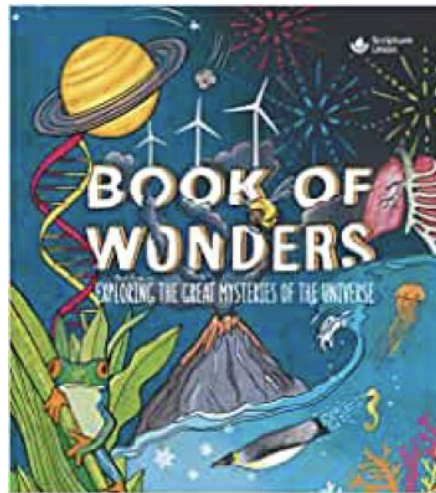
Leadership Not By The Book

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all-at-the counterintuitive yet highly effective biblical principles he used to build Hobby Lobby from a 600 dollar start up to a 7 billion dollar enterprise"-- Leadership Not by the Book - 12 Unconventional Principles to Drive Incredible Results Hardback edition by David Green

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Book of Wonders

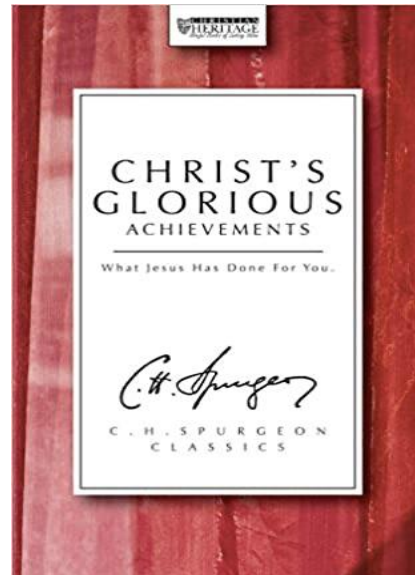


Ever wondered how your eye works? Or what caused the formation of the universe? Then Book of Wonders is for you! Book of Wonders is crammed full of facts, figures and fantastic

pictures of the world around you from the greatest galaxies to the tiniest microbes. Whether you're amazed by atoms, flabbergasted by fungi or captivated by comets, you'll find something to blow your mind! Not only that, but you'll be able to explore your place in this amazing universe and meet Jesus, the one who a man called John in the Bible calls the source of creation. Get ready to dive into a world of discovery and wonder! (Children's book).

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Christ's glorious achievements



The popular view of Christianity today is a list of rules. Do's and Don't seems to be what it is all about. But if that's what we think Christianity is all about then we have a lot to learn.

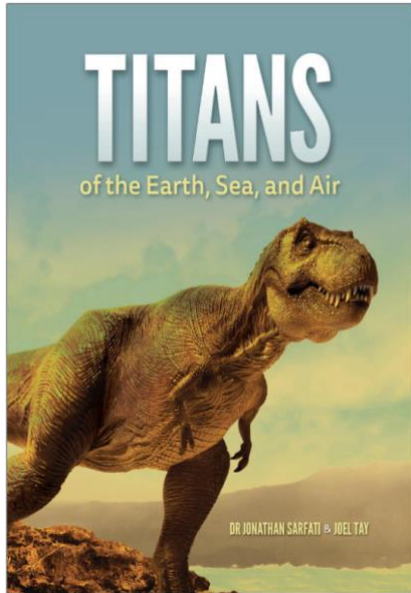
The key to understanding Christianity is not something we have to do, but rather something that Jesus Christ has already achieved on our behalf.

This book, by one of the most influential Christians of the last 200 years, looks at what Christ has done for us. Read it and then ask yourself the question "If Christ has done all this for me, is

anything I am asked to do for Christ too much in return?"

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Titans of the Earth, Sea, Air



Dinosaurs have long been a fascinating topic for people of all ages. However, evolutionists have exploited their popularity to push their millions-of-years dogma, without which evolution is impossible. Movies and books like the Jurassic

Park/Worldseries reinforce this idea to both children and adults alike. Unfortunately, this impacts the faith of many when they realize that the Bible teaches the earth is only around 6,000 years old. However, properly understood, dinosaurs support this time scale. And their fossils are a startling monument to the global Flood of Noah's day.

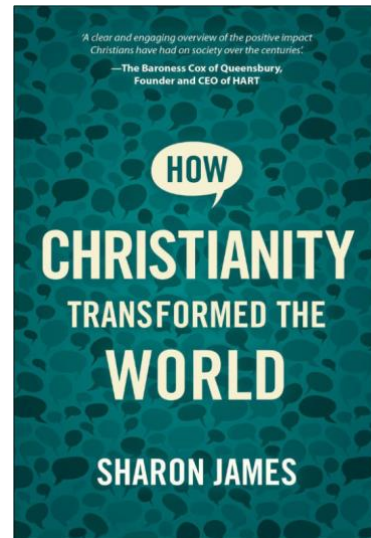
In this book, you will learn many things, many of which have not been published in any CMI books or articles before. For example:

- What are dinosaurs—and what are NOT?
- What were the biggest (and smallest) dinosaurs?
- How many kinds of dinosaurs existed? Why is the created 'kind' broader than 'species' and 'genus'?
- How do dinosaur fossils show they were buried by a global watery cataclysm? Why are so many dinosaurs fossilized with their necks thrown backwards? Why are armoured dinosaurs found upside down?
- When did they live? Soft tissue, proteins, DNA, and radiocarbon in dinosaur fossils is strong evidence against their living over 66 million years ago. But they make sense if the fossils were formed by Noah's Flood, around 4,500 years ago.

- How could such huge dinosaurs fit on the Ark? How long after the Flood did their descendants live?
- What did dinosaurs eat? What was their diet before and after the Fall?

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How Christianity Transformed The World



Many people today would say that Christianity has done more harm than good to our world. Sharon James argues, however, in seeking to love their neighbour and reflect God's moral character the followers of Jesus have had a largely positive impact on our society. James

takes a number of areas—education, healthcare, justice, human dignity—and traces the ways in which these benefits have spread with the gospel.

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A thank you to all for reading this magazine and thank you to Our Lord for enabling this work to be done in His precious name.

Please let others know of this work in the hope that others may be led to seek after salvation in Christ Jesus.