




TTW Truth To Wonder

Ministries Magazine

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For the LORD
is our judge,
the LORD
is our lawgiver,
the LORD
is our king;
he will save us.
Isaiah 33:22

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Welcome

Another Winter is soon to pass and the onset on sunnier Spring days are eagerly awaited by all. The dark and short days of the Winter season can weigh heavy on the tired and weary individual, as the clock urges us to start the day whilst dark and cold skies invite us to stay huddled in our warm beds. Yet on such a day not long ago, when I laid in weariness amongst the darkness of the winter morning, a great but gentle song slipped in through the window. It was the song of the simple garden birds, chirping happily that soon the sun would rise and the night would be over. Isn't this so with our days, these late days in the age of the Gentiles that we rest uneasily in the surrounding darkness of a crumbling and wicked world. We long for the millennial morning of Christ Jesus, when all believers will sing in chorus as the radiant glory of Our Redeemer will shine forth from His throne in Jerusalem. How we look forward to that day!

Yet we should not wait in our song of joy. We should be as the humble garden bird, singing in the darkness, trusting that soon the light will be revealed and the darkness will be conquered. Let our lives be lived in song for Christ Jesus; lives lived not in morose worry and fear of the decay of this world. Lives shorn of the stress of fleshly needs, for Our Father knows what we have need of. Let us lives be in fullness and abundance of life that Christ Jesus alone offers and provides.

So in such living testimonies of joyous faith, pray that by the grace of God our simple song of love in Jesus Christ will awake souls from darkness as the humble bird stirs the sleeping and bid them come into a new morning fresh in the mercies of God. Let this be our prayer now.

Our Lord and Gracious Father, we thank you with all our hearts that you have brought us to this hour so that we might come to you in joyous adoration of your wondrous faithfulness unto we sinners. Lord forgive our troubled hearts, we live in an age of great worry and strife and it seems so all encompassing sometimes. We are too quick to let our gaze be fixated on the fear that we forget our comfort. Lord our comfort is you, for you have set all in place according to your perfect counsel and will and so we need not be troubled by the darkness that we see all around us. Lord give us hearts of joy and peace in you and your eternal Word, so that we walk in a spirit of thanksgiving. Then in this simple, happy witness, as the humble song of the bird, we might sing of the glories and hope of the one who will sweep all darkness away forever, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

I Lay Me Down To Sleep

Holding your baby in your arms as he or she falls asleep is something that millions of parents do every day. When they are awake they are immensely vulnerable, but asleep they are totally and utterly dependant on you to keep them warm and safe. They don't even have conscious control of the bodily functions that keep themselves alive. The beating of the heart, the movement of the chest and expansion of the lungs are all totally automatic involuntary

functions. Whilst you have no ability to affect those functions, you have complete responsibility for that child. You are his or hers sole protector – in the human sense.

Looking at my own son in my arms the other night this thought hit me quite hard. It was the same thought that my brother emphasised in his sermon recently. 2000 years ago, as Mary held Jesus in her arms surrounded by livestock in the back end of Bethlehem, she was his mother, his human protector and care giver. Yet the mind blowing thing is – as she was holding him, he was upholding her life, and Josephs and the livestock, and every other life in Bethlehem, Israel and the rest of the world. Just let that sink in for a moment. The helpless infant –held the power of life itself. I'm not sure that is something Mary or Joseph could have fully comprehended that night, or any other night as it is in many ways beyond human comprehension.

As they fell asleep that night, the new born son of God was watching over them, sustaining every breath and heart beat.

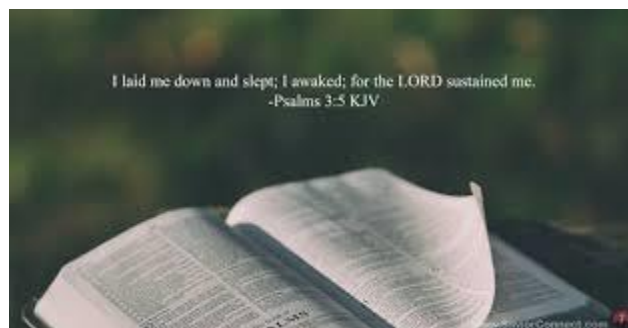
In truth sleep is a very sobering time of the day. The minute you close your eyes and lose consciousness you have surrendered all control of your life sustaining functions to autopilot. True, during waking hours you have no significant control over your heartbeat. But you can affect it. Asleep your heartbeat or breathing could stop and you would be none the wiser until you woke in eternity. For the believer this concept holds no fear. He or she has total reassurance that their Saviour will sustain him or her through the night. And should the Lord want to call you home during the night-time hours, then oh the joy, for to wake in glory is the wish of us all.

King David in his flight from Absalom in Psalm 3 vs 5 shows that peace and reassurance that though fleeing for his life, he could still sleep soundly as he had total faith in his Lord to sustain him in his unconscious hours. "I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me."

Truth be told, I always feel a little guilty each night as without fail I fall asleep in prayer. There is not a better means of falling asleep, when you are stressed, worried, anxious, afraid – prayer soothes and calms the soul to enable sleep – for in doing so you are entrusting everything into the Lords hands.

For the unbeliever however the night-time should be terrifying. For even as little conscious control as they have during the course of the day, they have absolutely none each and every night. Each and everyone of us just expects to wake the next morning. But that is a very long way from a certainty and for the unbeliever closing their eyes each night should be the most terrifying act of the day – if you really think about it. How comfortable would you feel if you left your life support each night in the hands of a person you had spent every day of your life cussing, abusing and generally sinning against. Would you trust the person you hate the most to look after your life support? Such is the overwhelming grace of our Lord that as sinners we wake each morning after spending the entirety of the preceding day sinning against Him that sustains them.

Grace – every morning the sinner witnesses is evidence of it in abundance. Sleep – for the believer it's the opportunity every night to potentially awake in the presence of our Lord.



By David J Badger

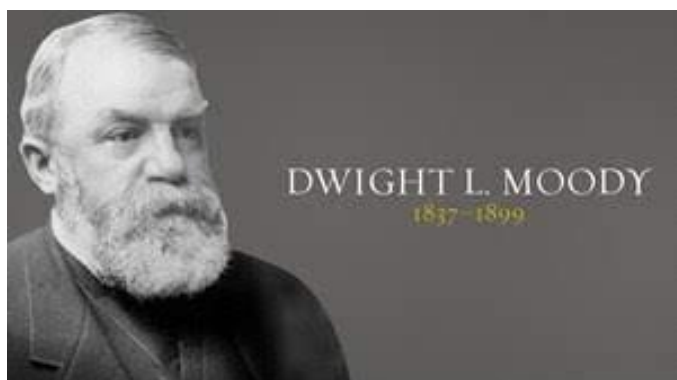
Andrew - The Quiet Apostle

I would like to introduce you to a man called Edward Kimball. Edward was a quiet, timid

Sunday School teacher in 19th century America. This softly spoken individual found himself one day under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, walking to a shoe store in Boston where he intended to make a witness for Christ to a brash and rude nineteen year old.

Edward Kimball recalled this incident with the following statement: "I decided to speak to him about Christ and about his soul. I started down town to Holton's shoe store. When I was nearly there I began to wonder whether I ought to go just then during business hours. And I thought maybe my mission might embarrass the boy, that when I went away the other clerks might ask who I was, and when they learned might taunt him and ask if I was trying to make a good boy out of him. While I was pondering over it all I passed the store without noticing it. Then, when I found I had gone by the door I determined to make a dash for it and have it over at once."

Many of us will identify with this account of a witness made to a skeptical non-believer by a quiet, timid believer in Christ Jesus. Edward Kimball's appeal was by his own words a "weak appeal" with "limping words". Yet he had done the most valuable thing in all the world, he had led a personal appeal to another of the free gift of salvation in Christ Jesus. It was no great, impassioned speech or sermon filled with oratorical delights. His words didn't fill great auditoriums or find the widespread acclaim that can come with mass media publication. His words were meagre but his service to God was mighty and so the fruits of this simple, quiet appeal, held in the stockroom of a Boston shoe store would go on to have enormous repercussions. Edward's weak appeal drew the tear filled commitment of a reborn heart that same moment from the crude teenager.



The brash nineteen year old of whom Edward Kimball spoke of was one D.L Moody, the same soul who would go on to become one of the most famous preachers in America and England in the 19th century. D.L Moody led tens of thousands to Christ and he established the Moody Bible Institute, an establishment that would go on to train many preachers, missionaries and other Christian workers for decades to come. Yet none of this would've transpired unless Edward Kimball, a name extremely unfamiliar to the history books, had made his 'weak' petition to a young D.L Moody. It was by this personal testimony and witness that a soul was brought to service of Jesus Christ and that newly reborn heart was set to work to bring thousands more to eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. The value of a seemingly small work must not be underestimated in the eyes of eternity.

This more recent example of how one easily forgotten name was used mightily by God to set in motion the call to grace for thousands more, was set by the quiet but faithful actions of one of the first two men called by Jesus to be one of His twelve disciples. This quiet soul was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Both fisherman from the poor and rough region of Northern Israel that was Galilee. Andrew and Simon Peter were engaged in the hard labour of fishing with their likely long time friends the brothers James and John (familiar to us as another two of the disciples of Christ).

We read of the call to Andrew in John 1 and we see how prior to his discipleship of Jesus, Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. In verses 35-42 of John 1, the day after Christ's baptism in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, we read of how after John the Baptist declares to all that are gathered that Jesus is The Lamb of God. Hearing this wondrous declaration, the fulfillment of all the hope of the One whom Andrew and John (heavily indicated that John is the other of the two disciples outlined in this passage) were longing for, the eagerly awaited Messiah. Herein we witness the first of the great character traits displayed by Andrew (and John), a faithful commitment to perseverance and patience in waiting for the Messiah and a decisiveness in following Him when they already had a teacher leading them in the form of John the Baptist. How

many have fallen short of following Christ Jesus when they have happily followed one of His servants?! It is a faithful and courageous heart that leaves behind what is familiar yet mortal to follow One whom is the fulfillment of all wondrous truth and holiness. For to follow such a perfect being as Jesus, one will be inevitably made aware of their tremendous sin when in His thrice holy presence. This sting of sinful conscience is what drives away the pretenders of faith from the sincere; ones who will attend a church, sing a hymn, adopt a form of morality, praise a Christian leader/teacher, etc yet will not truly repent of what wretches they are and place their faith and trust for their salvation in Christ Jesus. Andrew though is quick to run after Jesus with a heart ready to trust in Christ, made ready by the faithful preaching of John the Baptist.

True repentance of sin and faith in Jesus is the transforming, regeneration of the fallen heart, taking it from death to life and it's utter joy cannot be confined and so Andrew immediately sets out to tell of the good news of his discovery of the Messiah to his brother Simon Peter.



Andrew tells his brother Simon Peter of Jesus

Now all Christians, and even many non-believers are aware of Simon Peter. His fame is far and wide, his strong, often foot in mouth character and powerful preaching at Pentecost automatically draw attention. Doubtless Andrew, being his brother, would be all too aware of Simon Peter's often overpowering, dominating character, a character very much at odds with his own. Many times such differing characters between siblings creates friction, tension and even animosity. Yet there is no trace of this in the

actions of Andrew. Rather than fearing how his brother may dominate and monopolize the time and attention of Jesus, Andrew races to tell his brother that the Messiah is here (John 1:41).

This single, simple act sets into motion world changing events. Andrew's individual witness to his brother Simon Peter, begins, by the grace and will of God, the call of the apostle who would bring thousands to Christ at Pentecost and be a foundational stone in the construction of the Church. Andrew's love for his brother caused him to seek him out immediately and share the wondrous news of Jesus. It is a startling fact when we place ourselves next to Andrew and consider what our first act was when we were saved by the same Saviour Christ Jesus. Did you race to find your family members and share the joyful news of the finding of your Redeemer? Surely a hard swallow is due at this point.

It is by such means, an individual petition, a personal testimony and witness that brings many to faith in Christ. As John MacArthur noted, the majority of converts to Christ have become so following a personal witness from a friend, colleague or family worker. It is by such seemingly humble origins that much fruit is brought forth by the hand of God. The planting of one humble seed is what prompts the growth of a mighty oak with it's numerous branches and thousands of green leaves. It is a powerful message that the actions of Andrew gives us today. Just because you have not been called to be a great orator, preacher or writer for God does not relieve you of your commission to spread the Gospel. It may be by your labour's that one goes on to bring many to Christ. Your reward in heaven is assured for you will have been faithful in a few things, and so in His eternal grace you shall be set over many.

This though was not the only time that Andrew quietly led individuals to Jesus. In John 12:20-22 we read of some Greeks who desired to meet with Jesus and initially approached Philip in the hope of gaining this meeting. Philip went to Andrew, perhaps unsure as to how Jesus would receive non-Jews, or even maybe he was simply too timid to ask Jesus directly, and so Andrew took the Greeks directly to Christ with Philip in tow. Andrew demonstrates a clarity of purpose in

his decisiveness in bringing the intrigued Greeks to Jesus; another act of the immediacy of the faithful heart to bring others to Jesus Christ. Andrew was not concerned about social protocol in introducing Gentiles to Christ, his desire was simple and pure, to bring lost souls to faith in the Messiah Jesus Christ. His actions are a quiet but stern challenge to many in the Church today who act clumsily when a 'socially undesirable' individual comes in hope to learn of Jesus Christ. I have witnessed it first hand, a gathering of faithful souls fall about with mutterings and dithering action over a sinful soul who does not seemingly meet their suitable criteria for a potential follower of Christ but who nevertheless shows an earnestness in knowing Christ Jesus. It is these very souls, longing for salvation through Christ Jesus, that should be taken with swiftness and great care to the feet of Our Lord Jesus. Andrew, though a quiet disciple, easily left in the shadows by his brother Simon Peter (at least according to the world's estimation on such matters) acts with a tender assertiveness that is in the manner of Our Lord Himself.

Even though Andrew is a quiet soul, rarely mentioned in the Scriptures and many of these brief mentions are only a collating of his presence amongst the other disciples as they are listed by the Gospel writers. Yet it is Andrew's awareness of the value of the individual, of the seemingly insignificant that is a glorious testimony of the intimacy of care and love that Christ Jesus extends to His own. In John 6:9, it is Andrew that brings the boy with the five loaves and two fish to Jesus whilst all the other disciples are busy flapping in a panic as to what to do with a hungry multitude late in the day, miles away from sources of refreshment and sustenance. Only the Lord knows if Andrew brought this meagre offering forward in complete faith of His Lord's miraculous powers and ability to provide irregardless of circumstances, or if it was done as just a simple attempt at trying to do something constructive in a pressured moment. Either way the key point is that he acted with resolve, a resolve that went to Jesus as the source of all hope in each situation.

No Andrew never commanded the 'headlines' of the Gospel narrative but it is his quiet but faithful example that is gently but toweringly exalted by

God's own Word. Consider how all the events in which Andrew's individual actions are recorded (outside of the general group of the general group bickering), he is never subject to correction by Christ. His consistent faith and application of that faith is honoured by God for all eternity much like Enoch's. Think on how little is written about Enoch, yet his walk with God was so close that God took him straight to heaven without tasting death. You see it is not always the grand, world shaking life of faith that is most highly exalted by God. It is the humble, faithful, consistent, loving walk with Him that is most treasured by God. What joyful news this is to all of us, for how many of us will ever stir the world in the manner of the heroes of the Scriptures? Who can dare dream of reaching the world known labour's of men and women such as Wycliffe, Wesley, Whitfield, Moody, Spurgeon, Lady Jane Grey or Corrie Ten Boom? The vast majority of lives gifted life by God will be put to work in manner as Andrew was. Yet as we have determined what an exalted position this is truly.

My friend, your labour's are known unto God and your reward is being prepared for you in Our Fathers House. Don't look longingly at those who draw much attention for their labour's in Christ's name. I am familiar with this shame. It only serves to drain the soul of any joy in Christ and poisons the happy song of one's own testimony that a sneering world is already eager to destroy. Andrew was never crafted by God to be a grand preacher, he was not given life to write in fine verse, he was never created to be another Peter or John; he was given life to know the Lord Jesus and to bring others to a wondrous personal relationship with Him. Is there a finer existence to be gifted than to lead another to the throne of Jesus Christ?!

Andrew's example is brightly lit though he stood in the shadows in many ways, for it is lit with the radiant light of Christ's grace towards the humble hearted. To all men reading this, strive to be as Andrew. Though he was a gentle soul, happy to let others bask in the limelight, he was faithful, humble, decisive, personable, loving, compassionate and purposeful. Such traits should be the hallmarks of any man. These traits bring about an individual who, by the Lord's grace, is aware of their sinful nature, happy to rely on

Christ Jesus for all things, joyful in service of their Saviour, eager to bring others to their Redeemer, a keen eye for those who are searching for salvation and a humility to know that all glory is God's. If but the world was filled with such men! Though this is not to be in this age, it should not dampen our desire to grow, to grow in Christ Jesus so that when our labour's are called to a close, we shall share in the same reward as Andrew all by the grace and glory of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

A History of He Who Would Valiant Be

He who would valiant be
'Gainst all disaster
Let him in constancy
Follow the Master
There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound —
His strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
Though he with giants fight:
He will make good his right
To be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, Thou doest defend
Us with Thy Spirit,
We know we at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labor night and day
To be a pilgrim.

These powerful and stirring words were penned by John Bunyan, the man who wrote *A Pilgrim's Progress*, one of the best selling books of all time.

Bunyan wrote sixty books in nearly as many years of life and with little formal education. Bunyan's life is a testament to what God can do with one, simple, humble life. This 'Tinker of Bedford', whose labours and sufferings aided in the establishment of religious freedom in England, shone as a great light of the peace and joy of Christ. After spending twelve years in prison for refusing to compromise his faith, Bunyan did not succumb to bitterness or anger over his sufferings. Instead he lived in great joy knowing that he endured for his Saviour's name sake.

Born in Elstow, near Bedford on November 30th 1628, John entered a hard and cruel life in 17th century England. The Pilgrim Fathers had left England for the New World of America in search of religious freedom, whilst the remaining Puritan brothers and sisters in Christ experienced persecution under King Charles I. Scotland was similarly facing great upheaval as Presbyterians were fighting hard for freedom, whilst Ireland was also facing great religious and political unrest.



Bunyan was initially educated by his mother Margaret but at the age of ten went to study under Master Vierney at Bedford Grammar School. Vierney was a fierce Royalist and forcibly encouraged his young students to follow suit. However John refused to yield as the teaching of his paternal grandfather had led him to adopt the Parliamentary position and therefore follow the lead of Oliver Cromwell.

John served in Cromwell's army for a brief time during the English Civil War (1642-47) but didn't see any great amount of action. However one event during this conflict spoke powerfully to John of the fragility of life and the urgent need for salvation.

John had been invited to a birthday party of a young lady, whom he would go on to marry. To be able to attend the party, John asked his friend Frederick Sheppard to swap his night

guard duties. Frederick kindly agreed and John went off to the birthday party. However that night, a Royalist unit raided the barracks of John and Frederick, causing the loss of several Royalist lives and one Parliamentary life, Frederick Sheppard. John was heartbroken when he heard the news as his young friend was dead in his place. John's commander, Captain Miles, pressed home the urgency of need for John to secure his own salvation in Jesus Christ, for no man knows the hour when they shall be called for judgement.

Yet even after this powerful witness, it took further circumstances and the faithful witness of his wife for John to come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ.

After his conversion, John's life was a seemingly never ending series of battles against religious persecution under the restored monarchy of Charles II. As Bunyan was an unlicensed preacher, he was arrested along with many other faithful servants of Christ, and thrown into prison where he spent twelve long years.

However by the grace of God, these hard years were far from lost. Indeed it became a fruitful period as he wrote much of his literary work including *Pilgrims Progress*. His words by the pen were reaching more people even under arrest than his preaching could in freedom. The will of God in spreading The Gospel cannot be stopped by anyone or anything for nothing is impossible with God.

As a child Bunyan had been a dreamer. Now under lock and key in prison, he dreamed his greatest dream, the towering literary masterpiece that is *The Pilgrims Progress*.

One of the characters of this wonderful tale is depicted in Part Two of the story, where Christiana and her four children meet a wounded man near their goal. His name is Valiant-for-Truth. They clean his wounds and care for him and he shares his story with them as they travel. He recounts that he is following the example of Christiana's husband Christian and is seeking to get to the Celestial City. On the sharing of the events of their journeys to the great City together, the travelling group burst into song, the song we sing in the hymn *'Who would true valour see'*.

The stirring words are a call to arms for all believers in Christ and that though there will be times of hardship and sorrow, the pilgrim should never be discouraged in their journey to the Celestial City.

By Jonathan Badger

Heartbreak Over Stumbling

Recently I watched an interesting excerpt from a speech made by the Canadian Professor of Psychology and Clinical Psychologist Jordan Peterson on the nature of what it truly means to declare that you believe in God? The question itself is what does it mean to believe? As Professor Peterson observed in his speech, if it is just merely saying the words, 'I believe' then what does that mean?

I found it most interesting that as Professor Peterson posed this question he noted on his own reaction when he has been asked this question. He observed that his initial reaction would be anger as the question when truly posed is a deeply personal question. It challenges the whole structure and substance of what and who you are as an individual. It is the single greatest consideration anyone single person can have in a lifetime, do they believe that there is something, someone greater than themselves and that is responsible for all existence they know and encounter, thus making themselves accountable unto this superior entity.

Many will quickly claim that they believe in God but I wonder as Professor Peterson does, have they ever truly considered what it means to say you believe and what the logical out-workings and implications of this claim are upon a life. To say the words 'I believe' is an easy step to take when it is done without any deep consideration of what it means to believe. So how do you know that you really do 'believe in God'? Is it just an intellectual conclusion? The mathematics, scientific proof, logical analysis, historical evidence all point towards a Creator God so therefore I believe in God. This may satisfy as substance of 'belief' for a while but it is quickly found wanting when personal hardship and tragedy inevitably invade your life. Statistical evidence cannot comfort the broken hearted sinner.

Or maybe there was a great period of stirring emotion and you were swept up in the enthusiasm and zeal of others and your heart cried out to share in their joy. Your desire for love and acceptance found it's outlet in emotional heights and so you 'believed' in God. Yet when

the influence of others is not available, when the lonely days and nights come, and they will, that 'belief' you thought was true has abandoned you and you are left without substance of faith.

So how are we to know that our 'belief' in God is true and anchored in Christ Jesus? Professor Peterson observed on this quandary that when we adhere, stand steadfastly to a way of living a life that is not dictated by our own heart and selfish desires, sacrificing our will for something revealed to be greater; and when we stumble from this daily striving and succumb to our old ways that it shatters us, it grieves our hearts and we are heartbroken by this betrayal, then we have proof that our claim to 'believe' is grounded in truth and not in unconsidered vanity. So when we as believers stumble in our walk with God, sometimes on a great scale, if we are left bitterly heartbroken by our actions, knowing that we have failed Our God then our claim to belief in Him has depth and substance.

I am sure each of you will know this pain, this gut wrenching agony that invades the heart, the very soul of your being when you have sinned against your Saviour and Redeemer and you are greatly troubled with a deep weeping of the spirit. Here friends marvel on the grace and mercy of God in that even when you have stumbled and yes it may be a mighty stumble, that pain, that heart breaking sadness is a testament, a witness by the Holy Spirit deep within your heart that you are Christ's!

Now consider as to whether your stumbles in faith, your wanderings from the narrow path have brought you great sadness? Have you knowingly sinned and felt no qualms about it? Have you been corrected by another brother or sister in Christ and yet felt no degree of sadness? I am not talking about sadness of being discovered, that does not reveal a true belief in God; that is a mere state of feeling upset that you've been caught out. No, I am talking about a heart breaking pain that you have betrayed your Saviour, the One to whom you owe everything to, the One who took your wages for your sins upon Himself out of love for you and so that you might know Him for all eternity in paradise. You say you 'believe' but this great and deep sadness is unknown to you when you stumble in your 'walk

with God'? Then I say to you consider your position before God this very hour and ask do you truly believe?

There have been so many times that I have been troubled by the question of 'do I truly believe' or is it just an intellectual assent, an academic agreement to a fundamental question of life? Is it real or is it a delusion? This is where the life of Peter is such a great witness to us of this basic assertion, that belief is found to have substance in the repentance of sin. Turn to Matthew 26:75. This is at the denial of Jesus by Peter. Three times Peter is challenged as to his discipleship of Christ, three times he outright denies he even knows the man. Then in verse 75 we read that as the cock crows following Peter's third denial, just as Jesus said it would, Peter breaks down as weeps bitterly. Note three times, in Hebrew when something is said three times it represents the most potent form of the being or action. Peter's denial is therefore of the utmost strength, for in his all too human fear of trial, torture and death, Peter denies His Lord. Surely there is no way back for such an intense, vehement denial of Jesus? Ah the wondrous grace of Christ, that in this most bitter and tragic verses of Scripture, there is still laced throughout a hope of redemption that gives us a joyous glimpse of the loving heart of God. That grace extended to Peter is the bitterness of his tears in having denied his Lord and Master. The One whom he had previously boldly stated he would never abandon and would happily die alongside. Yet in the utter dejection of sinful self, Peter is being led to see that depth of belief is not founded in the strength of the believer, it is authored by the One in whom is believed in.

Therefore when the heart is truly bonded to Christ in faith, in belief, it is reborn and tender to His own wondrous heart. Tender to the pain of betrayal, one that weeps bitterly over sin and finds it deplorable and vile. Peter's inner agony is crushing, but in that bitterness his belief is being held firm by the grace of Christ, the very same whom he had denied knowing with great strength of voice. There is hope in the weeping, there is redemption in the bitterness and it is the life of faith in Jesus Christ.



Heartbreak of Peter in denying Jesus

It is the same bitterness of heart that Naomi felt when having lost everything she returned to Bethlehem in hope of sanctuary and sustenance and spoke to her old friends do not call me Naomi but Mara instead for my heart is filled with bitterness. This was not an angry bitterness as others may wrongly teach, a resentment against God for her tragic situation. No, this was the same bitterness of heart that Peter experienced when he had denied knowing Jesus. Naomi had experienced great loss after she and her family had left their home of Bethlehem (the birthplace of Jesus, do you see a link here?), whose name means 'house of bread', during a time of famine to seek provision in the deeply idolatrous nation of Moab. In this period of living in Moab she lost her husband and her two sons. She was left destitute. She and her family had denied knowing the goodness of God and paid the price, and as she called for those who knew her on her return to Bethlehem to call her Mara, she knew it.

Yet again the grace of God was at its most striking and potent in this hour of dejection, this hour of heartbreak, for though she and her family had stumbled, indeed for a great while, God in His infinite mercy and grace had brought her home to Bethlehem and having felt the bitter pain of denying God, failing in her walk with Him, she was given proof that her faith was deep and rooted in Christ Jesus. For what does she go on to say when the baby Obed is born unto her daughter in law Ruth and Boaz? She praises God that He had not forgotten her in her old age and had provided her with hope. That hope that she held in her very hands would be part of the line that led to the fleshly incarnation of Jesus Christ Himself, the reason for the hope that lies within every believer.

So you see the veracity, the truth of a claim of 'belief' in God is established in times of trial, even in times of bitter disappointment, for it is that bitter sting of having failed your Redeemer that you know your heart has been made tender to what He hates and what He loves. I remember once I was watching the old Ben Hur film and I was a bit day dreamy at the time as I have seen the film numerous times. I was questioning myself 'do I truly believe in Jesus or it is just something feel makes sense?' And I was really troubled by this simple question. Then as I was still posing this question to myself, the film came to the crucifixion of Jesus. It showed the hunched over, bloodied body of Jesus struggling to carry the heavy wooden cross whilst the streets lined with people spat at Him and shouted cruel, merciless taunts at Him. The lash of the legionary hit His back and He stumbled and I found myself crying, pleading that they stopped hurting my Lord. Then a wave a bitter pain smashed into me as I knew that the lash against His back, the nails through His sinless hands and feet were because of me. I did it to Him, and so did you. Then in that bitter sting of knowing my sin and though the tears still burnt in my eyes, I could do no other than thank Him that He took all that horror, that death so that I would not have to. That pain was shattering and still is each time I recall it. I thank God that it is so heart breaking as it is a great proof to me that my belief is not just a logical conclusion, an intellectual assent, an emotional high, a social politeness or agreement for acceptance, but a true belief that He died for my sins and that because He lives, so shall I.

So as we read of Peter's darkest hour, we see ourselves. We see our own denials of Christ in our own lives. But is a testament to the eternal grace of God that even in this tragedy, He is establishing the truthfulness of our faith in Him. This truthfulness of claim is experienced in the bitter weeping of the sinful heart, knowing it's failure to honour and glorify Our Lord Jesus, our chief aim and goal for all our days. Yet I close with a challenge, a challenge that if this bitterness of heart that Scripture reveals in Peter and Naomi is unfamiliar to you, then pose yourself this most urgent of questions, 'where is the root of my faith? Do I truly believe in Christ Jesus and is my life reflecting this?' If it is not, then come to Him now, this very hour and cry out for that bitterness

of heart, it is a strange gift yes but it is a gift, for it's wounds led to a plea for a new heart, one tender to heart of God, a heart born in Jesus Christ. Amen.

By Jonathan Badger

A Note about Heaven.

Towards the latter half of last year my Father gave me a gift. It was the Bible that he purchased in 1979, the year of my birth, in the place of my birth Keswick. Anyone that knows even a little about me knows how fiercely proud I am of the fact that I was born in the Lake District, and so to receive this gift from a man that I love and admire greatly, purchased in my hometown at great expense at the time, has a special significance to me.

But this significance is only enriched still further by the many "notes and quotes" contained within its well-thumbed pages; and I love finding new ones that I had not noticed before. Through them I come to know the mind of the man a little better; a man who for many years I barely spoke to, whilst I was in my own selfish wanderings in this world of sin. Like many of us in our youth, I thought I knew better, but it is more than that, for that youthful pride only becomes gradually all the more lost in the maze of netting the Devil casts over the unwary soul. The more you struggle against the truth the more tangled you become, eventually no longer aware of what is up or down, right or wrong. Life becomes one immense sliding grey scale of morality, the relative merits of which are determined by one's mind set at any given moment in any given situation. No absolutes, no certainties, no guidance, only what serves me best at that particular juncture in my life.

I am eternally grateful to my Lord and Saviour that he freed me from that net, cutting the bonds that held me and making me anew, washed clean in the blood of my Redeemer; giving me the

ability to once more to look my Father in the face without shame.

As I sat one afternoon with my wife going through the Bible he had gifted me, I came across what I took to be a poem, written on one of the many pages of notes, simply titled "Heaven". After some research I learnt the origin of this poem, and that in fact it was not a poem but rather a letter which had been penned to a radio evangelist and Baptist minister Charles.E.Fuller (1887 – 1968).

Charles had said that he was to speak on the subject of Heaven on the following Sunday, and during the week leading up to that sermon he received a letter from a terminally ill old gentleman. What this old brother in Christ wrote is both beautiful and comforting, heart breaking and heart healing, and I would like to share it with you all:

"Next Sunday you are to talk about "Heaven." I am interested in that land because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for over 55 years. I did not buy it. It was given to me without money and without price. But the donor purchased it for me at a tremendous sacrifice. I am not holding it for speculation since the title is non-transferable. It is not a vacant lot. For more than a half-century I have been sending material out of which the greatest architect and builder of the universe has been building a home for me, which will never need to be repaired because it will suit me perfectly, individually, and will never grow old.



The Celestial City from Pilgrims Progress

Termites can never undermine its foundation for it rests upon the Rock of Ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks or bolts will ever be placed upon its doors, for no vicious person can ever enter that land where my dwelling stands, now almost completed and ready for me to enter it and abide in peace eternally without fear of being ejected.

There is a valley of deep shadow between the place where I live in California and that to which I shall journey in a very short time. I cannot reach my home in the City of God without passing through the dark valley of shadows. But I am not afraid, because the best friend that I have ever had went through the same valley alone, a long, long time ago and drove away all the gloom. He has stuck by me through thick and thin since we first met and became acquainted 55 years ago, and I hold His promise in printed form, never to forsake nor to leave me alone. He will be with me as I walk through the valley of shadows, and I shall not lose my way when He is with me. I hope to hear your sermon on “Heaven” next Sunday from my home, but I have no assurance that I shall be able to do so. My ticket to heaven has no date marked for the journey...no return coupon...and no permit for baggage. Yes, I am ready to go and may not be here while you are talking next Sunday, but I shall meet you there some day.”

What can I possibly add to that? Other than to say if you are a Father, give your child a Bible (King James 1611- naturally) so that they might also hold his “promise in printed form”, and pray that they too will receive the free gift of a ticket to His Heavenly home. Amen.

By David J Badger

The Great Deception – Part Six

As we continue our thoughts on Westcott and Hort and their labours to destroy the Traditional Text, I recall to mind a boastful statement often made to believing souls. It is said that there are

no Textus Receptus readings before 400 A.D. Well the Church Fathers totally refute this. There are in fact readings from before B or Aleph. So, if Westcott and Hort claim that ‘oldest is best’ is accepted then they are beaten by their own argument. Further, not only are readings found from the Traditional Text but they are in the majority.

In our last article we mentioned Dean Burgon, his labours and defence of the Traditional Text were huge and still stand solid today. He saw the enemy and stood forth to meet the challenge. Westcott and Hort were deceivers, wolves in sheep’s clothing. Those who should have stood guard ran away. Burgon faced men i.e Westcott and Hort who had a theory (no an hypothesis), it wasn’t worthy of the word theory. They did not have external evidence, they had readings strongly preferred, not readings strongly attested. They had a strong sense of personal ‘guidance’ about Codex B. This kind of nonsense represented their Critical method. Since when was ‘personal discernment’ a solid ground of confidence? This is not scholarship. Using one or two favourite manuscripts combined with some so-called wisdom for divining the original text is total folly.

Westcott and Hort’s ‘hymn of praise’ to Codex B and Aleph is staggering. These two manuscripts, thanks to these men, will darken the spiritual horizon for countless believers up until the present. Your modern ‘bible’ is corrupted.

Look, the impurity of Codex B and Aleph is not a matter of opinion, it is FACT. Codices B and Aleph are not two ‘independent’ witnesses to the inspired original, more like a single reproduction of one and the same late copy. Their ‘witness’ is worthless. It is obvious they contain fabricated texts and come from a common corrupt ancestor.

If B and Aleph had been uncorrupted they would’ve been worn out from use but instead we are required to set aside all scholarly judgment and accept them as priceless. Well we are not

deceived by this 'scholarship'. Dean Burgon clearly demonstrated that Westcott and Hort created a worthless hypothesis on which they built their text, take away the hypothesis and nothing remains.

So it was that the Revised Version came forth and from it every modern Bible including the NKJV, yes, don't think that is an A.V, it is not, it has corrupted readings.

In the days ahead D.V. I shall move on from the 19th century to the 20th and 21st ans we shall try in simple terms to look at Dynamic Equivalence, the god of modern bible translators. We shall also D.V deal with the question of the Original Autographs, you know, the words that God 'lost'.

By Dr David Badger

Resource Corner



The Seven C's Poster

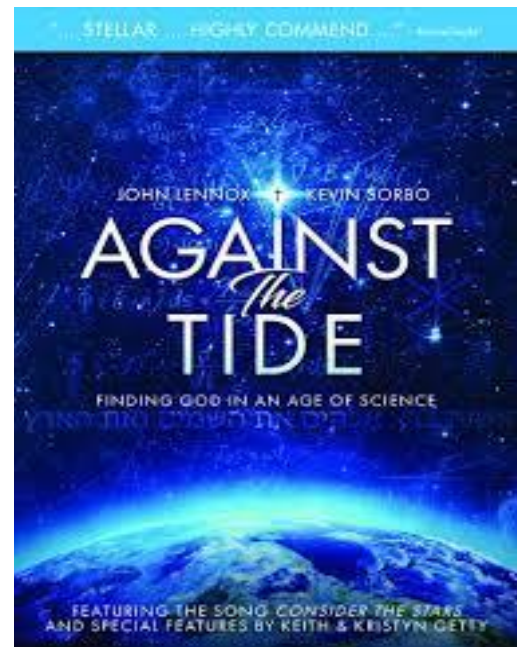
Based on the Creation Museum storyline, the Seven C's of History, this colorful poster presents seven pivotal events from the beginning to the end of time—Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, Consummation.

These seven critical events provide the framework from which we can understand the world. Each is depicted on the poster with a

picture and short description. A great evangelistic and teaching tool for homeschools and Sunday school classrooms!

Available from Answers in Genesis

Against the Tide



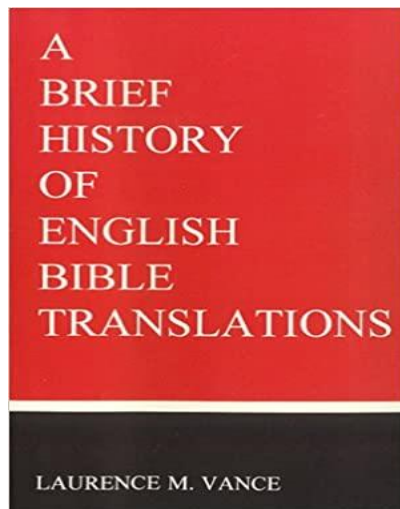
Against the Tide is a travelogue, an examination of modern science, an excursion into history, an autobiography, and more. But at heart, it is the story of one man's daring stand against the tide of contemporary atheism and its drive to relegate belief in God to society's catalogue of dead ideas.

Sitting in the warmth of the Eagle and Child pub, where C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien once gathered, Kevin Sorbo and Prof. Lennox begin a journey to discover how the Christian faith stands against atheism.

As the conversation continues through the university hallways of Oxford and Cambridge, Lennox opens his faith to examination, discussing the intersection of science and Christianity. Prof. Lennox examines the consequences of an atheistic worldview, as he recounts his travels in Soviet Europe. He brings this experience to his debates with prominent atheists, including Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins. As Kevin Sorbo and Prof. Lennox walk where Jesus taught - from the top of Mount Precipice to the

Sea of Galilee - they dive deeper into the story of Christianity.

Available from Amazon, Eden.co.uk and Keithjones.co.uk



A Brief History of English Bible Translations – Laurence M Vance

A brief history that is as complete as it is concise, this book traces the origin and development of English Bible translations from before the invention of printing to 1993 (date of publication). A brief synopsis of all translations is provided as well as an extended treatment of all essential and significant versions found throughout history. An exhaustive appendix is included listing each translation by year and author. A survey of the formation and establishment of the printed editions of the Hebrew and Greek texts is also included since they are the primary foundation upon which all translations are based.

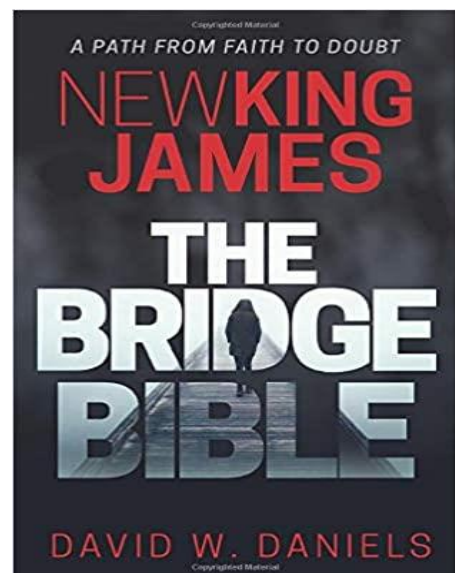
Available from Amazon and Ebay

New King James – The Bridge Bible

Is The New King James Bible Just An Updated King James? It promised to be a 5th edition of the KJV, preserving "the originally intended meaning of every verse." Did publishers and translators keep their promise? Author David Daniels shows us in this book that the classical language (including

the "thees" and "thous") is not all that was changed. In fact, this Bible is not a King James at all! Some of the "updates" actually change doctrines! "I'M NOT SAYING WHAT COULD HAPPEN. I'M SHOWING YOU WHAT DID HAPPEN." – DAVID W DANIELS It cannot be a true King James, if salvation is changed from a finished work to an unfinished process (1 Corinthians 1:18). How can you know you are saved? Or in Matthew 7:14 where it says, "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life..."? God did not make the way "difficult". Salvation is as close as our mouth and our heart! These tiny changes, as well as others like it, have made a big difference, moving people from faith to doubt in God and His words. But there's more. The publishers of the New King James said, themselves, that their goal was to provide a "transitional bridge" to a modern Bible (and they sell plenty of them). As people get used to seeing words changed in their Bible, they soon will accept a Bible that changes even more! Eventually, you have a Bible with wording vague enough, in many key areas, that all the world's religions will be able to "fit" their doctrines into it. This is actually part of the larger plan for everyone to accept one world Bible for the Antichrist's coming one world religion. How do we counter this? By teaching our children how to read the clear words of the King James, we can bring faith and not doubt to the next generation. In fact, as you will see in this book, if previous generations had done this, the New King James would never have been made.

Available from Amazon



Family Bible Quiz Corner

Bible Quiz

- 1) Complete the verse – “So God created man in his ____
- 2) What was God’s command to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28?
- 3) True or false? Did God give Adam, Eve and all the living creatures every green herb on the face of the earth to eat?
- 4) How was the Garden of Eden watered?
- 5) Where was the Garden of Eden planted by God in Eden? Northwards, Southwards, Eastwards or Westwards?
- 6) What was man’s first ‘occupation’?
- 7) A river flowed through Eden and split into four heads, what were those four head rivers called?
- 8) Eve said to the Serpent that God said they weren’t allowed to touch the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. Did God say this to Eve?
- 9) Complete the verse – “It is not good that the man should ____
- 10) Who performed the first surgical operation?



Answers

- 1) Own image (Genesis 1:27) 2) To be fruitful and multiply 3) True 4) A must went up from the garden 5) Eastwards 6) Gardener 7) Pison, Gihon, Hiddekel, Euphrates 8) No, God expressly said to not eat the fruit, nothing about touching it 9) be alone (Genesis 2:18) 10) God - removing the rib bone from Adam to form Eve

A Final Thought

As we go into February, we will be reminded, likely whenever we go into a supermarket, that Valentine’s Day is looming. Those of us that are blessed enough to have somebody special in our lives will most probably set aside some if not all of the day to spend with them. And while there is nothing wrong with celebrating this holiday in and of itself, let us be careful that we do not put the love we feel in our earthly relationships on a higher pedestal than the love we ought to have for our Lord, and His for us. We are all familiar with John 3:16, a passage that is often called “the gospel in a nutshell”. But have we ever stopped to consider the depth of the love as expressed in this verse? Our Heavenly Father gave his only begotten Son and sent him to die the most painful, humiliating and undeserved death, so that us, a sinful, fallen people could be reconciled to Him through faith in the shed blood of Christ. This God did because he “so loved the world”. In spite of all of our sin, all of our blemishes and imperfections, and our lustful and deceitful thoughts, God still loved us enough to send his Son to the cross. As we reflect on this, we would do well to make time on Valentine’s Day to thank the Lord for the love He has showed us, and do what we can to love Him back; by praising His name, by witnessing for Him and by coming to him in humble, reverent prayer and devotion. As John says in his first epistle, “we love Him because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19); let us put those words in action and love the Lord or God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark:30). Getting ourselves right with the Lord in this respect will set us on our way to enjoy our Valentine’s Day celebrations with those close to us in our earthly walk, knowing that we’re bringing glory to God and doing all to His honour.

John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Watch This Space

A brand new Truth To Wonder website is under construction and will Lord willing be soon accessible under the web address Truthtowonder.org. In the meantime the existing website of truthtowonder.godaddysites.com is still active and accessible