

TTW Truth To Wonder

Ministries Magazine

Volume 3 Issue 03 June 2022



...the work of our hands appear unto thy
...and thy glory unto their
...
17 And let the beauty of the LORD
our God be upon us: and establish
the work of our hands upon
us; yea, the work of our hands es-
tablish thou it.

PSALM XCI.
1 The state of the godly. 3 Their safety.
9 Their habitation. 11 Their servants,
14 Their friend; with the effects of
them all.

HE that dwelleth in the secret
place of the Most High shall
abide under the shadow of the Al-
mighty.
2 I will say of the LORD, He is
my refuge and my fortress: my
God; in him will I trust:
Surely he shall deliver me from
all mine iniquities, and from
all mine iniquities.

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Welcome

It is as always a great pleasure to welcome all to another issue of Truth To Wonder Magazine. At the time of writing, many of the shops are filling their shelves with celebratory goods in preparation for the Queens platinum Jubilee. Parties are busily being organised with various members of bustling communities coming together to celebrate this landmark occasion.

Many of us are looking forward to this time of celebration amidst the increasing uncertainty and concern of modern life. Hopes are being laid up in what will prove to be an all too brief time of celebration over a monarch whose reign is as fleeting as the leaf on the breeze. This is the reality of the moment, that even though our Queen has been granted such a long reign by the grace of God, we are celebrating the very rare duration of a reign as Queen. It is a sobering reminder that the days of man are brief, allotted to Him by the will of God and the inevitable trip to the grave because of mankind's rebellion will visit us all. Then after we have tasted death we shall stand before God in judgement, this is assured us by His Own Word as revealed in Hebrews 9:27.

This stark reality is the grounding to a sinful humanity that is intent on distracting itself from the painful truth of what lays before it. So times of brief celebration are seized upon with full gusto, as we hope to pull our minds away from what awaits us all. Yet all around us there are reminders that no man knows the hour of which their presence shall be required of them by their Creator for judgement. As we sit in luxury and comfort, not far away families are enduring brutal conflict and daily terror, never knowing if they shall see tomorrow. And yet this is the essential truth that we all attempt to deny; that no one can say confidently that they shall see tomorrow.

So what is the hope in this dire situation in which humanity finds itself, all because of it's own sin? In the mercy of God, who so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish (John 3:16). That great verse which is so often mocked and abused by a world in wicked denial of it's sinful nature, is the gift of eternal life being extended by the hand of God unto sinful mankind.



Our Lord is a compassionate God, one rich in grace and mercy and seeing our pitiful state put aside His glory for a season so that He might know the trials of frailties of the flesh. He has known the the brevity of the fleshly life and yet He holds the key to life eternal. In Christ Jesus we have a High Priest who is tender to our struggles; a prophet who assures us of Our place in His Father's house; and a King whose reign shall last for far longer than a mere 75 years.

Come that joyous day when all believers in Christ are called unto Him at last, isolated street parties and cheaply made bunting will be swept away in the rapturous song of the saints and angels of heaven. A song of praise unto the Lamb of God that shall ring out for not just a few days but for all eternity. The celebrations shall flow forevermore all because of the work of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour. Let us come to Our Lord now in prayer.

Dear Lord and Heavenly Father, how we look forward to that happy day when all the brief moments of joy we have known in our days of strife and hardship, shall be overcome with a blessed purity of utter joy all founded in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Lord, we ask that you'll place that song of celebration and thanksgiving in our hearts now, for we are eager to share the joy held deep within thine own heart. It is this purity of joy that defies the brief and limited songs of mankind, and speaks of a deeper delight that is bound up in your loving heart. Let us show this wondrous, consistent love to a world that bounces from ecstasy to agony, so that they may know that all peace and joy is bound up in the glorious form of thy Son and Our Redeemer Christ Jesus. Amen.

The Friends of Jesus

No believer should ever take lightly the staggering truth revealed to us through Holy Scripture that we are friends of the Son of God, the King of Kings and the Almighty Creator. This wondrous knowledge has been graciously given to us by the will of the Father so that we might see how tender is His love towards we wretched sinners. We must never lose the wide eyed

wonder of the child in seeing how awesome it truly is in being able to call Jesus Christ our friend.

Whilst we must never lose this sense of wonder in a friendship forged in eternity and sealed with the shedding of Our Saviours precious blood, we must eagerly blend it with a sharp awareness that this heavenly friendship has no earthly like, even amongst the most devoted and moral of friendships this carnal life can yield. The friendship of Christ is one of immense grace and mercy, a friendship felt so deeply even when those who He created and loved so bountifully as to set it amongst a perfect Creation, rebelled against Him willingly. The words of Our Lord when He said, "Greater love hath no man, than one who lays down his life for his friends." Such are the parameters of the friendship of God, nothing less than fullness of commitment and willingness to sacrifice itself for the good of another. This friendship crafted and held tenderly by the hands of God portrays as the artist's masterpiece does, the love held within the eternal heart of God. Whilst the human heart is capable of feeling a representation of this majestic love in friendship, for we are made in the image and likeness of God; it is never able to understand and know it's true beauty until He can call Christ his friend.

Such a towering gift of friendship offered by the Almighty Lord unto His creation, that one would understandably conclude that such a shimmering treasure would be offered only unto the most moral and upstanding of persons. Those whom we consider to be 'pillars of society', surely these would be the ones whom Christ would select to call His beloved friends. As He shed His perfect blood and laid down His life for His friends, surely such a mighty jewel as this would only be extended to the lofty, the moral elite of this world. Yet God's ways are not our ways, His thoughts are not our thoughts, they are so much greater that our sin warped minds cannot even begin to fathom the sheer beauty and wonder of His wisdom. For Jesus did not and does not call those whom the world adores. In Holy Scripture we see how He calls the lowly, the wretched, the rejected and despised of the world to be His friends, and it is in Scripture we read how this simple but earnest searching of Christ for those

whom He has called to be His friends, has eternity shaping effects for so many.

Let us turn now to Mark 2:13-17, as we read of the call of Matthew (Levi) by Christ. This particular passage begins with a most striking depiction of opposites, the peace of the purposeful walk of Christ in contrast to the restless searching of sinful man. In verse 13 we read of Our Lord walking by the sea side. This common walk is well loved by many of us, as we enjoy the peaceful, rhythmic tone of waves whilst we feel the warm, soft sand cushion our weary feet. The simplicity of such a time reflects the peace of Christ, a peace unique unto Him for He is free of sin and it's poison. The poison of sin is deep and corrosive, it corrupts everything and drains all purity of mind robbing it of the gift of simple joy in the stillness of God and His unchanging majesty. Thus we witness the converse of the peace of Christ, the searching restlessness of man as seen in the following multitude who seek after the One who is the source of all peace. Such is the stark contrast between the God and man and yet the verse ends with a glorious depiction of the compassion and grace of Christ unto those who long for true peace that resides in eternity. Our Lord extends His mercy unto the great crowd by teaching them of Himself and His Eternal Word, knowing that all joys of eternity are bound up within Him. Far from turning away the heaving multitude, as many of us would do when we have sought a time of reflection and quietness, Christ instead offers Himself as the balm to their deep wounds of the spirit. As the tranquil waters lay peacefully by His feet, so too did and do the still waters of the Spirit of God. It is this well spring of life eternal of which He spoke to the multitudes that day and still speaks to all who would listen this very day.

Verse 14 opens with a delightful 'happencence' of Jesus passing by the workplace of Levi (who would be called Matthew). One could imagine the wry smile of the Holy Spirit in leading Mark to record this account, as the seeming coincidence of this meeting is far from accidental. Much like the mysterious and beautiful provision of Ruth 'happening' on the field of Boaz, Our Lord moves purposefully in all things. With the sin constrained eyes of our fallen nature, we relegate

these events to coincidence or a happy accident yet they are far from this as they are the tender out-workings of the will of God. As John MacArthur noted, providence is often more staggering than a miracle, for with providence God intricately weaves so many diverse threads together without blemish or error and all unseen to the eye of man; all the while never impeding on the free will of mankind.

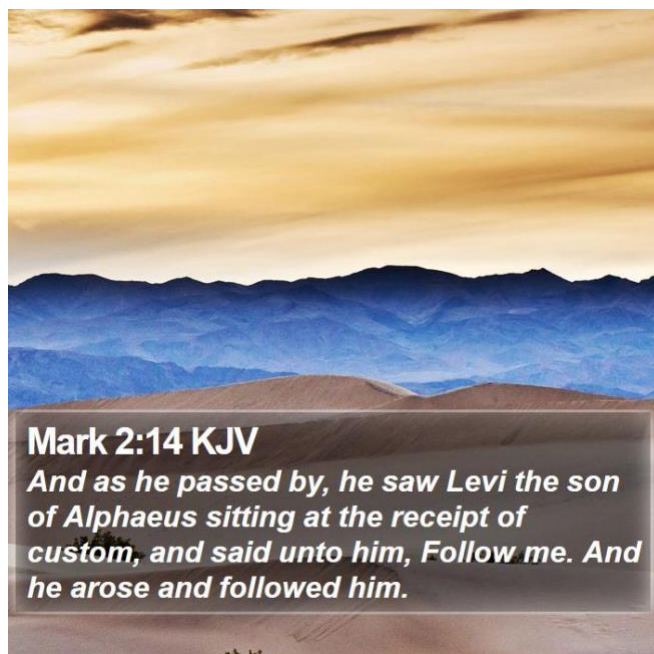


Matthew/Levi collecting taxes for the Romans

When Our Lord calls Levi or Matthew to follow Him, he does so at the office of Matthew's endeavours, the treasure cave of all of Matthew's worldly desires. Levi/Matthew was serving as a tax collector for the Romans, a role hated by all Jews and looked upon as the work of nothing less than a traitor to his own people. Levi would've been familiar with the bitter hate spewed on him by all comers every day as he sought wealth and comfort in a troubled time of foreign occupation. The thought that such a man would be called to be a friend to the Messiah would absolutely perplex and even enrage the mind of the average Jew. Yet this is exactly what Christ does; He purposefully calls out one so hated by the world to be one of His disciples, one whom would pen one of the Gospels that would lead so many to life eternal. In this calling we again witness the awe inspiring grace of Christ in fullness of action and in complete contrast to the empty oratory of the religious leaders of the time. So we are to be reminded that fine words are no substitute for clear action, that attending church on a Sunday and giving excellent dialogue with the well-to-do and/or the elders but living like a debauched sinner in the week is no testimony of the glory and grace of Christ to the world.

In this scene Levi is surrounded by the fruits of his labours. Sat at the receipt of custom, money

likely surrounding him, that much listed after god of this world, Levi should have a sense of completeness and accomplishment. Yet it is evident that this is not so. As so many who are wealthy and want for nothing in terms of money, they are tragically hollow in their hearts and they know it. So we read of the tragic deaths of young 'stars' who have taken their life even though worldly success was theirs. Though they had all the world before them, they profited nothing from it as they lost their own soul to eternal damnation. This terrifying emptiness spoke heavily to the soul of Levi, as he sat surrounded by towers of gold, his spirit was black as the loneliest of nights. Yet Christ takes pity on this wretched character, one hated by all the world and unfulfilled even by the thing he coveted most. Our Lord defies all worldly wisdom and calls this dejected soul to follow Him. How wonderful it is to such vile sinners as we that one so lost as Levi was was so loved by Christ that He would give His own blood for Him. Such is the boundless love of Christ for those He calls His friends that He defies all the powers of this world to choose whom He has called according to His divine will.



Consider also the wisdom of Our Lord is calling such a hated man as Levi/Matthew to follow Him. As already noted, Levi would've been well acquainted with the violence and vitriol that mankind can pour out upon another. Thus Matthew would be well versed in the hard life of the believer in Christ; one who suffers ridicule,

hatred and persecution everyday for Christ's sake. Whilst Levi suffered such awful hostility for no eternal reward, he gained no joy in his laid up treasures; Matthew suffered even greater hostility but knew a fullness of heart and a song of spirit that testified of the glories and treasures laid up for him in heaven.

To close let us summarise and reflect on all we have learned of the beautiful nature of Our Lord and Saviour. He delights to call those whom the world has despised, those rejected by polite society, to Himself, so that He might reveal His eternal grace to them, so that they might call Him "friend". Our Lord never condones the lives of such sinners as Levi, but He does see the fullness of the character. He knows the depths of their hearts, the secret caverns of the soul and how there is a tenderness to His voice that pricks the wicked spirit to search out for it's Saviour, even when they had hated Him. We do not see and know such depths of any person, it is not for us to know and so we must never say that an individual is outside the reach of Christ. The Lord has delighted to call the most wretched of sinners to Him and be a friend unto them. This is an attribute of God in which we must kneel in awe at the knowledge of. How the Thrice Holy God revealed Himself to fallen mankind in the blessed form of Christ Jesus so that sinners such as we might be able to call Him our friend. How marvellous it is to know that though we may lack the great faith of Abraham, He does not and that in His grace and faithfulness we are a friend unto Him as Abraham is (note 'is' and not 'was').

By Jonathan Badger

I Love Lucy

The much vaunted anthropological find of the 20th century, namely the so-called 'missing link' *Lucy*, has been the darling of evolutionary theory for decades. This 'transitory' creature that apparently shows us the development of ape to man, still fills many scientific textbooks today as proof of Evolution as a fact.

The incomplete skeleton of this 'missing link' has enjoyed great artistic scope over the years in these text books and museum displays, as the colourful recreations of artists maximise the

desired look of an 'ape-man'. Human like expressions are expertly placed on a clearly ape body to bring to the viewer the notion that Lucy was very much an ape-man. Yet are these artistic renderings based on actual science or a biased agenda seeking to persuade onlookers that this is the much searched for transitional model?

Lucy was discovered in the Awash Valley of Ethiopia by Dr Richard Leaky in 1974. Dated (unreliably as noted in previous issues) at being 3.2 million years old, Lucy is the most complete and well known example of the creature Australopithecus afarensis. Interestingly this specie is classified as being non-human such are the indisputably ape-like qualities of this specie.

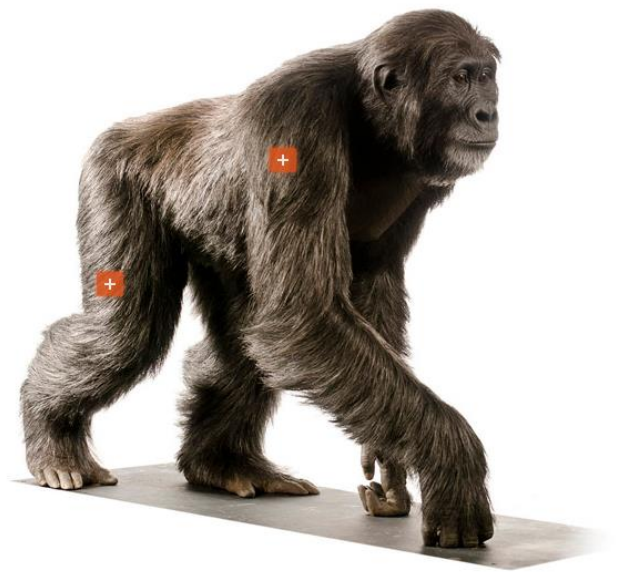


Evolution's marketed version of Lucy

Lucy's curved spine and fingers match perfectly with modern day apes, making it's naturally 'standing position' as no different to any ape we see today. However evolutionary depictions as rendered in museums and textbooks always portrait Lucy as standing upright like a human.

Given the skeletal frame of Lucy, this would prove to be very painful for the animal to maintain for anything more than a short spell. Much like a chimp can pull itself upright for short spells, they cannot remain in that position for long periods.

Further fossil evidence of other Australopithecines always show a far greater similarity in make-up to other species of apes and not humans. As a result these ancient apes (of which Lucy was one) belong within their own family of Pongidae as opposed to the human family of Hominidae.



I entitled this article 'I Love Lucy' because many **A more accurate rendering of Lucy based on the physical evidence**

Christians for decades have feared this so-called 'proof positive' of Evolution. They have compromised their hold to a literal reading of Scripture and therefore a literal seven day Creation by God several thousand years ago. However as we consistently see with any scientific discovery that initially seems to 'challenge' Biblical history, when the discovery is analysed thoroughly and without personal bias, the challenge to God's Word it once posed simply falls away. Therefore we can say 'we love Lucy' because it's just another example of how Our Lord's Word is always proved to be correct and that as a result we can always rest easy on it's consistency of truth throughout ALL it's pages.

By Jonathan Badger

Reflections on Psalm 100

As we come to consider a chapter from the great Book of Psalms, let us remember what a significant book of scripture this is. The largest of all the 66 books in the Bible, with 150 chapters in total, the Psalms were described by Charles Spurgeon as the “Treasury of David”. And vast indeed is the book in its treasures! This prayer-and-praise book of Israel sees man and his relationship with God in many different lights and scenarios – the contrasting of the righteous and the unrighteous (Psalm 1), a sinner on his knees before God (Psalm 51), pleas for mercy and assistance, messianic prophecies of our Lord Jesus Christ or unadorned praise and adoration; this book offers tremendous depths and riches for those that come to study it with a humble spirit.

The apostle Paul says in his second epistle to Timothy that “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished for all good works”. The Book of Psalms certainly ticks all those boxes; it’s no coincidence that a vast number of hymns have been based on the Psalms, as they bring us to an immediate reverence and appreciation of our Lord.

Interestingly though, Psalm 100 is the only one entitled “A Psalm of Praise”. Many Psalms have titles preceding them, but Psalm 100’s title is unique to itself. It has been speculated that this Psalm was frequently repeated by the Israelites as they offered sacrifices of thanksgiving in the temple. As we consider this Psalm verse-by-verse, I fear we will only scratch the surface of the lessons we can learn through reflecting on this precious portion of scripture. A further private study would be strongly recommended, and let us praise our Lord that he’s revealed Himself to us through the scriptures, and especially as He’s done so throughout the Book of Psalms.

1: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands

We are instructed immediately by the psalmist to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. This perhaps brings a question to our own minds immediately

– do we, as believers saved by the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, make joyful noises unto the Lord? Do we praise Him in our private prayers? I’m sure we’re all guilty sometimes of rushing straight into our own private petitions when we converse with the Lord. We can be so taken up with our day-to-day struggles and needs that we forget to praise the one that makes it all possible. Or maybe we come before our Lord with such meekness and humility, perhaps overawed by who we’re in the presence of, that we forget the joyfulness that ought to be a feature of our prayers. A joyful spirit brings life to our prayers and our communion with our Heavenly Father. If we find we need guidance or instruction, we need only look to the Lord’s prayer as we find it in the Sermon on the Mount – “thy kingdom come, thy will be done”. Does it not fill us with joy to ponder these words? Consider both advents of our Lord – whether we’re thinking of Christ’s miracles while He dwelt among us or that we’ll be with Him in paradise when it He comes again, our heart should be warmed and our prayers joyous as we think on these things. Considering the kingdom and the part we’ll play in it, and the fulfilment of all God’s promises should bring us tremendous joy as believers.



The verse concludes with the words “all ye lands”. Notice it’s not “make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye in Bournemouth”. Nor is it “make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye in England”. Not even “all ye in Europe”. It is “all ye lands”! When we consider this in present-day terms, missionary work remains an incredibly important venture, and not something to be dismissed as merely some relic of our colonial history. There are remote parts where the Gospel even still remains unheard. Before his ascension, Christ instructed his apostles to “go ye, and teach all nations”. That instruction still stands, and the church should endeavour to continue to try and evangelise and bring more people to saving faith

the world over, so that indeed all lands will have inhabitants that make a joyful noise to the Lord. There are parts of the world where there are a small number of Christians facing great persecution. The church should support those in the missionary fields, particularly our brothers and sisters facing hard times, so that we can joy in fellowship with those the world over.

And we briefly consider again the second advent of our Lord – what a wonderful picture this verse gives of the new heavens and the new earth, where everybody in every corner of the world (all ye lands!) will join in praising our Heavenly Father with joy.

2: Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing



As we go about our business, living our day-to-day lives for the Lord and His glory, we should do so with a smile. After all, what use is a glum and miserable worker? Have you ever noticed how much more productive somebody is at work or at school if they're happy and enthusiastic about their job or studies? In much the same sense, a Christian is of far more use to the Lord if they're happy to be going about God's business. Note both points here – happy and going about his business. Happiness alone is not enough; I expect we all know of some happy idlers! But an individual that works hard and with a smile is of the most use to his employer. We should be happy to work hard for our Lord and, furthermore, we should be serving Him because we want to. We should love and obey Him because that's what we yearn for, with a burning desire in our heart to get to know the Lord better. If anyone reading this feels they lack that, and I'm sure we all do at times, I beseech them to pray that our Lord would fill them with a zeal for Him and a longing to indeed serve Him with gladness.

In much the same vain we are called to come before Him with singing. Scripture abounds, both Old Testament and New, with clear instructions to show our love and appreciation to the Lord in song, and examples of Godly men doing so:

Psalm 13:6 I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with me

Isaiah 12:5 Sing unto the Lord, for he hath done excellent things

Acts 16:25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto the Lord

But not all of us are particularly musical, one might well point out. Indeed, one might only try and pitch off me on a Sunday morning during the hymns to know the truth of that! But our tunefulness is of far less importance than the state of our hearts and a spirit of thankfulness. The 18th century priest and theologian William Law, in his book "A serious call to a devout and holy life" recommends singing a Psalm every day as part of our private prayers. For those that might not feel themselves the most natural of singers, what a good way to try and build a little confidence and skill in this area.

Next month we shall go on to consider Verse 3 and work through to the conclusion of this great Psalm.

By John Sivewright

Where Can I Go Where You Are Not?

An intriguing find was made off the coast of the ancient port of Caesarea in Israel recently. Amongst the horde of Roman coins, bronze eagle figurines, bells and pottery, all dating from the 3rd century A.D, was a small but thick gold octagonal ring. The ring holds a green gemstone in the middle of it with a picture of Jesus as the 'Good Shepherd' with a ram or sheep across His shoulders.

The Gospel of John features this wonderful depiction of Christ as the Good Shepherd, and it was this image that became prevalent amongst the early Christians in the east. The ring is small and was likely worn by a woman, dating from the early days of the Church but already signifies the rapid spread of Christianity throughout the Roman world.

This discovery brings to mind the Psalmist when he wrote in Psalm 139:7-10:

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Truly the presence of the Lord is everywhere and there is nowhere the soul can escape Him. To the believer in Christ this is a wonderful source of comfort, knowing that no matter where you are you are not alone, your Saviour is with you always. To the unbeliever however it is a sobering thought, that though you believe you can outrun His righteous judgement you cannot, He is everywhere and knows everything and executes judgement fully without exception.

As this little ring physically reminds us of this great Scriptural truth, ask yourself whether you are glad to know He is everywhere, or if you are fearful? If it is fear then cry out to Christ Jesus now for forgiveness of your sins and He shall not turn you away. Then believing in His Risen Glory you shall be assured of the peace in knowing that He is with you also, even unto the end.



The ring of the Good Shepherd

By Jonathan Badger

How we approach the Throne

A few issues ago I mentioned that I fall asleep most nights in prayer. Not because I find it a chore or boring but because it is the most restful thing I can do after a long day in this world. It helps me to be focused on the mercies that have been shown to me each day and to lay my problems and worries, fears and stresses at the feet of my Master. The one who has ultimate control of it all and who has promised to look after and care for me and let nothing take me from his hand. What could be more reassuring and therefore more preparatory for sleep?

It was however the approach to prayer that I was caused to meditate on as I read Psalm 66's final verse.

“Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercies from me”.

I go to my Master and Saviour in prayer every night flat on my back, and then fall asleep in His presence. With the Queens Jubilee approaching, can we imagine presenting ourselves in such a manner to her Majesty?

We go to our Lord, the King of Kings, Creator of all we live in, and enter his presence often in the most lackadaisical, and passing of manners. How often do we go in prayer to ask for the things we want, a shopping list for life's comforts and show not even a passing air of humility, reverence or praise for all He has already done for us. He owes us absolutely nothing, and yet we treat him as a genie in the lamp, at our beck and call.

One can almost imagine the scene in a medieval court, as we carelessly throw open the doors to enter the grand hall, that houses the Throne of our King, blustering up to it, shouting in the crudest of manners to announce our arrival, completely ignoring the awesomeness of our surroundings; all the beauty, awesomeness and the wonder. For many of us, we are guilty of visiting this place infrequently, or certainly not as frequently as we should. It's not even therefore as if we should be granted any special favour for our regular appearances.

Yet as we reach His grandeur, and all the while kicking our foot against the step at the base of

the throne, half thinking about other cares of the day, we cast our list of demands on the ground, reeling off our 'needs and wants' before mumbling a few passing insincerities – only to then storm out the side door and carry on with our day without even a pause for a moments thought about whose presence we have just been in. What's even more shocking is that we do all this seemingly forgetting the fact that was it not for Him, our King and Saviour, cleansing our wretched souls, we would be eternally damned for the daily insults that we pour out against his infinite holiness. He has bought and paid for our salvation and given it as a gift with no strings attached in order to save us from eternal torment. Yet here we are entering His throne room like some petulant teenager, disrespectful and demanding, expecting to be heard and answered as we wish.

Oh how we in those moments need a conscious slap from the Holy Spirit as a gentle reminder of just whom we are stood before. And how we should marvel that our Lord, despite our approach, still grants us his ear and listens intently to our request and always answers. What a God to hear our cries in our times of need, want and sorrow, knowing He will only be ignored once the mercies and blessings are given, until the next need arises.

How often do we go in prayers of humble thanks, praise and worship for all he has done? Yet He hears us and grants us access all the same. He deserves our praise and worship eternally, and so we should at the very least in this life fill our prayers with such, and make a point of starting our time with him in prayer in this very manner. No requests should leave our lips until we have first shown our gratitude for all the mercies shown to us on a minute by minute basis. He is our bridegroom and just like our own earthly spouse, deserves to know of our our love and adoration for him and all he has done, before we ask anything of him.

When we examine our prayer lives, blessed be God indeed, that He does not turn away his ear from our voice, or remove his mercies.

By David J Badger

Who Hath Bewitched You? - Part 1

Paul asked this famous question of the Galatian Church. We might ask it again of today's Evangelical Church in reference to ROME. What is this evangelical welcome, this declaration that Rome is a Sister Christian Church. The celebrations began some time ago now, the choruses, the tongues, visions, miracles, prophesy, priests on evangelical platforms at Christian meetings refer to Rome preaching the same gospel as evangelicals. The 'Big Names' endorsed this wonderful 'unity'. They claimed it was an historical moment, yes it was an Apostasy.

A few centuries before Archbishop Cranmer had said of the Pope, 'I refuse him as Christ's enemy and Antichrist.' Then came Archbishop Ramsey who said, 'My dear brother in Christ.' What a change has taken place in God's house. Today it is considered bigoted to speak of Catholics needing Christ and the Reformers are seen as foolish and misguided. What a lack of historical and biblical understanding exists in the church today. The Reformers saw the Mass as a 'blasphemous fable and a dangerous deceit.' They didn't lay down their lives (in some cases), for just a silly misunderstanding of theology. They could see what the bible taught and what the Pope taught were polar opposites. The Word of God gives no uncertain sound with regard to the teaching of Rome.

Why then did scores of leading Names in the church welcome the Woman on seven hills? Well, many of those men are not saved, they don't believe the bible, they have no witness of the Spirit within. These are often the men the 'guide' the Church.

When you welcome the Pope and accept him as Head of the Church, he is not just another religious leader like the Archbishop of Canterbury, he is a god. The Pope is (by the claims of Rome), the first ruler and Monarch on earth.

The massive majority of believers today know nothing of Rome's claims. How many evangelical preachers utter a peep about Rome? Rome is NOT part of the Body of Christ, the Word of God can never be adopted to a system which in essence professes to convey Christ to the people by sacraments via the clergy. The Gospel is

conveyed by the preaching of the pure Word of God empowered by the Holy Spirit. As Bishop Dr David Samuel said, (in the 20th Century), 'When the pure word is not preached you may have religion but it will be a counterfeit religion. Man will become enslaved spiritually, and the Church will reflect the demonic structures of an anti-Christian system.'

Ministers are to guard the sheep from wolves, why then are your pulpits so silent? There cannot be two gospels and Rome's gospel bears no resemblance to that of the Apostles.

By Dr David Badger Snr

The Problems With Old Age

Since the emergence of the theory of Evolution through the work of Charles Darwin whose work, *An Origin of Species* (published 1859) sparked this radical departure from Biblical science and history, many Christians have wrongly attempted to blend their troubled faith with this most modern of fairy tales that is Evolution.

As we saw just a few issues ago, Christians such as television presenter Dan Walker publicly state they are not young Earth creationists, hoping that their subscription to an evolutionary timeline will placate a world that hates God and the Bible. However as we observed such a standpoint is riddled with enormous logical and scientific problems that cannot be resolved in adhering to this error filled school of thought that is 'Old Earth Creationism'.

One enormous problem for Old Earth Creationists is explaining how death existed before Adam sinned. They attempt this by pointing to plant life and argue that because Adam and Eve ate the plants/fruits etc, that would cause the plants eaten to 'die'. Therefore in their estimation, this means that death existed before Adam sinned.

The problem with this assertion is that it is completely unBiblical and shows a complete lack of understanding of the Scriptures. The Bible refers to humans and animals as being separate from plant life through the use of the Hebrew wording 'Nephesh chayyah'. This is often translated as 'living creature', a term that is never

applied to plants throughout the entire Scriptures. Plants therefore are not capable of 'dying' as they are not bracketed by God's ordination as being living creatures.

The Bible does frequently refer to plants withering and/or fading and there is only one reference to a trees 'death', this comes in a poetic form as recorded in Job 14:7-12. So once again the adherence to a literal reading of Scripture provides a logical consistency that gives every believing Christian a sure foundation. This is why holding to a pure text and trusting in it's inerrancy is so vital.

By Jonathan Badger

Anger to Sadness

A documentary was recommended to me on the liberal American churches whose message is one of a complete dilution of the Gospel. As I sat and listened to the pastor of this imposter church speak and other elders from this assembly, I became enraged at how such people could defile such a glorious truth that is the Gospel and do it so joyfully as though they were liberating people from a great cruelty.

Yet as I listened further, tempted to turn off the programme such was my anger at the false teaching on display, one elder said something that moved me to deep sadness. Our Lord was so moved from anger to sadness as He looked on the disbelieving Pharisees, whose hardness of heart angered Him before His heart broke over their disbelief and dismissal of the gift of grace (Mark 3:5). The elder recalled how they felt lonely and cut off as a child from God during communion as they sat passed over by the assembled congregation. They mused on how they couldn't fathom a God that made the way to peace with Him so very narrow as to have to 'pray the sinners prayer' and accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. They spoke of it like it was a great exclusive club to which they would never be welcomed and so felt that they could not preach the Gospel in it's purity of message.

My heart ached for this poor soul as they could not see how their estimations on Christ Jesus were so very wrong. God offers salvation freely to

all who would incline their ear unto His Word, He gave His only begotten Son because He loved us first and Christ never turns away anyone who calls out to Him. The gift of grace is free and easy to gain, it is available to all and no one's sin is too great that He cannot forgive.

As I sit writing this, tears fill my eyes that so many feel so isolated from the God, cut adrift of salvation because of poor teaching of the Gospel. Let us remember that a child can understand its message, a message that life eternal can be yours through no effort of your own; it is a free gift of God. All that needs to be done is to bow the knee before Christ Jesus and call out to Him for forgiveness, believing that He has overcome all sin and death itself. Seize it now and know that the way the Father, the way to God is narrow yes, for it passes through Jesus alone; yet all are welcome to step foot on it and follow its golden path to peace everlasting. All are bid to come and walk the Way, to find Truth and gain Life through faith in Christ having a blessed assurance that He is One that steadies your walk. He is the One who guides your steps and that He shall never turn you away or abandon you. He shall lead you home to the very presence of God and this can be yours this very moment through simple faith in Him.

Do not be so blind as the poor elder I mentioned earlier. In the documentary they were challenged by the grandparent as whether they were going to heaven and if they knew Jesus as their Saviour. Later and away from their grandparent, the elder remarked that they believed they would get into heaven but that they did not believe in hell anyway. They also stayed silent on answering the vital question on whether they knew Jesus as their Saviour.

Many will shun the gift of grace but its availability does not pass over anyone, no one is left without the offer of salvation in Christ. So come to Him now and know of His goodness and see that He bids all come to Him, and that you are so greatly loved that He gave His own life for yours. Greater love has no man, than one who lays down his life for another. Christ Jesus did this for you, even when you hated Him; how much more can God prove to you that you are welcome

to know Him and His love through the sacrifice of His Son Christ Jesus.

By Jonathan Badger

Resource Corner



The Heavens – A Different View

The universe is so vast; it will take your breath away. Only an all-powerful, imaginative Creator could make something so immeasurable, complex, and orderly. *The Heavens: A Different View* gives us a glimpse of God's majesty revealed in His creation

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. —Psalm 19:1

Did you know there are two constellations mentioned in the Bible in the Books of Amos, Job, and Isaiah?

Discover a black hole that is 70 million times more massive than the sun.

Learn what objects we can see with the naked eye that are millions of light years away!

Take a journey through the heavens with a dazzling array of photographs and short essays on the uniqueness of our galaxy and beyond!

Available from Answers in Genesis

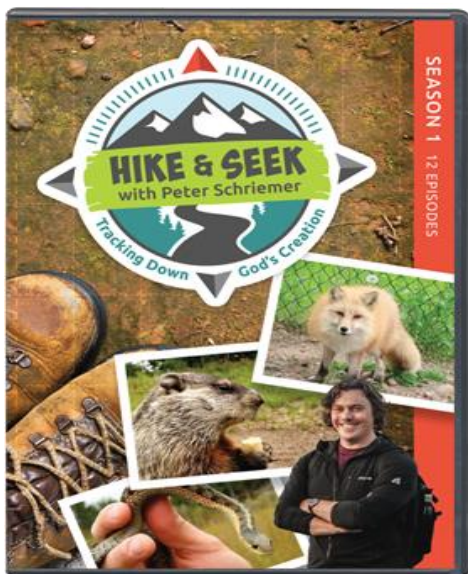
Hike and Seek

Join Peter Schriemer in an award-winning exploration of God's world. Meet creatures from

your backyard or far-flung places as you hike and seek what God has made.

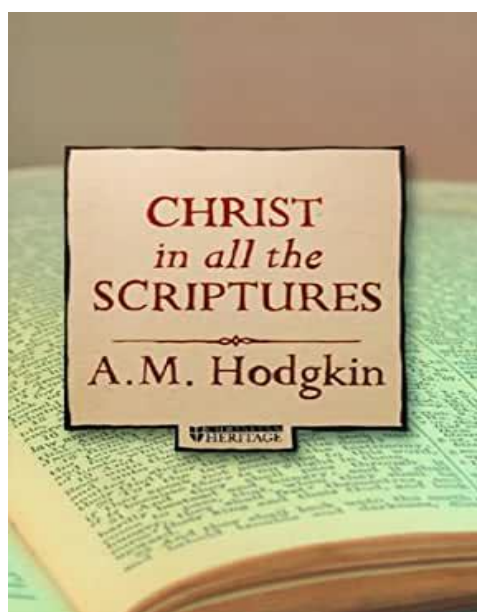
God's creation is full of incredible creatures, from sandhill cranes to buzzing honeybees to red foxes. Prepare to get your boots muddy as you join wildlife filmmaker Peter Schriemer in an exploration of God's world. Meet creatures from your own backyard or far-flung places as you hike and seek what God has made.

12 episodes, 3.5 hours total on 3 DVDs.



Available from Answers in Genesis

Christ in all the Scriptures



The Gospels tell us about Jesus' life on earth, but we are missing out on the big picture if we only look for Him there. A.M. Hodgkin points out

where to find Him in every part of Scripture, and shows how these prophecies and parallels will help you to realize Christ's impact on the whole world and in your life.

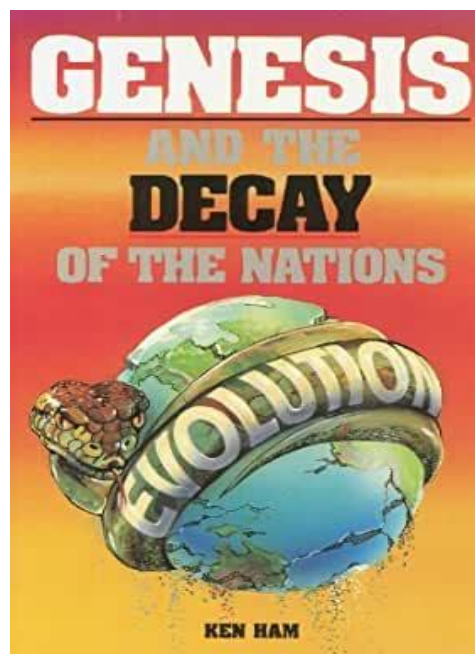
Jesus said: "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me" (John 5:39). The Bible testifies of Jesus.

In *Christ in All the Scriptures*, A.M. Hodgkin gives us an excellent overview of how each Bible book bears witness to the person and work of Jesus Christ. The book falls into seven sections:

- Christ in the Pentateuch
- Christ in the Historical Books
- Christ in the Poetical Books
- Christ in the Prophets
- Christ in His Life on Earth
- Christ in Resurrection Power
- Christ in Future Glory

Available from Amazon

Genesis And The Decay Of The Nations



The book emphasis is on the relevance and authority of the book of Genesis and how compromise on Genesis has opened a dangerous door regarding how the culture and church view biblical authority

Available from Amazon

Family Bible Quiz Corner

Word search

P	R	A	Y	E	R	T	G	A	H
K	R	Y	A	E	O	M	O	U	R
S	T	O	M	G	L	E	V	T	R
S	S	E	P	A	Y	L	A	H	O
E	E	R	S	H	I	U	E	O	T
N	I	P	R	I	E	S	T	R	A
T	P	P	G	W	U	T	I	I	E
I	H	N	L	E	V	I	L	T	R
W	I	P	R	Y	S	K	N	Y	C
K	G	S	N	E	V	A	E	H	T

Words to find

Prophet, Priest, King, Heavens, Authority,
Witness, Psalm, Creator, Levi, Prayer

Who Am I?

- 1) was faithful to the Lord
- 2) I remind others of Paul's teaching
- 3) I lived in Lystra
- 4) My dad was Greek and my mother Jewish
- 5) People spoke well of me
- 6) Inpastored a church in Ephesus
- 7) Paul sent me to Corinth
- 8) Paul called me his son
- 9) I was told to fight the good fight
- 10) Paul wrote me two letters



Answer: I am Timothy

A Final Thought

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

As we come to our Lord in frequent prayer, we all no doubt bring our regular petitions to Him. After all, our Lord instructs us to bring our wants and needs to Him (Philippians 4:6), so it is only right for us to earnestly plead our cause as we come to Him in prayer through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. However, as we consider what our Lord can give to us, do we put enough thought and energy into what we can give to Him in return? Our relationship to our Heavenly Father is not strictly a one-way transaction. While we could in no way repay the Lord for all He's done for us (He gave us of His only begotten Son, after all), and God doesn't need anything from us in order to survive or thrive (He is unchanging and from everlasting to everlasting), we are however called to action in the Holy Scriptures to give back to the Lord. We are to love Him with all our heart, soul and mind (Matthew 22:37) and, as Paul states in his Epistle to the Romans, we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice. Paul goes on to tell us that we are not to be conformed to this world, i.e. we should look to do things God's way, and not please the ever-changing desires of society. Our heart's desire should be draw nearer to Him, and our outward conduct as we go through our day-to-day lives should be such that we exalt Him and obey His commandments and precepts. So, when we next go to our Lord in prayer and lay out our petitions, let us stop and think how we can serve Him and give to Him as He gives so liberally and mercifully to us. He gives to us in spite of our sinful nature, entirely of free grace; we ought to give to Him, who has saved us through the shed blood of His son, with a grateful and loving spirit, ready to serve and glorify Him.

By John Sivewright

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