

SEVENTH ANNUAL
"LABOURERS TOGETHER WITH GOD"
LECTURESHIP, 1999

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES (Apologetics)

NORTHWEST FLORIDA SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

Training Laborers for ...

THE HARVEST

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest."

(Luke 10:2)



Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies offers a great opportunity for those who desire to be better trained laborers in God's field of harvest. Tuition Free!

**SEVENTH ANNUAL
“LABOURERS TOGETHER WITH GOD”
LECTURESHIP**

September 12-16, 1999

THEME:

**CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES
(APOLOGETICS)**

Editor:

Kenneth Burleson

Location of Lectureship:

Ensley Church of Christ

Home of Northwest Florida School Of Biblical Studies

57 E. Hannah Circle

Pensacola, FL 32534

(850) 479-4405

(850) 476-1417

FORWARD

This book contains 28 lesson outlines of the **Seventh Annual "Labourers Together With God" Lectureship**, which was held at the Ensley Church of Christ, home of the **"Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies"** in Pensacola, Florida.

So many people do not know how to defend God and His word. They are not familiar with Christian Evidences, Apologetics. Some do not even know of that which one is speaking when he speaks of Christian Evidences. Therefore, they do not know how to defend God and His word. In view of these facts, the elders and I decided that this is a theme that needed some attention.

We have selected 28 subjects under this theme to help enlighten people concerning Christian Evidences. We have also selected 28 men we believe capable of handling these subjects.

It is our hope these lessons will cause all to have a greater appreciation for God and His inspired Word.

You may purchase audio and/or video Tapes.

*Kenneth Burleson
September, 1999*

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The Need For The Study Of Christian Evidences (Apologetics)

Alan Adams

Why?

1. It is fair and right that we both ask and be asked "Why" certain things ought to be accepted as true and obligatory as opposed to other things.
 - a. "Who is Jehovah, that I should hearken unto his voice to let Israel go? I know not Jehovah" (Exodus 5:2)
 - b. "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25).
 - c. "May we know what this new teaching is, which is spoken by thee" (Acts 17:19)?

How?

1. The general field of study, known as Christian Evidences (Apologetics), relates to *how* Christians will respond when asked, Why?
 - a. Why ought I to believe in God? only one God? that He is infinite in all of His attributes?
 - b. Why ought I to accept the Bible as ultimately the product of God? as God's once-and-for-all communication to man? that Jesus is the Son of God? that the Holy Spirit by revelation and inspiration infallibly guided certain men in the verbal and written proclamation of the Word?
 - c. Why ought I to recognize the church of Christ as the one and only church which Jesus built?
 - d. Why ought I to accept that faith, repentance, confession and baptism are all essential to the salvation of a sinner? that continued faithfulness to Christ is necessary to ultimate salvation in Heaven? that corporate worship of God on the Lord's Day is composed of five distinct acts?

What?

1. Another word for *evidences* is the word *apologetics*.
 - a. Apologetics comes from the Greek word *apologia*.
 - b. Peter uses this word and it is translated "give answer" (1 Peter 3:15, ASV)
 - c. This, he says, we are obligated to do whenever asked "a reason" relative to our "hope."
 - 1) "Reason" is from *logos*.
 - 2) When used with reference to the mind, it has reference to one's "reason, cause, or ground" with respect to a doctrine or course of action.
2. In this passage then, *apologia* means "a reasoned statement or

argument," thus the phrase, *pros ton apologian*, might literally be rendered: "for the reasoned presentation or argument in defense of."

3. In short, we are obligated, when asked, Why? we are to have at our disposal:
 - a. An answer, but not just any answer.
 - b. A well-thought-out answer, not something "off the cuff."
 - c. A systematic, organized, harmonious answer, as opposed to disjointed rambling.
 - d. An answer warranted by evidence, not merely one's assertions or assumptions, however true they may in fact be.
4. This, then, is Christian Evidences.

Who?

1. Thus, we are faced with a task that involves both that which is *objective* (evidence), and that which is *subjective* (personal preparation—"ready always").
 - a. This lesson—The Need For the Study of Christian Evidences—will touch on both the objective and the subjective aspects of the broad field of Christian Evidences.
 - b. We recognize a general unwillingness and inability on the part of many Christians to "give diligence" (2 Tim. 2:15) in this matter of apologetics.
 - c. So, primarily, it will be our purpose to show why each of us "needs" such an overall study in the area of Christian Evidences as that proposed by this lectureship.

DISCUSSION:

I. IF ASKED, WHY WE NEED SUCH A STUDY, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING FOUR REASONS—

- A. God demands it.
 1. By way of explicit statements (1 Peter 3:15; 1 Thess. 5:21; 1 John 4:1).
 2. By way of implication.
 - a. 2 Tim. 2:15
 - b. "handling aright" ("rightly dividing," KJV) is from *orthotomeo*: "to make straight and smooth, to handle aright, to teach the truth directly and correctly."
 - c. Paul's marshaling of facts in Romans 3:9-19 to draw the conclusion of verse 20.
 - d. Peter's lines of evidence (Acts 2:16-35) which warranted the conclusion of verse 36.
 3. By way of example (Acts 17:2-3; 18:28).
- B. Human nature demands it.
 1. Man's prime directive (Acts 17:27; 15:17; Rom. 2:4; Psalm 53:2; Rom. 3:11).
 2. Man's inquiring nature (Prov. 1:1-6; 1 Kings 10:1; John 3:2; Acts 2:37).

3. Man's inherent limitations (Jer. 10:23; Prov. 16:1; 20:24; 1 Cor. 2:9; Acts 8:31).
 4. Man's obligation (Rom. 1:20-21; John 8:32; 17:3; Heb. 11:6; John 8:24).
- C. Rationality demands it.
1. Just as there are certain "laws" built into the physical universe (Psalm 119:90-91), so it is with the universe of reason.
 - a. Man, made in God's image, is therefore a rational being and is thus governed by "laws of thought." In other words, there are certain ways he "ought to think" (Acts 17:29).
 - b. Whereas he essentially has no power as to whether he will accept the laws of nature, man may choose whether he will abide by the "laws of thought."
 - 1) In choosing to abide by said laws, he acts rationally (e.g. Heb. 11:17-19).
 - 2) In choosing to disregard them, he acts irrationally (Psalm 14:1; cf. Rom. 1:21,28).
 - 3) **note:** It is never OK for a faithful child of God (or anyone) to be irrational.
 2. Call them "laws of thought," common sense, or "horse sense," we all recognize and appeal to certain rules, or presuppositions, that ought to govern conclusions and decisions.
 - a. These laws are often called—
 - b. **note:** In saying they are "called" by certain names has reference to the fact that someone (presumably Aristotle) gave what he thought a fitting name to something that was already there; in the same sense that Adam "gave names" (Gen. 2:19-20) to creatures that already existed.
 - 1) The Law of Rationality: One ought to accept as true only such conclusions as are warranted by the evidence.
 - 2) The Law of Identity: A thing is what it is and cannot be other than that.
 - 3) It is one of the conditions of rational discourse that our words must retain the same meanings throughout a single conversation or single unit of discourse.
 - 4) The Law of Excluded Middle: A precisely stated (identified) thing is either true or it is not true. There is no middle ground.
 - c. The Law of Contradiction: Two contrary statements about the same thing cannot both be true (although both may be false).

3. The existence of these "laws of thought" is both *intuitive* and *stated*.

a. It is *intuitive* in the sense that for people to argue against their existence, or deny their validity, they will inevitably appeal to them to "prove" that what they are saying ought to be accepted as true.

1) Kind of like the man who said, "There's nothing to this logic stuff; let me tell you why."

a) In a group setting, just listen to how people seek to convince others of the truthfulness of what they're saying.

b) "It's cloudy and humid, therefore it's going to rain."

c) **note:** In this case, the speaker appeals to each of the "laws."

2) The only time anyone balks at or denies these "laws," is when these "laws" show him to be irrational.

b. It is *stated* in the sense that the Bible implies the existence of, and admonishes man to likewise use, each of these "laws."

1) The Law of Rationality (1 Thess. 5:21; Acts 17:2-3,11).

2) The Law of Identity (Gal. 3:16; cf. 1 Cor. 8:4-6; 15:39).

3) The Law of Excluded Middle (Luke 8:11).

4) The Law of Contradiction (Matt. 21:25).

D. Order demands it.

1. "Order," in this matter of Christian Evidences, is the order of the day (cf. 1 Cor. 14:40; Luke 1:3; Gen. 1:2; Mark 6:39).

a. Unlike detectives who must try to make a case based on a sparsity of evidence, our problem, in making the case for Christianity, is that of the mass and diversity of the evidence at hand.

1) Like the problem your speaker is facing in trying to get all that needs to be said into this short sermon!

2) Like a child in a field full of Easter eggs not getting any, or many, of them because he tries to go off in all directions.

b. This very preponderance of evidence, though, if not sifted, organized and systematized, can itself be a problem.

c. It's not enough to have facts swirling around in our heads; they must be brought together in a coherent fashion.

- d. If asked, Why do you believe in God? It is not sufficient, without elaboration and explanation, to say, "In the rustling grass, I hear him pass."
2. Category. The body of evidence is so broad as to demand filing into categories; in this case two:
 - a. Self
 - 1) Physical (Psalm 139:13-15).
 - 2) Moral/Spiritual (Eph. 6:1; Rom. 1:32; 2:14-15).
 - b. Everything outside of oneself (Psalm 19:1; Acts 17:25-26).
3. Argument. The lines of reasoning may be set forth in different arguments.
 - a. Classifications.
 - 1) Cosmology (sufficient cause).
 - 2) Teleology (design).
 - 3) Ontology (being).
 - 4) Psychology (morality oughtness; spirituality).
 - 5) Theology (the Bible as proof for the existence of God).
 - b. Arrangement. Three-plank platform of the case for Christianity.
 - 1) God is (Gen. 1:1).
 - 2) The Bible is the Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16).
 - 3) The Bible teaches "x" (Acts 17:2-3,11; 1 Cor. 2:13; Eph. 3:3-4).
4. Proof. God's diverse revelation of Himself to man.
 - a. Nature (Rom. 1:19-20).
 - b. The Supernatural (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 18:22; Mark 16:20; Acts 2:22; Rom. 1:4).
 - c. Judgment (Rom. 1:18, 27, 32).
 - d. The Bible (2 Cor. 2:10ff).
 - e. Jesus Christ (John 14:9).
 - f. Human nature (Gen. 1:26; Col. 3:10; 1 Cor. 11:7).
5. Knowledge. Epistemic distance and interconnectedness.
 - a. "Knowledge" of God, in the broad sense of the term, is absolute and attainable.
 - b. God does not overwhelm man so that man's will is not brought to bear.
 - 1) There is a sense in which man is "hemmed in" (Acts 17:26-27), yet not in such a way as to mitigate human choice or will.
 - 2) One might say that God has drawn the "epistemic line" to just the right point and distance so that human will must be brought to bear (John 7:17; 2 Thess. 2:10).
 - c. "All roads lead to Rome;" that is, wherever one starts on his epistemic quest, he comes back to the

- same place (Psalm 139:7-8; Acts).
- d. From the rock to the tree; from space to the earth; from the inanimate to the animate; from the baby to morality; from the Bible to Christ; it all comes back to the same thing (John 17:3; 2 Thess. 1:8).
 - e. We should be able to literally start "anywhere" in making the case for Christianity (Acts 8:35; 28:23).
 - 1) In a unique sense, the Bible is all about the same thing (1 Cor. 2:2).
 - 2) Jesus is in every book, and on every page of the Bible.
6. Singularity and totality.
- a. One piece of evidence, or one sound argument, that warrants a particular conclusion (God is, the Bible is His Word, or the Bible teaches "x") is sufficient in itself.
 - 1) Five "true" things do not add up to a "five times truer case."
 - 2) Truth cannot be made "truer."
 - b. Nonetheless, by being prepared, we can attack and approach the world of skepticism and denial from many fronts, and make an overwhelming unanswerable case.
 - 1) We can humble people into "belief of the truth" (2 Thess. 2:13) or,
 - 2) We can "stop" the mouths of "vain talkers and deceivers" (Titus 1:9-11).

CONCLUSION:

1. Christian Evidences is all about our being prepared to make the case for Christianity in any given setting.
 - a. How sad that there are way too many Christians who are unable to—in fact, I wouldn't want them to even attempt to—make that case.
 - b. It is all about mental preparation (1 Tim. 4:13-16; 2 Tim. 4:13).
 2. The devil and his are glad to "study" an organized approach to their error; shall we not be so willing in the defense and propagation of the Truth?
 - a. Calvinism has its TULIP.
 - b. Atheism claims to have a system: psychology, geology, archaeology, biology, genetics, evolution, etc.
 3. How sad, tragic, yea, sinful, that someone asks us, Why, and go away without an answer, simply because we are not "ready always" in this matter of Christian Evidences.
-

God's Plan For Unity Among Men

Eph. 4:4-6

Jimmy W. Bates

1. The Theme of "Christian Evidences" points to the logical necessity of UNITY among men.
 - a. Evidence proves that God exists and that He is the Creator of the universe and all inhabitants therein, including man (Gen. 1:1,2,26,27).
 - b. One of the evidences that points to the intelligent creator is the Unity that prevails in all of creation.
 - c. The evidence that proves the Bible to be God's revealed will to man points to the necessity of UNITY among men.
 - 1) When men follow God's revealed will they will be united.
 - 2) Division occurs when men reject God's will.
2. For Unity to exist there must be a **Standard** (a body of Truth) to which **all** men must comply.
 - a. God is the source of All Truth (John 8:32; 17:17).
 - b. God revealed this Truth through Jesus Christ (John 7:16; 12:48-50; Heb. 1:1,2; John 14:6).
 - c. Jesus revealed this Truth to His Apostles (John 17:8,17,20, 21).
 - d. After Jesus ascended back to heaven, the Holy Spirit came to guide the Apostles and other men in recording this body of Truth and we have it today in the written word of God (John 14:26; 16:13; Acts 2:1-5; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; Jude 3; Gal. 1:6-12).
 - e. The **Standard** to which all men today must comply is the Law of Christ (Gal. 6:2; 1 Cor. 9:21), which is: the Truth (John 17:17; 8:32); the Gospel (Rom. 1:16); the Faith (Jude 3; Acts 6:7; 13:7,8; Rom. 5:1; Gal. 3:26,27); Sound Doctrine (Titus 2:1); the Doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11).
3. Unity is achieved by all those who accept and follow God's standard — **The Truth**.

DISCUSSION:

I. WHAT IS BIBLE UNITY?

A. Definition of Terms:

1. **Unity:**

a. From *enotas* — "One, unity, unanimity, agreement" (Thayer p. 217).

b. "The state of being one, or united; oneness; singleness..." (New World Dictionary)

2. **Union** — a "combination...a combining, joining, or grouping together..." (New World Dictionary)

3. **Diversity** — "quality, state, fact, or instance of being

diverse; difference." (New World Dictionary)

4. **Diverse** — "different; dissimilar" (New World Dictionary)

5. **Diversion** — "a diverting, or turning aside" (New World Dictionary). This is what most of the so-called "unity Movements" today are—diversions!

B. What Bible Unity Is NOT:

1. Unity is NOT "Union."

2. Unity is NOT "Diversity."

3. Unity is NOT "Agreeing to disagree."

4. Unity is NOT "Going along to get along."

5. Unity is NOT "Turning one's back and ignoring the difference."

6. Unity is NOT "Ecumenical cooperation."

C. Bible Unity involves Oneness, Singleness, Truth, Harmony:

1. 1 Peter 3:8, "Be ye all of one mind."

2. Phil. 2:5, Having the mind of Christ.

3. John 17:20,21, As God and Christ are one.

4. 1 Cor. 1:10

a. By the authority of Christ.

b. "That ye all speak the same thing."

c. "That there be no divisions among you."

d. "That ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

5. Eph. 4:4-6, God's plan.

II. THE NEED FOR UNITY:

A. Man, in general, has always rejected Unity and promoted Division.

1. Denominationalism promotes religious division.

2. Liberal minded brethren promote division in the Church.

3. Contentious, "opinion binding" brethren promote division in the church.

B. Division is Sinful.

1. By it's very nature—it weakens and destroys.

a. "United we stand, divided we fall."

b. Matt. 12:25, "...*Every Kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation: and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.*"

c. Internal division weakens and sometimes destroys congregations of the Lord's people (Gal. 5:15).

d. Religious division is possibly the greatest hindrance to the cause of Christ (John 17:20,21).

2. The Bible condemns division.

a. Gen. 13:8; Prov. 6:16-19; Matt. 12:25; Rom. 16:18;

1 Cor. 1:10-13; 3:3; 12:25; James 3:13-16.

- b. All Bible passages that demand Unity, by implication condemn division.

C. Some causes of division:

1. A "Self-willed" attitude:

- a. One who is dominated by self-interest (a desire to please self).

- b. Rom. 16:18; Titus 1:7; Gal. 1:10.

2. A contentious attitude of "rule or destroy:"

- a. Greed for authority — pre-eminence (3 John 9).

- b. Contentious individuals cause strife and division.

- c. 1 Cor. 1:11; Titus 3:9,10; Rom. 2:5-9.

3. Lack of respect for and knowledge of the Word of God as authority in religion (Col. 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11; 1 Thess. 5:21).

- a. Following the traditions and creeds of men (Mark. 7:7-9; 1 Cor. 3:3).

- b. Following human names (1 Cor. 1:12,13); human doctrines (1 Tim. 1:3; 2 John 9-11).

4. Rebellion against the Truth of God lies at the root of all division (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:1-5).

5. Defending the Truth and Exposing error DOES NOT cause division, but rather promotes Unity.

- a. 1 Kings 18:18, Forsaking the commandments of God causes division.

- b. Phil. 1:17; Jude 3; Eph. 5:11; 2 Tim. 4:2-5.

D. UNITY IS GOOD, RIGHT, AND PLEASANT (Psalm 133:1).

1. There is strength and success in Unity:

- a. The strong and successful Jerusalem church was united (Acts 4:32).

- b. An essential ingredient to the growth of the church is Bible Unity.

2. The Bible Commands Unity (John 17:20,21; 1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 13:11; Phil. 1:27; Phil. 2:2; 1 Peter 3:8).

III. ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS NECESSARY TO UNITY:

A. Ephesians 4:1-3 — Unity of Life

1. "...Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." (Verse 1).

- a. "Vocation" (*klaseos*) — A "calling" which involves that manner of conduct or way of living into which God has called us through the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14).

- 1) A High Calling (Phil. 3:14).

- 2) A Holy Calling (2 Tim. 1:9).

- 3) A Heavenly Calling (Heb. 3:1).

- b. Walk "worthy" (adverb of manner—worthily). Our life and conduct must become the Gospel. (Compare: Rom. 16:2; Phil. 1:27; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:12).
 - 2. "Lowliness" — Humility — (Verse 2).
 - a. Jesus an example of lowliness (Matt. 11:28-30; John 13:3-17; Phil. 2:3-9).
 - b. We must practice lowliness (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:6; Rom. 12:3).
 - c. How to develop Lowliness:
 - 1) Look into spiritual mirror (James 1:23-25)
 - 2) Compare self to Christ (2 Cor. 10:12; Eph. 5:1,2; 2 Cor. 3:18).
 - d. Humility necessary to Unity.
 - 3. "Meekness" — Submission (Verse 2)
 - a. The strength to control ones actions—self discipline. (James 1:19-21)
 - b. Compare: 1 Peter 3:4,15; James 3:13; Gal. 5:22,23; 6:1.
 - 4. "Longsuffering" — (Verse 2)
 - a. "To suffer long" — patient. (2 Tim. 4:1,2)
 - b. A spirit that never gives up. (James 5:10; Rev. 2:10; 1 Peter 5:10)
 - c. Compare: Gal. 5:22; 1 Cor. 13:4; Col. 3:12.
 - 5. "Forbearing one another in love." (Verse 2)
 - a. To bear with—the practical application of long-suffering—the attitude put in action. (Compare: Col. 3:13).
 - b. "In love" regulates all of a Christian's attitude toward others.
 - 6. We must give diligent effort to keep unity and peace in the church (v.3). Compare: Col. 3:15; Rom. 12:18.
 - a. We serve a God of peace (1 Thess. 5:23; 1 Cor. 14:33).
 - b. Our Lord is the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6; Eph. 2:14).
 - c. The church is a Kingdom of Peace (Rom. 14:17,19).
 - d. The Gospel is the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15).
- B. **We must not compromise truth to have peace and unity.**
 - a. When truth is compromised there can be no peace and unity.
 - b. We endeavor to keep the unity God describes in Ephesians 4:4-6.

IV. GOD'S PLAN FOR UNITY (Eph. 4:4-6).

- A. All must worship and serve the ONE GOD (Verse 6).
 - 1. 1 Cor. 8:6; Heb. 11:6
 - 2. Matt. 4:10; John 4:23,24

3. Can not have unity with one who worships and serves another.
- B. All must submit to the authority of the **ONE LORD** (Verse 5).
 1. 1 Cor. 8:5,6; Acts 2:36; 10:36; John 8:23,24.
 2. Heb. 1:1-3; Matt. 28:18; Acts 3:22,23; 17:5.
 3. To submit to Him as Lord is to obey Him (Luke 6:46; Heb. 5:8,9).
 4. Can not have unity with one who rejects the authority of the One Lord!
- C. All must believe and obey the Truth revealed by the **ONE SPIRIT** (Verse 4).
 1. John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Tim. 3:16,17.
 2. Rom. 8:1-5
 3. Can not have unity with one who rejects the Truth revealed by the One Spirit. (2 Thess. 2:10-12)
- D. All Must desire the **ONE HOPE** (Verse 4).
 1. Hope — a longing desire of confident expectation.
 2. The main object of Hope is eternal life in heaven (1 Peter 1:3,4; Heb. 6:17-19; Rom.8:24; Titus 1:2; 1 John 2:25; Rom. 12:12; 2 Tim. 4:6-8).
 3. There's only One Hope, thus only one way to go to heaven.
 4. We are called into this one hope by the Gospel (2 Thess. 2:14; 1:7-9).
 5. Can not have unity with one who does not desire the One Hope!
- E. All must believe and teach the **ONE FAITH** (Verse 5).
 1. Jude 3; Acts 6:7; Gal. 1:23;
 2. Same as the Gospel: Phil. 1:17,27; Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 15:1-4.
 3. Can not have unity with one who does not believe and teach the One Faith. (Compare: 1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 2:2; 1 Peter 4:11; Gal. 1:6-9; 1 John 4:1; 2 John 9-11; Rom. 16:17,18).
- F. All must practice the **ONE BAPTISM** (Verse 5).
 1. There had been other baptisms in the past:
 - a. Unto Moses (1 Cor. 10:1-3).
 - b. John's baptism (Acts 19:1-5).
 - c. Baptism of suffering (Matt. 20:22,23).
 - d. Of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11).
 2. There will be a baptism of fire in the future (Matt. 3:10-12).
 3. When Paul wrote Ephesians (A.D. 62,63) there was only one baptism:
 - a. Jesus had commanded it and it was to last unto the end of the world (Matt. 28:18-20).

- b. A burial in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3,4).
 - c. Is administered by man (Matt. 28:19,20).
 - d. Puts one into Christ where salvation is (2 Tim. 2:10; Gal. 3:26,27; Mark 16:16).
4. Can not have unity with one who rejects the One Baptism!
- G. All must be in the **ONE BODY** (Verse 4).
- 1. 1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 5:30.
 - 2. The One Church (Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 1:18; Matt. 16:18).
 - 3. Jesus is the Savior of the One Body (Eph. 5:23).
 - 4. Can not have unity with one who is not in the One Body!

CONCLUSION:

1. Let us endeavor "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace!"
 - a. Not by "compromising union meetings," falsely called "unity movements."
 - b. But, by following God's plan for unity.
2. Every Christian is obligated to help maintain unity, peace, and harmony in the church, in keeping with God's plan.

The Unity Of The Bible

Guy F. Hester

1. The unity of the Bible can be summed up in one word: "Savior."
 - a. Christ is the central theme of the entire Bible.
 - b. The unity of the Bible is that there is...
 - 1) One who WOULD come.
 - 2) One who DID come.
 - 3) One who WILL come.
 - c. The word "Bible" means book.
 - 1) Sixty-six books in ONE BOOK.
 - 2) Forty different writers.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE UNITY OF THE BIBLE.

- A. Sixteen hundred years between Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 22:21.
 1. One writer did not know what others HAD written or what others WOULD write.
 2. Forty-different writers spanning sixteen centuries all in

perfect agreement.

- a. Can't get forty men to agree on anything today.
- b. One conclusion — one mind guided them (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

B. The Bible is a timeless Book.

1. The Bible is just as modern and up to date as when it was written.
 - a. Nothing has been added to it or taken from it since it was written.
 - 1) We cannot add to the wisdom of God (Rev. 22:18-19).
 - 2) It is perfect (James 1:25; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Psalm 19:7).
2. Few books survive the generation that produced them.
 - a. The Bible will stand forever (Matt. 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33).
 - b. We will be judged by it (Rev. 20:11-15).

II. THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF UNITY AND SERVES TO UNITE ALL WHO FOLLOW ITS TEACHING.

A. The Bible condemns division among the people of God (John 17:20-21).

1. The Bible unites — *"no division...all speak the same thing"* (1 Cor. 1:10).
2. The Bible does not divide the people of God.
 - a. God is not a God of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33; Eph. 4:3-6).

B. The unity of the Bible is seen in its universal scope and plan.

1. Christ came to save all men (John 6:51).
 - a. Not for chosen few, but whole world (John 12:47).
 - b. Doctrine of predestination is foreign to Word of God.
 - 1) Made universal atonement (Heb. 2:9).
 - 2) Wants all to be saved (2 Peter 3:9; Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:18-19; 1 Tim. 2:4-6).
2. Gave one plan for all men (1 Cor. 1:21; Rom. 1:16; 10:13-17).
 - a. There is unity, "oneness" in the Bible plan for man.
 - 1) **Must believe** — *"He that believeth not shall be damned"* (Mark 16:16).
 - 2) **Repent** (Acts 17:30).
 - 3) **Must confess** Christ before men (Matt. 10:32-33).
 - 4) All are commanded to be **baptized** for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).
 - b. These are the conditions upon which God has promised to save.

- c. Since He is no respecter of persons, He does not have one plan for some and another for others.
 - 1) Requirements of the Gospel are universal.
 - 2) This brings about unity of action.

CONCLUSION:

1. The unity of the Bible is this:
 - a. Man through transgression fell (Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12).
 - b. This called for a Savior.
 - 1) A Savior WOULD come (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14).
 - 2) A Savior DID come (Gal. 4:4; John 3:16).
 - 3) A Savior WILL come (2 Thess. 4:13-18; Heb. 9:28; Matt. 25:31ff).
2. Everything else in the Bible from Genesis to the close of the book of Revelation centers around this theme.

Creation Or Evolution

Windell Fikes

1. The world of UNBELIEF consists of four major varieties:
 - a. The Atheist — denies the existence of God,
 - b. The Skeptic — doubts the existence of God,
 - c. The Agnostic — believes there is not sufficient evidence to prove that God exists,
 - d. The Deist — admits the existence of God but believes God has no interest in or involvement with man.
2. **Proposition:**
 - a. The universe, all plant, land-animal, fish, fowl, and human life WAS brought into being (created) suddenly by a supremely intelligent supernatural creator, designer, and maker.

OR

 - b. The universe, all plant, land-animal, fish, fowl, and human life WAS NOT brought into being (created) suddenly by a supremely intelligent supernatural creator, designer, and maker.
3. **Definitions:**
 - a. **Creation:** Creation is the concept that the universe, earth, and all life — plant, animal, and human — came suddenly into being by the design, purpose, and the deliberate act of a supernatural, supreme being known as God.
 - b. **Evolution:** Commonly this term is used interchangeably with Darwinism. This theory suggests that the universe, earth, and all life — plant, animal, and human — originated "from a single source which itself came from an in-

organic form."¹ In other words, everything came from something which somehow emerged (and here the theory is superficial in its explanation) from a completely empty and entirely lifeless void. This theory was named the "General Theory of Evolution," by G. A. Kerkut a British physiologist and a leading proponent of the theory.²

DISCUSSION:

I. THE LAW OF THE EXCLUDED MIDDLE.

- A. This principle of logic states, "a thing either is or it is not." There is no middle ground.
- B. The universe came into being at some point in time or it did not.
 - 1. If the universe did not come into being, then it has always existed — it is eternal.
 - 2. Few are willing to take the position that the universe was not created by some means. There is simply too much evidence which prohibits the possibility that the universe is eternal — *the second LAW of Thermodynamics*, for instance.
 - 3. Dr. Robert Jastrow, an eminent astronomer, professor, and writer has stated simply, "the universe had a beginning."³
- C. The Universe was created or it was not!
 - 1. The THEORY of Evolution suggests that the world developed by some process of random chaotic chance.
 - 2. The Bible affirms that God created the universe (Gen. 1:1).

II. THE HUMAN BODY DEMANDS A DESIGNER, NOT SOME PROCESS OF CHAOS AND CHANCE.

- A. The Human Eye Argues for a Designer.
 - 1. In 1993, we published our book, *The Human Body: Accident or Design?* Therein we called attention to the amazing design of the human eye. Such design eloquently argues for a designer, namely God. Further, it disputes the baseless notion that random processes in nature could produce such a phenomenal instrument.⁴
- B. Confessions of unbelievers regarding the eye.
 - 1. The evolutionist Charles Darwin wrote: "*To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest sense.*"⁵
 - 2. Dr. Robert Jastrow, an agnostic and ardent evolution-

ist, rephrasing Darwin, likewise felt impelled to confess: *"The eye appears to have been designed; no designer of telescopes could have done better. How could this marvelous instrument have evolved by chance, through a succession of random events?"*⁶

- C. The Eye was created by The supernatural being, The Great Designer and Maker of all things. *"There is a God in Heaven"* (Daniel 2:28) *"he that formed the eye"* (Psalm 94:9).

III. THE BIBLICAL DOCUMENT (NAMELY THE SIXTY-SIX BOOKS OF SCRIPTURE) WHICH RECOUNTS THE CREATION NARRATIVE IS OF SUCH NATURE THAT IT DEMANDS A SUPERNATURAL (NON-HUMAN) SOURCE — THE CREATOR IT IDENTIFIES AS GOD.

- A. The unity, harmony, and continuity of the Scriptures.
1. Forty different men from different backgrounds were inspired to write the sacred document we know as the Bible.
 2. The writing of the Scriptures stretched across a span of sixteen centuries.
 3. The original words were penned in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek.
 4. The Bible is flawlessly continuous and does not contradict itself in a single verse!
- B. The accuracy of the Scriptures.
1. The Bible has been proven to be historically accurate time after time.
Critics once scoffed at the mention of the Hittites in the biblical narratives [supposedly they never existed] (Gen. 23:10; 26:34), but the archaeological discoveries at ancient Boghazkoy (in Turkey) have exploded that criticism and confirmed the "authenticity of the 'background material' of the Old Testament."⁷
 2. From major to minor details of Geography, the Bible has proven itself accurate.
 - a. In Luke 10:30, Luke writes of "a certain man" who was "going down from Jerusalem to Jericho." Jericho, which is actually northeast of Jerusalem is *down*. Jerusalem is nestled in the Judaeen hills some 2,600 feet *above* sea level, while Jericho lies in the deep Jordan valley approximately 825 feet *below* sea level.
 - b. Those who seek to disprove the Bible add evidence to its accuracy.
In the late 1800's, Sir William Ramsay, a scholar who was skeptical of the authenticity of the Book of

Acts, set out upon an archaeological expedition in Asia Minor with the declared intention of disproving the historicity and accuracy of Luke's narrative. After years of research, literally digging up the evidence, Ramsay was forced to conclude that Acts was historically accurate. In Acts, Luke mentions thirty-two countries, fifty-four cities, and nine Mediterranean islands. He also mentions ninety-five persons, sixty-two of which are not named elsewhere in the New Testament. And his references, where checkable, are always correct.⁸

3. The Bible recorded centuries ago what scientists are only now discovering.

- a. In the very first verse of the first book of the Bible, God identified what evolutionist Herbert Spencer (1820-1903) declared to be the fundamental pieces of the universe: time, force, action, space, matter.

Time Force Action Space Matter

| | | | |
"In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).⁹

- b. In the days of Columbus, men were uncertain of the nature of our world, yet some 800 years before Christ, Isaiah recorded *"It is he that sitteth above the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in"* (Isaiah 40:22) (emp. added)
- c. The ill, bedridden Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873) listened intently as his son read from Psalm 8:8, *"The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, Whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas."* Maury's confidence in God's word lead him to search for the "paths of the seas" when he recovered from his illness. Not surprisingly, he found exactly what the Psalmist described thirty centuries before.¹⁰ Matthew Maury's writings and his "study of ocean winds and currents" became "the basis for all pilot charts issued by the Hydrographic Office."¹¹ Where *did* the Psalmist get his information??¹²

- C. From the Bible, a book which lies far beyond the ability of human beings to produce, we can read the dramatic account of the creation of the world. We can read how that our God said *"let there be light, and it was so"* (Gen. 1:3). With merely the spoken word (2 Peter 3:5) our God brought into existence *"heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is"* (Exodus 20:11).

CONCLUSION:

1. Every living thing, the heavens and the earth testify that there was and is a supreme being who designed and made man and all things. The universe, plant, animal, and human life could not and did not originate from a single one-celled organism that came from a lifeless formless void! Nothing produces Nothing! God produced Everything! The evidence shouts that there is a CREATOR of all Creation!

END NOTES

- ¹Kerkut, George A. *The Implications of Evolution*. London: Pergamon Press, 1960, p.157 as quoted in Thompson, Bert. *The Scientific Case for Creation*. Montgomery: Apologetics Press, 1986, p. 1.
- ²Thompson, Bert. p. 1.
- ³Jastrow, Robert. *God and the Astronomers*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1978, p. 111.
- ⁴Jackson, Wayne. "The 'Eye' of The Evolutionary Storm." *Christian Courier*. Stockton: Courier Publications, August 1999, Vol. 35, No. 4, p. 15.
- ⁵Darwin, Charles. *The Origin of Species*. London: A. L. Burt, Co., 1859, p. 170 as quoted by Jackson, Wayne.
- ⁶Jastrow, Robert. *The Enchanted Loom*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1981, pp. 96-97 as quoted by Jackson, Wayne.
- ⁷*Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research*, Vol. 129, 1953, p.18 as quoted by Thompson, Bert and Wayne Jackson. *A Study Course in Christian Evidences*. Montgomery: Apologetics Press, 1992, p.115.
- ⁸Thompson, Bert and Wayne Jackson. p 115.
- ⁹Thompson, Bert and Wayne Jackson. p 125.
- ¹⁰Thompson, Bert and Wayne Jackson. p 128.
- ¹¹Lewis, Charles Lee. "Maury, Matthew Fontaine." *World Book Encyclopedia*, 1955. p 4894.
- ¹²Thompson, Bert and Wayne Jackson. p 128.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED READING

- Collett, Sidney. *All About the Bible*. Westwood: Fleming H. Revell Company.
- Jackson, Wayne. *Fortify Your Faith*. Montgomery: Apologetics Press, 1974.
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Jesus Is The Son Of God

George B. Brill

1. Belief in Christ is shown to be absolutely necessary for Eternal life. John 8:34
2. Comparing today to times past, we find that most do not seem to view this the same way.
 - a. Some teach Christ was a virtuous man who came to earth and failed in his endeavors:
 - 1) To set up a Kingdom
 - 2) To bring the complete message of God to man.
 - b. In fact, some in the Lord's church are teaching today that the knowledge of Christ is not necessary, but faith is all that's required.
3. Let's examine the Word of God and prove them.

DISCUSSION:

- I. **"JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD."**
 - A. With clear assertion the statement "Jesus is the Son of God", at present and forever so to be.
Note: Not was the "Son of God", but is the "Son of God."
 - B. Prophesied early on. Isaiah 7:13-14; 9:6-7; Deut. 18:18-19
 - C. Fulfilled. John 1:45; 20:35; 1 John 5:20; Luke 2:25-35
- II. **ACCORDING TO THEIR LAW OF THAT DAY, THE WORD OF TWO ESTABLISHED TO BE TRUTH.**
 - A. His apostles witnessed of him along with John the Baptist.
 1. Peter — Matt. 16:18, Luke 5:8
 2. John — John 20:31; Rev. 1:1
 3. Andrew — John 1:41
 4. Nathanael — John 1:49
 5. Philip — John 1:45
 6. Thomas — John 20:15; 1:34
 7. John the Baptist — John 1:15; 1:34; 1:29
 - B. Declared by God Himself. Matt. 3:17; Mark 9:7
 - C. Revealed by Jesus' confessions. Luke 4:21; John 4:26; Matt. 26:53
 - D. Confessed and revealed by devils and unclean spirits. James 2:19; Matt. 8:29; Mark 5:7; Luke 4:41
- III. **ANGELS INDICATED WHO HE WAS.**
 - A. To Joseph — Matt. 1:20
 - B. To the shepherds — Luke 2:11
- IV. **THE BLIND AND AFFLICTED.**
 - A. Matt. 21:30

- B. Centurion's servant — Matt. 8:8, 13
- C. The Greek woman whose daughter who had the devil in her. Mark 7:25-28.

The fact that she was compared to a dog had no bearing on her appeal to Christ. This is amazing because today we would get upset over a lot less than that.

V. THE WORKS OF CHRIST TESTIFY TO HIS IDENTITY.

- A. Made apparent by others.
 1. John 3:2; Matt. 27:54; Mark 15:34
 2. Acts 17:11; 17:30; 18:27-28; 8:37
- B. Cautioned by some.
 1. Acts 5:34:39; Gal. 1:15-16; Eph. 1:3
 2. Phil. 2:11; Col. 1:13

CONCLUSION:

1. God, through his only begotten Son Jesus Christ, instituted the New Testament and the most powerful love man can know, ending in our salvation and eternal life. The facts are told as in the law and now, today, by the Scriptures, who created the world and everything in it, designating his Son and ensuring eternal salvation through Him to all who will believe and obey. This account given throughout most of the books of the Bible verifies the fact that "Jesus is the Son of God." The honest, fair and opened-minded person who will take the time and effort to look will find only one conclusion, **"That God lives and Jesus is the Son of God."**
 2. Today, any lawyer or first year law student would welcome a case where there are so many witnesses, and the proof is so conclusive. This is what would be termed as an "air tight" case. "Air tight," simply put, means there is no possibility of mistakes. By using nothing but the Bible (Scriptures), and noting the affirmations by such as Angels, God, Apostles, devils, spirit, and even the blind, there is no other conclusion that can be assessed.
 3. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God. 1 John 5:4-5
 4. So I close the same as I opened, **"JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD."**
-

Atheism

Sherman Offord

"To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good" (Psalm 14:1).

1. Fool, nabel, naw-bale; a primary root: to wilt; generally to fall away, fail, faint: figurative to be foolish, wicked; causative to despair, disgrace, dishonor, lightly esteem, fade, do foolishly, come to nought, surely, make vile, wither. (Strong's)
2. Appears 66 times in 62 verses. A very accurate description of the "atheist."

DISCUSSION:

I. THE DOCTRINE OF ATHEISM—WHAT IS IT?

- A. "As Theism is the doctrine of an extramundane, personal God, the creator, preserver, and governor of all things. Any doctrine which denies the existence of such a Being is anti-theistic." (Systematic Theology, by Charles Hodge, vol.1, p. 241).
 1. Atheism simply denies what Theism affirms, its very existence is a term of reproach.
 - a. It was a label to be avoided, Hume resented it.
 - b. Helvetius says, "There is no man of understanding who does not admit an active principle in nature; therefore is no atheist." (Introduction to the General History of Philosophy, Vol. 1, p. 169).
- B. Herbert Spenser reduces all our knowledge to two facts:
 1. That the force is.
 2. The Force is persistent.
 - a. It is perfectly inscrutable and incomprehensible, thus we can not know God.
 - b. Even that which is a result of this persistent Force is incomprehensible. c.f. Rom. 1:20
 3. Based upon these premises, Spenser attempts to reconcile religion and science.
 - a. The ultimate principle of religion is that in which all (sic) religions agree...is, that there is, and inscrutable power which is the cause of all things (a creative force)...in a word...God!!!
 - b. This is also the ultimate principle of science. (i.e. an inexplicable creative force).
 4. Question: Where is this common ground?
 - a. Nothing can be predicated of this cause:
 - 1) Not consciousness.
 - 2) Not intelligence.
 - 3) Not will.

- 4) Only that it is a force.
- b. This is all the God that the new philosophy leaves us...as per se Herbert Spenser.
- C. Now for the other end of the spectrum, which is the established perimeters of the linguistic factor.
 - 1. The fact of the matter is that the meaning of words cannot change at the pleasure of individuals.
 - 2. The written word of God and its equivalents in other languages, have a definite meaning of which there can be no deviations.
 - a. If one says that he or she believes in God, then he or she is affirming that there is an omnipresence, omniscient, and omnipotent Being.

II. DIVISIONS OF ATHEISM.

- A. The definition means without God. That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: Eph. 2:12.
 - 1. Originally the interpretation of this word means a denial of the existence of God, a disbelief in God, which is in total opposition to Theism.
 - 2. Jacob W. Kapp's assertions found in "I.S.B.E. vol. 1 pp. 318-319 suggests that in order for one to obtain a vivid impression of Atheism, one must understand their different meanings."
- B. The topic of Atheism falls into four distinct channels, Classical, Philosophic, Dogmatic and Practical Atheism.
 - 1. The first of the segregation's of these segregationist is the **Classical**, which does not mean a denial of the existence of a Divine Being.
 - a. In fact it is a denial of the existence and reality of the god of a particular nation.
 - b. Thus you see that the Christians were considered repeat offenders by their refusal to recognize the gods of heathenism.
 - 2. **The Philosophic**, the very systems to which this term is applied does not necessarily deny the existence of a Divine Being or of a First Cause.
 - a. They are atheistic in their teachings and tend to trouble the faith of mankind in the existence of God. Rom. 3:3-4; 1 Cor. 16:13; Gal. 2:16,20; 1 Tim. 4:1
 - b. Yes, they most assuredly believe in a First Cause, a force greater than themselves and that life was produced...not created, Rom. 1:28.
 - 3. **Dogmatic**: emphatically denies the existence of God.
 - a. Yet such a stance is impossible to maintain. Cousin

- states that it is impossible, because the existence of God is implied in every assertion.
- b. Yet one can be certain that throughout the ages there have been persons who ascribe themselves as absolute atheists, i.e. in deed and/or in conduct.
 - c. Of particular note is the widespread skepticism of the 18th century, wherein many professed themselves to be atheistic, cf. Isa. 30:9-10; 2 Peter 3:3.
 - d. This attitude (of skepticism) developed from a loose application of usage and broad definition of the Word, often leading to a spirit of boastfulness, Rom. 1:22-23.
4. **Practical Atheism**, has nothing at all to do with belief, it accepts the assertions of Theism.
- a. It's a mode of life wherein one lives as if there was no God, a form which is manifested often by a complete indifference to the claims of the Divine Being and/or outspoken and defiant wickedness, Psalm 14:1.
 - b. It is well known that this form of atheism is very prevalent today, and is accompanied, in many cases, with some form of unbelief, prejudice or false opinion of the Church or Christianity.
 - c. Dogmatic atheism is no longer a menace or hindrance to the growth of Christianity.
 1. Intellectualism is the call of the day. To take a stance today without offering a ridiculously illogical argument, is the hedonistic cry of the day.
 2. Logic and reasoning are alien to those who have no desire to promote the truth.

III. THE HISTORICITY OF ATHEISM?

- A. What is known of the history of Atheism? For we have ascertained that those of this mindset denies the existence of God, which David has personified in Psalm 14:1 (53:1).
1. Operating upon the premise that David's declaration was directed at the atheist, then we can conclude that those of this mindset (their numbers) had grown to significance.
 - a. How can such a statement be affirmed? Well, when David penned this particular passage, what was his frame of mind at that time?
 - b. Well, it is obvious to me that a certain group of malefactors, who were of significant strength and size had blossomed, and were worthy of the sovereign's concern and scrutiny.

- c. "This purports to be one of David's psalms and there is no reason to doubt the correctness of the superscription. Yet we are entirely ignorant of the time and circumstances of its composition." Barnes Notes, Psalms, Vol. 1 p. 112.
- 2. Now, before it is said that I'm attempting to defend the faith with a broken sword. Let us ascertain the addresses of this Psalm.
 - a. When God calls a man a fool, I feel that it is not only safe to conclude, but to label him or her as such.
 - 1) O.T. language is abundantly rich in epithets for the unwise, the simple, and the silly, with the lowest branch of this scale; the fool, and the madman the uppermost.
 - 2) With the simpleton or maniac, somewhat sharing the middle ground, words derived from this verbal stem signifies either to be extended, to relax, to become frail, to wither, or to be prominent.
 - 3) The thought expressed herein are the thoughts and action of such a man, is the climax of imbecility. Keil & Delitzsch's Psalm v.5 pp. 126 states "It is not merely practical atheism, that is intended by this maxim. The heart according to Scripture language is not only the seat of volition, but also of thought."
 - b. Thus, one may conclude that one's state of mind is being addressed. From the "heart" (intellect, emotions, conscience, will) one has become atheist, affirming no God.

IV. THE ATHEIST'S IDENTITY.

- A. It is a common and proven fact that when man's desire is strong enough, he can and does justify his perversions.
 - 1. As we have ascertained, man's mindset is of a progressive inclination; not nature, for the humanist (Calvinist) states That such has been predetermined by God to be man's lot, c.f. Gen. 6:5.
 - 2. A daily diet of garbage, can only produce garbage. Once one sets down the road of perversion, and it only stands to reason that if one can reason to do God's will, c.f. Isa. 1:18, then one can also reason to pervert God's will.
- B. Common logic dictates that if there is no God, then it is justifiable to live an ungodly lifestyle. If I evolved from a lower form of animal, then it's only natural if I revert from time to time to utilizing our baser instinct, it's not my

fault.

1. Since the realm in which this assumption exist, is mental, then the natural progression is, the god MENTALITY, i.e. advanced academic, cf. Rom. 1:21-22; Prov. 23:7.
2. In that same vain (intellect), there has always been a certain group of people who had laid claim to possession of a special knowledge that others were not privy to.
 - a. A sect of this group are known as Gnostics. Dr. Orr writes, "Gnosticism may be described generally as the fantastic product of the blending of certain Christian ideas particularly that of redemption through Christ; with speculations and imaginings derived from a medley of sources." I.S.B.E. Vol. 2, p. 1240
 - 1) As the name denotes a claim to knowledge of the kind which the ordinary believer was not privy to, which stated that they could not, or better yet, did not know that there is a God.
 - 2) Conclusion: this could be the people spoken of in Psalms 14:1; 53:1, for their special knowledge could not ascertain the existence of God, nor could (or would) they deny His existence.
 - a) What we have here is a prime example of fence straddling, atheism of the philosophical and practical sort.
 - b. When human intellect is the driving force, then, whatever man can think up, plus, his strength of will (ability) to enforce it (with the absence of Godly influence)...that becomes the order of the day, result: human depravity.
 3. The passages in question appears to have been composed by one under the influence of one holding to the conviction as to the depth and extent of human depravity, while yet viewing a general atmosphere of total neglect and disregard toward God.

B. But, can one state that such a state of affairs was confined to any one period in David's life?

 1. The fact of the matter is that there has not been a country, or age in view of the foregoing facts that the composition of such as the Psalmist statement may be dated. At least not with man's limited ability.
 2. In the beginning, when Satan entered the garden in Gen. 3, what was his mindset? HE KNEW BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT...GOD...IS!!!!!!
 - a. Remember the HEART being not only the seat of volition but thought as well. Though he was knowl-

edgeable of God, his actions denoted not only his defiance, but his dogmatic denial that God...is, but that God will...recompense.

- b. Thus, throughout time mankind has exemplified this self-same defiance and denial, Cain and Abel (Gen. 4); the people of Noah's generation before the flood (Gen. 6:5); Pharaoh's who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice (Ex. 5:2).

CONCLUSION:

1. In this lesson I did not deal with the fallacies and lies whereof their doctrine (creed) subsist. For it is my contention that this lectureship sufficiently does this.
2. I attempted to define and identify when atheism became a reality. As well as who would be classified today as an Atheist. An Atheist is one, whose lifestyle and mannerisms are in conflict with God's commandments.
3. That Atheism's existence is a reality. Thus I shall close with my opening text...word to the wise. **If you have a problem with the wording of this particular Psalm, then your problem is not with me...your problem is with God.**

Agnosticism

Lenard Hogan

1. There are agnostics of different degrees.
 - a. There are some true agnostics and some lean toward believing in God.
 - b. There are others who are members of some religious body.
 - c. Some even have their names on the roll of the Lord's church.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE TRUE AGNOSTIC.

- A. States that there is not enough evidence to say that God exists.¹
 1. Since he states there is not enough evidence to believe that God exists or does not exist he continues to be an unbeliever.
 2. Yet he is not an atheist as he does not say that God does not exist.
 3. Some Philosophers simply say the evidence is not available to know that God exists.²
 - a. We cannot call these people atheists, yet their final

destination will be the same as the atheist.

II. SOME AGNOSTICS SAY THE EVIDENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE TO PROVE THAT GOD DOES OR DOES NOT EXIST, BUT LEAN TOWARD BELIEVING IN GOD.³

- A. These people are neither atheists or theists even though they lean toward believing in the existence of God.
- B. There must be many in the church in this category.
 - 1. Their actions prove they do not believe that God means what he has written in the Bible.
 - a. They are afraid not to believe in God, Christ and the Holy Spirit, but do not believe strongly enough to be faithful.
 - b. They have never been really converted, therefore do not have enough confidence in God to be faithful.
 - c. Afraid not to give mental accent that God is, but never committed.
 - d. As some have put it, they think they have some fire insurance.

III. THE AGNOSTIC, WHETHER A TRUE ONE OR ONE THAT LEANS TOWARD BELIEVING IN GOD, IS STILL AN AGNOSTIC.

- A. Whether one ever makes any pretence of believing in God or only pretends to believe in God, he is an unbeliever.
 - 1. All unbelievers are condemned already (John 3:18).
 - 2. God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn, but to save (John 3:17).
 - 3. Therefore, the agnostic cannot be saved whether in the church or out of the church.
- B. Several years ago some in the church claimed that one cannot know the truth.
 - 1. When one makes such a claim, he denies the word of God, as God states man can know the truth, therefore an agnostic.
 - a. *"And ye shall know the truth..."* (John 8:32).

IV. WHEN ONE STATES YOU CANNOT KNOW WHETHER GOD EXISTS OR NOT, HE SAYS:

- A. It is impossible to know that God is, that the Bible is the inerrant word.⁴
- B. He also states one cannot know that Jesus died for us and arose from the dead and that Christianity is the one true religion.⁵
- C. When the agnostic states it is impossible to know that God exists, he states that one cannot know anything about eternity.

1. *"The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God"* (Psalm 14:1; 53:1).
 2. For one to make such a statement makes him a fool in God's sight.
- D. Even though the agnostic has not declared there is no God, he says we cannot say without doubt that God is.

V. GOD WILL REJECT THE AGNOSTIC AS HE WILL ALL OTHER UNBELIEVERS.

- A. We read of those who refused to acknowledge God in Romans 1:28-32.
1. Man has come to think that he is wiser than God.

VI. THERE IS AGNOSTICISM AMONG RELIGIOUS PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT CHRISTIANS.

- A. Some teach the predestination of the individual.
1. Saying if an individual is predestined to be saved, that person cannot do anything to change his status — teaching that whatever he does, good or bad, he will be saved.
 2. On the other hand, if predestined to be lost, he cannot be saved even if he lives righteously before God until death.
 3. These positions contradict the scriptures.
 4. If the individual were predestinated to be saved or lost, why the following scriptures?
 - a. *"And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely"* (Rev. 22:17d).
 - b. *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..."* (Mark 16:16).
 - c. *"For God so loved the world..."* (John 3:16).
 - d. Rev. 2:10d, *"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."*
 - e. The truth stated in these scriptures informs us that man has a part in his salvation. When one teaches otherwise, isn't this a form of saying there is not enough evidence to know the truth!
- B. Some teach that one cannot so sin as to be lost after receiving the remission of sins.
1. 2 Peter 2:20-21 states we can leave God after receiving the remission of our sins.
 - a. When one teaches this doctrine, isn't he saying one cannot know that he can be lost after being forgiven, thus a form of agnosticism.
 - b. What about Paul having to watch himself after he had preached the truth to others (1 Cor. 9:27)?
- C. The "faith only" advocate states there is no scripture that

teaches otherwise.

1. However, James 2:17-26 states faith must be accompanied by works.

VII. SOME CHURCH MEMBERS EXPRESS AGNOSTICISM BY THEIR ACTIONS.

A. There are some who profess Christianity, but fail to live according to the commandments of God. Isn't this a form of Agnosticism?

1. Many will not study in order to know how to rightly divide the word of God. 2 Timothy 2:15 is a command to study. When we fail to study to be approved of God, isn't this a form of agnosticism?

CONCLUSION:

1. Agnosticism is a form of unbelief.
 - a. One form of agnosticism states there is not enough evidence to cause me to believe that God exists, therefore I cannot know whether there is a God or not.
 - b. Another says the evidence is not present, but I lean toward believing that God exists.
 - c. Others say there is not enough evidence for me to know what to do, so I'll do what seems right to me.
 - 1) Many believe things that the Bible does not teach will please God.
 - d. Some members of the Lord's church say there is not enough evidence for my faith to be a working faith
2. Whatever form of agnosticism one holds too means he/she cannot be with God in eternity, unless there is a change made.

END NOTES

¹Thomas B. Warren Spiritual Sword, Volume 8 #4 July 1979

²Ibid ³Ibid ⁴Ibid ⁵Ibid

Does Faith Have An Element Of Doubt?

Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:1,6

Luell McCutchen

1. The Bible does not provide a clear definition of words and phrases.
 - a. It does, however, use them in context so we can discern their meanings.

2. "Love" is a good example of how the Bible uses words in contexts.
 - a. Paul does not tell us what love means, he tells us how it behaves. 1 Cor. 13:4-5
3. Since we know what love is because we know how it behaves, let's apply the same principle to faith.
 - a. Can we as God's children understand faith?
 - b. Does faith have an element of doubt?

DISCUSSION:

I. FAITH DEFINED.

- A. W. E. Vines, says: "It is primarily firm persuasion, a conviction based upon hearing, to persuade."
- B. The Hebrew writer says in Heb. 11:1: "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*"
 1. Substance, that which stands under ... assurance conviction.
- C. Faith used as a synonym.
 1. *Trust*: 1 Cor. 15:14: "*And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*"
 - a. If Christians are not raised, then their trust in Christ has been misplaced. 1 Cor. 15:17: "*And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain, you are yet in your sins.*"
 2. *Trustworthiness*
 3. *Faithfulness*
- D. Faith is used in reference to what one believes. Acts 6:7, "*And the word of God increased, and the number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly: and a great number of priest were obedient to the faith.*"
- E. What faith is not: Paul says: Gal. 1:23, "*But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.*"
 1. Faith is not a feeling.
 - a. Both words "substance" and "evidence" tells us that faith must be founded on fact.
 2. Faith is not an opinion.
 3. Faith is not a hunch.
 - a. If confidence and proof have no foundation, we are guilty of merely wishing.

II. DOUBT DEFINED:

- A. Webster says: "Mental indecision, uncertainty, misgiving, distrust, suspicion. Doubt is lack of certainty about a fact or theory, to waiver in opinion, or belief, to question, distrust."

- B. Peter's example. Matt. 14:23-33
 - 1. He dared to undertake what others were afraid to do.
 - 2. Trust in the Word of God.
 - a. Heb. 4:12, *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*
 - b. Rom. 1:16, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek."*

III. EXAMPLES OF OBEDIENT FAITH.

- A. Abel, Heb. 11:4.
- B. Enoch, Heb. 11:5-6.
- C. Noah, Heb. 11:7.
- D. Abraham and Sarah, Heb. 11:8,9,11.
- E. Impossible to please God without faith. Heb. 11:6, *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."*
- F. We must have faith to be saved. Mark 16:16
- G. We must have faith to be justified . Rom. 3:28
 - 1. There is no relationship with God apart from faith.

IV. HOW DOES FAITH WORK IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE TODAY?

Rom. 10:17, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

- A. Faith underlies every act of obedience.
 - 1. Faith is a basic attitude.
- B. True religion begins with faith in God.
Eccl. 12:13, *"Fear God and keep his commandments."*
- C. Faith in the existence of God.
Psalm 19:1, *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handy-work."*
- D. The lack of faith makes one a fool.
Psa. 14:1, *"The fool hath said in his heart there is no God..."*
 - 1. Atheist, Carl Sagan says: "Christians are ignorant people because they believe in something they do not have the evidence to prove."
 - a. According to his way of thinking, Biblical faith is nothing more than a blind leap off a cliff.
- E. God is manifested in the creation.
Rom. 1:19-20, *"Because that which may be known of God"*

is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"

1. The heavens declare the glory of God. Psa. 19:1
- F. Faith in God is based on visible evidence. John 20:30-31

V. CHRISTIANS TODAY NEED GREATER FAITH.

- A. We walk by faith. 2 Cor. 5:7
- B. We stand by faith. Rom. 11:20; 1 Cor. 1:21
- C. We live by faith. 1 John 5:4-5; Gal. 2:20
- D. The devil is resisted by faith. 1 Peter 5:9
- E. We overcome by faith. Eph. 6:16
- F. Our works demonstrate our faith. Eph. 3:17

CONCLUSION:

1. Faith in God is based upon evidence. Heb. 10:22; 1 Peter 1:5-6; James 1:3
2. Blessings come through faith.
 - a. Remission of sins. Acts 10:43
 - b. Salvation is offered. Mark 16:16
 - c. Eternal life awaits. John 3:15-16
 - d. Become children of God. Gal. 3:26-27
 - e. Access to God. Rom. 5:2
 - f. The answer to prayer is based upon faith. James 1:6
3. There can be no element of doubt.
 - a. Biblical faith is based upon solid evidence.
 - b. Biblical faith is a faith that responds in obedience to all the commandments of God.

The story is told of a young boy who went out to fly his kite on an April afternoon. As he was flying his kite a cloud slowly covered the kite so that it could not be seen. It was at that time an elderly man passed by and noticed the boy holding a string. "Why are you standing there holding that string" he asked. To which the boy replied "I am flying my kite."

The elderly man looked up and seeing nothing but the cloud in the otherwise clear sky said, "I don't see a kite." The boy looking up said, "I don't see a kite either, sir but I know it is there because every now and then I feel a tug on my string." Although the boy could not see the kite he knew it was there, the evidence — a tug on the string.

Heb. 11:1, "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" Brethren faith in God and in His Son Jesus Christ can only be strong when it is based upon solid evidence. There is no element of doubt.

The History And Doctrines Of Humanism

Kenneth Burluson

1. Isn't it sad when people believe man is the supreme being?
2. Godless humanism is rampant in our land today. It is a No-God religion with faith in man instead of God.
3. Our children are being fed a steady diet of this theory in some schools, by library books, by movies, by music, etc.
4. It is time for us to take a stand.
5. White House Conference on the home during the Presidency of Jimmy Carter.
6. The silent majority has been silent too long.
7. This lesson will deal with the history and the doctrines of Humanism.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE HISTORY OF HUMANISM.

- A. Humanism is a philosophical, religious and moral point of view as old as human civilization itself.
 1. Its roots are in classical China, Greece, and Rome.
 2. It is expressed in the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, in the scientific revolution, and in the twentieth century.
- B. Each age seeks to define what its distinctive values are, what it seeks to cherish and advance. This is Humanism.
- C. In 1933, a group of 34 liberal humanists in America drafted Humanist Manifesto I.
 1. This was to them important in its time.
 2. It did not go far enough for them.
 3. It could not address itself to future problems and needs, according to the Humanists.
- D. Forty years later, Humanist Manifesto II was drafted.
- E. Humanist Manifesto II was signed by 114 individuals.
 1. Among those who signed it was R. Lester Mondale. (Walter Mondale's brother).
 2. Many were considered to be prominent individuals.
 3. Therefore, it has had a devastating influence upon society.
 4. Atheism and Humanism go hand and hand.
- F. Modern Humanism had its beginning in Florence, Italy, in the 15th century.
 1. A group of writers rebelled against Roman Catholicism and its political machinery.
 2. They turned primarily to the pagan culture of Greece (500 B.C.) which basic philosophy was: "Man is the

measure, the total summary of all things" and that contradictions are true.

3. This idea replaces God as the center of man's interest and sets man himself and his welfare as the central and most important of man's thoughts and concerns.
- G. Listed below are the points in Manifesto I. We will go into more detail on Humanist Manifesto II.

II. DOCTRINES OF HUMANISM.

A. Humanist Manifesto I. 1933

1. The Universe is self-existent and not created.
2. Man is a part of nature and has emerged as the result of a continuous process.
3. Holding an organic view of life, traditional dualism of mind and body must be rejected.
4. Man's religious culture and civilization are the products of a gradual development due to his interaction with his natural environment and with his social heritage.
5. Humanism asserts that the nature of the universe depicted by modern science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values.
6. We are convinced that the time has passed for theism, deism, modernism, and the several varieties of "new thought."
7. Religion consists of those actions, purposes, and experiences which are humanly significant.... The distinction between the sacred and the secular can no longer be maintained.
8. Religious humanism considers the complete realization of human personality to be the end of man's life and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now.
9. In place of the old attitude, involved in worship and prayer, the humanist finds his religious emotions expressed in a heightened sense of personal life and in a cooperative effort to promote social well-being.
10. It follows that there will be no uniquely religious emotions and attitudes of the kind hitherto associated with belief in the supernatural.
11. Man will learn to face the crises of life in terms of his knowledge of their naturalness and probability.... We assume that humanism will take the path of social and mental hygiene and discourage sentimental and unreal hopes and wishful thinking.
12. Believing that religion must work increasingly for joy in living, religious humanists aim to foster the creature in man and to encourage achievements that add to the

satisfactions of life.

13. Religious humanism maintains that all associations and institutions exist for the fulfillment of human life.
 14. The humanists are firmly convinced that existing acquisitive and profit-motivated society has shown itself to be inadequate and that a radical change in methods, controls, and motives must be instituted. A socialized and cooperative economic order must be established to the end that the equitable distribution of the means of life be possible. The goal of humanism is a free and universal society in which people voluntarily and intelligently cooperate for the common good. Humanists demand a shared life in a shared world.
 15. We assert that humanism will...
 - a. affirm life rather than deny it;
 - b. seek to elicit the possibilities of life, not flee from it; and
 - c. endeavor to establish the conditions of a satisfactory life for all, not merely for the few.
- B. Humanist Manifesto II.
1. Preface to Manifesto II.
 - a. As in 1933, humanists still believe that traditional theism, especially faith in the prayer-hearing God, assumed to love and care for persons, to hear and understand their prayers, and to be able to do something about them, is an unproved and outmoded faith. Salvationism, based on mere affirmation, still appears as harmful, diverting people with false hopes of heaven hereafter. Reasonable minds look to other means for survival.
 - b. Many kinds of humanism exist in the contemporary world.
 1. Naturalistic humanism includes: scientific, ethical, democratic, religious and marxist.
 2. Free thought includes: atheism, agnosticism, skepticism, deism, rationalism, ethical culture, and liberal religion all claim to be heir to the humanist tradition.
 - c. We affirm a set of common principles that can serve as a basis for united action-positive principles relevant to the present human condition. They are a design for a secular society on a planetary scale.
 2. Humanist Manifesto II.
 - a. Religion
 - 1) We believe that traditional dogmatic or authoritarian religions that place revelation, God, ritual, or creed above human needs and experiences do

- a disservice to the human species. We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural;... As non-theists we begin with humans not God, nature not deity...While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.
- 2) Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns, from self-actualization, and from rectifying social injustices.
- b. Ethics
- 1) We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience.
 - a. Ethics is autonomous and situational, needing no theological or ideological sanction.
 - b. Ethics stems from human need and interest.
 - c. Human life has meaning because we create and develop our future.
 - 2) Reason and intelligence are the most effective instruments that humankind possesses... But reason must be tempered by humility.
- c. The individual
- 1) The preciousness and dignity of the individual person is a central humanist value... We reject all religious ideological, or moral codes that denigrate the individual, suppress freedom, dull intellect, dehumanize personality.
 - 2) In the area of sexuality, we believe that intolerant attitudes, often cultivated by orthodox religions and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct...The right to birth control, abortion, and divorce should be recognized.... Civilized society should be a tolerant one. Short of harming others or compelling them to do likewise.
- d. Democratic Society
- 1) To enhance freedom and dignity, the individual must experience a full range of civil liberties in all societies.... This includes freedom of speech and the press, political democracy, the legal right of opposition to governmental policies, fair judicial process, religious liberty, freedom of association, and artistic, scientific, and cultural freedom. It also includes a recognition of an individual's right to die with dignity, euthanasia and

- the right to suicide....
- 2) We are committed to an open and democratic society....People are more important than deca-logues, rules, proscriptions, or regulations.
 - 3) The separation of church and state and the separation of ideology and state are imperative. The state should encourage maximum freedom for different moral, political, religious and social values in society.
 - 4) Humane societies should evaluate economic systems not by rhetoric or ideology, but by whether or not they increase economic well-being for all individuals and groups.
 - 5) The principle of moral equality must be fur-thered through elimination of all discrimination based upon race, religion, sex, age, or national origin.... We believe in the right to universal education.... We deplore racial, religious, ethnic, or class antagonisms.... We are critical of sexism or sexual chauvinism—male or female.
3. World community
- 1) We deplore the division of humankind on nation-alistic grounds.... We look to the development of a system of world law and a world order based upon transnational federal government.
 - 2) This world community must renounce the resort to violence and force as a method of solving international disputes.
 - 3) The world community must engage in coopera-tive planning concerning the use of rapidly depleting resources.
 - 4) The problems of economic growth and develop-ment can no longer be resolved by one nation alone; they are worldwide in scope.
 - 5) Technology is a vital key to human progress and development.... We would resist any moves to censor basic scientific research on moral, politi-cal, or social grounds.
 - 6) We must expand communication and transporta-tion across frontiers.

III. REFUTATION OF HUMANIST MANIFESTO I AND II.

A. The Humanist believes the universe is self-existing and not created.

Answer: Gen. 1:1, There are only three choices for the existence of the universe.

1. It is itself, eternal

2. A supreme divine being created it
3. It created itself sometime in the past. Humanists do not really like choices 1 and 3. They cannot explain either. But one thing is sure, they will not accept the second, the fact that God created it.

B. They believe that, "...science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural process of evolutionary forces."

Answer: True science does not affirm the natural process of evolutionary forces. Everything in science points to an all wise and powerful creator. The beauty of design certainly points to this. Psa. 19:1; Rom. 1:20

C. Humanists do not believe man is made of both body and soul.

Answer: Eccl. 12:7; 3:21; Isa. 42:5; Zech. 12:1, Scientists cannot deny that part of man that distinguishes him from the whole animal world.

D. Humanists claims that the nature of the universe, as depicted by modern Science, makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantee of human values.

Answer: The true scientific world recognizes this to be wrong.

1. God placed in man a moral sense of decency, and right and wrong.

2. It has always been wrong to lie, steal, murder, etc. God has given every man the right to make his own choices as to whether he follows right or wrong. Deut. 11:26-28; Matt. 7:13,14.

3. The choice is ours. Josh. 24:15

4. We can choose whose servant we will be. One's freedom does not consist of more than this. Matt. 12:30

E. Humanists have concluded that the time has passed for Theism, Deism. Their idea is that the time has long passed for people to believe in the God of the Bible, eternal, all wise and all powerful God.

Deism — the belief that a supreme being created the universe and everything in it but no longer is involved with the operation of it today.

Answer: Dan. 4:45; Matt. 5:45; Heb. 1:3. God did not wind the world up and turn it loose and let it go. God still has His providential hand in the affairs of the world.

F. Religious Humanists claim all there is to life is what we experience in the here and now.

Answer: Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:12-15

G. Humanists down-play religion and ask that it change with the times.

Answer: True religion cannot change with the times. It is

settled by the word of God. Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18,19; Jude 3

H. Humanism is communistic in thinking. They desire one world, no multiplicity of nations. One world rule.

I. They reject the supernatural, refusing to accept God-given values.

Answer: The word of God describes the values by which we are to live.

J. They do not believe in a caring, prayer-hearing God.

Answer: God does care and he does hear our prayers. 1 Peter 5:7; John 9:31; James 1:5-8

K. They claim that deity does not save, we must save ourselves.

Answer: Man was made to seek God. Acts 17:26,27 Deity does save us, but we must save ourselves by obeying the commands of God. Luke 19:10; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:40; Rom. 5:8; Phil. 2:12; Acts 14:46; 2 Cor. 12:10

L. They claim that Christianity encourages wrong living.

Answer: It does not encourage wrong living or social injustice. One must love God and man, Matt. 12:37-40. They cannot disprove heaven or hell. The realization of heaven and hell does not promote evil.

CONCLUSION:

1. Godless Humanism is having a devastating influence upon society today.
2. It is influencing crime, adultery, fornication, etc.
3. It is time for people to wake up to this fact.
4. It is time for us to begin to have an influence for good on our educational system in America. Politicians seem to think the fix-all for education is simply adding more dollars. Humanism has led to a lack of discipline in schools and all other aspects of our life.
5. Let us be a positive influence for good against these false doctrines.

Evidences Of The Lord's Resurrection

Garland M. Robinson

1. 1 Cor 15:14,17, "*...If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*" ¹⁷"*...ye are yet in your sins.*"
2. The historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead

is the central theme of Gospel preaching.

- a. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then we should all go home now — we're just wasting our time.
 - b. If Jesus did rise from the dead, then men and women around the world must accept it and render obedience to Him as the Lord and Master.
3. What evidence is there for the resurrection of Jesus from the dead?

DISCUSSION:

I. THE EVIDENCE OF THE EYE WITNESSES.

- A. Hundreds and even thousands who saw him with their own eyes bear witness to the resurrection.
 1. Eye witness testimony is verifiable. It stands in any court room.
 - a. 1 Cor. 15:5-8, Paul appealed to hundreds of eye witnesses many years after the resurrection. Many were still alive and could be questioned.
 - b. To parade 500 witnesses in a court room would be overwhelming evidence to the accuracy of any event.
 2. The apostles and others touched him and ate with him (John 20:17,27; Luke 24:39-43).
- B. The accuracy of the Gospel records is verified by the same method as any other documents written at the time, whether Greek, Roman or Jewish.
 1. When the Gospel records speak of geography or the political climate of the time, they do so with minute accuracy that is verified by other accepted documents.
 2. Therefore, we are assured that whatever events they speak of, they too are historical and accurate — even the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
- C. There were many appearances of Jesus after his resurrection.

THE LORD'S APPEARANCES AFTER HIS RESURRECTION

TIME	TO WHOM	WHERE	RECORD
Early Sunday morning	Mary Magdalene	Near the tomb	Mark 16:9; John 20:11-18
Sunday morning	Women returning from the tomb	Near Jerusalem	Matt. 28:9,10
Sunday	Simon Peter	Near Jerusalem	Luke 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5

Sunday afternoon	Two disciples going to Emmaus	Between Jerusalem and Emmaus	Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-31
Sunday evening	Apostles, except Thomas	Jerusalem	Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25; 1 Cor. 15:5
Sunday evening of the next week	Apostles, including Thomas	Jerusalem	Mark 16:14; John 20:26-29
Unknown	Seven disciples fishing	Sea of Galilee	John 21:1-13
Unknown	Eleven disciples on a mountain	Galilee	Matt. 28:16-20
Unknown	Above 500 brethren at once	Galilee	1 Cor. 15:6
Unknown	James	unknown	1 Cor. 15:7
Unknown	All the apostles	Mount of Olives near Bethany	Luke 24:50-51; 1 Cor. 15:7; Acts 1:4-12
Unknown	Paul	unknown	1 Cor. 15:8

II. THE EVIDENCE OF THE EMPTY TOMB.

- A. Four facts are evident from the empty tomb.
 - 1. The stone was rolled back and the tomb was open.
 - 2. The body of Jesus was gone.
 - 3. The grave clothes were still within.
 - 4. It was the first day of the week, the third day since his death. It was the day on which Jesus said he would rise from the dead (Matt. 20:19; 27:63; Luke 24:7).
- B. John 20:1, When Mary Magdalene went to the burial place of Jesus, she found the stone rolled away which sealed the tomb.
 - 1. This event was never denied by anyone.
 - 2. Matt. 28:11-15, It was even verified by the enemies of Jesus. The soldiers who guarded the tomb were bribed to report that his body had been stolen. Therefore, they acknowledged the tomb was empty.
- C. The preaching of the apostles on Pentecost and afterward confirm Jesus was raised from the dead.
 - 1. They did not go to a far away place such as Corinth, Rome, Athens or Ethiopia and preach the resurrection of Christ where their claims could not be verified and

documented.

2. They preached it in the very city where the event took place!
 3. A man would be a fool to preach one rose from the dead in the same city where his corpse lay. However, with Jesus, there was no corpse, the tomb was empty.
 4. Any who heard the apostles preach could easily verify the accuracy of their claims.
 5. The empty tomb had to have been the talk of the whole city. No one could deny it, nor did they even try!
- D. Both Jewish and Roman sources and traditions confirm the tomb was empty.
1. From Josephus (a first century Jewish historian who was not a Christian) to a group of 5th century writings known as the "Toledoth Jeshu," they all confirm the tomb was empty.
 - a. Both of these are considered hostile sources.
 - b. That is, sources who do not believe in Christ, yet admit the historical evidence as being true.
 2. Acts 5:34-41, Gamaliel (a Pharisee, a doctor of the law, a member of the Jewish high-count, a non-Christian) reports that the Sanhedrin could not refute the apostles preaching of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.
 - a. Acts 5:38-40. He said, "*...Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: ³⁹But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God. ⁴⁰And to him they agreed....*"
 - b. If the Jews knew the whereabouts of Jesus' body or could otherwise refute the apostles' claim, they would have done so. But Gamaliel admits they simply could not disprove the apostles preaching. The best advice he could give was to leave them alone.

III. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BODY OF JESUS?

- A. Since Jesus' body was gone from its burial place, it was either removed by **human agency** or **divine agency**. There is no other option.
1. If the tomb was empty by human agency, then it could not have been by divine agency.
 2. If the tomb was empty by divine agency, then it could not have been by human agency.
 3. If it was removed by human agency, then it had to be either by the friends or by the enemies of Jesus.
 - a. If we can show from the evidence that his body was not removed by either his friends or enemies, then

it will prove his body was removed by divine intervention as he said (cf. Matt. 27:63; Mark 9:31).

- b. We can prove it was neither his friends nor enemies that removed his body; therefore, he came to life and walked away by divine intervention.

B. The Lord's friends did not remove the body.

1. Some who deny the resurrection say the disciples stole his body and claimed he rose from the dead.
 - a. At the Lord's capture the disciples fled, fearing for their lives (Matt. 26:56).
 - b. Who would believe that in three days they were so daring to steal past the soldiers guarding the tomb, roll away the great stone, and steal the Lord's body?
 - c. Even if they were brave enough, who can believe the friends of Jesus would take the time to sneak past the soldiers, roll away the great stone, unwrap the body and then rewrap the burial clothes and lay them gently back down in their place as though they were undisturbed while armed guards were sleeping outside?
2. Matt. 27:62-66 says the tomb was sealed by Roman edict and guarded by trained soldiers. By order of Pilate, the Roman governor, the tomb was to be protected and made "*as sure as ye can*" (v.65). It was done as Pilate commanded (v.66).
 - a. Roman guards were under the penalty of death if they failed to faithfully keep the charge given them (cf. Acts 16:27; see also Justin in Digest #49).
 - b. There is no way to believe the guards had fallen asleep on their watch. Dr. George Currie, a student of Roman military discipline, wrote that fear of punishment "produced flawless attention to duty, especially in the night watches."
3. Matt. 28:11-15, The fact that the guards were bribed showed there was absolutely no evidence to support the contention that the friends of Jesus stole his body away. Had there been even a shred of evidence, the chief priests and guards would have produced it.
4. Who, with a reasonable mind, could believe the guards were all sleeping at the same time (Matt. 28:13) and did not awaken to the rolling away of that "great stone" (Matt. 27:60) which sealed the entrance to the tomb? Some sources suggest a typical stone used to seal tombs weighed 1½-2 tons.
 - a. Roman guards were under penalty of death if they slept on their watch or allowed prisoners to escape (cf. Acts 16:27).

- b. Yet the guards reported what had happened (Matt. 28:11) regarding the angel rolling back the stone and how they trembled and fell down as dead (Matt. 27:2-4).
 5. At first, the disciples thought the Lord's enemies or perhaps the gardener had taken his body away (John 20:2,13,15).
 6. The disciples of Jesus had no reason to take his body.
 - a. At his crucifixion, their hopes were dashed.
 - b. They "*trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel...*" (Luke 24:21).
 7. For his disciples to have stolen the body of Jesus and claim he rose from the dead would have made them liars and frauds.
 - a. They were persecuted unto death because they preached Jesus' resurrection from the dead and bore witness of it. They would have not died for a lie and a hoax!
 - b. They were not liars or frauds.
 - c. The whole theme of their preaching was Jesus and him crucified (1 Cor. 2:2) and his resurrection from the dead (Acts 4:33).
- C. The Lord's enemies did not remove the body.**
1. Some suggest the Jews removed the body to keep the disciples from reverencing the burial place.
 2. Others suggest the Jews removed the body to keep the disciples from stealing it and claiming that he had risen from the dead.
 - a. This thought is silly since the Jews would have produced the body to disprove the false claims of the disciples.
 - b. It would have been a great advantage to the Jews to make sure the body stayed in the tomb.
 - 1) It was common knowledge that Jesus had said he would rise on the third day (Matt. 27:63). So, their intent was to protect the tomb and assure that nothing happened to his body so that after the third day they could have gone to the tomb before many witnesses, opened it, exposed the corpse and shown conclusively Jesus was a fraud. Christianity, the faith of Christ, would have been stopped dead in its tracks if the Lord's enemies could have done such a thing. However, they could not. They didn't have the body.
 - 2) On Pentecost, seven weeks later, all Jerusalem was filled with the news of the resurrection by the preaching of the apostles. The chief priests

and others were condemned as being the very ones who put Jesus to death (Acts 2:23). All they had to do to stop this preaching was to deny he rose from the dead. They should have claimed they took the body of Jesus, produced the witnesses who moved him, and show where they laid him. All they had to do was produce the body. But they could not. They did not take his body away.

- 3) Everyone knew the tomb was empty, no one on either side refuted it or even tried to do so. All that was done by the Jews was to try to cover up as to "why" the tomb was empty. It would have been to their advantage to show the tomb was not empty, that his body was still there, if indeed it was! But it wasn't there!

IV. THE EVIDENCE OF THE GRAVE CLOTHES.

- A. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all say there was a certain place where the Lord's body was *laid* after it was wrapped in a new clean linen cloth (Matt. 27:59,60; 28:6; Mark 15:46-47; 16:6; Luke 23:53,55; John 19:42).
- B. John 20:5-7 reveals that the linen grave clothes were laying as they were when wrapped around the body of Jesus in the tomb.
 1. The English words "lying" (vs.5,7) and "lie" (v.6) are the same Greek word. Thayer says it means to: "be laid, be set, be appointed, laid up, of one buried, of things that quietly cover some spot, of a city situated on a hill, of things put or set in any place, in ref. to which we often use 'to stand'."
 2. The Lord simply passed through the clothes, leaving them where they were when occupied by His body. Peter "...*beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves...*" (Luke 24:12).
 3. "*And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself*" (John 20:7).
- C. The sepulchre was not a strewn mess as it would have been had someone stolen the body.
 1. Why would someone take the time to unwrap the linen cloth from the body of Jesus and leave the clothes behind?
 2. Why would someone take the time to carefully put the clothes back in the place where the body had laid?
 3. What about the 100 pounds of sticky spices (John 20:39) that would have bonded the burial cloth to itself

and the body?

- a. There's no way the body could have been unwrapped and the clothes put back in place without leaving them in a pile.
- b. Why would anyone even think of doing such a thing?

V. THE EVIDENCE THAT JESUS WAS REALLY DEAD.

- A. John 19:33-34, *"But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: ³⁴But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."*
- B. The centurion verified Jesus' death to Pilate (Mark 15:44-45).
- C. Jesus was actually dead.

VI. SOME DENY THE RESURRECTION BY SUGGESTING MANY ALTERNATIVE THEORIES AS TO WHAT HAPPENED.

- A. Some say the disciples came to the wrong tomb and thought Jesus had been raised from the dead.
 1. The idea is that it was still dark and they simply were mistaken.
 - a. This borders on being ludicrous—absurd.
 - b. The Jews would have shown the correct tomb and disproved the disciples' claim of his resurrection. No such thing was ever attempted.
 2. The women had followed and watched where the body of Jesus was laid just a few hours earlier (Matt 27:61; Mark 15:47; Luke 23:55).
 3. How do you account for the stone having been rolled away?
 - a. Was there another tomb with a rolled away stone?
 - b. Was there another tomb where grave clothes were lying within without a body?
 4. When the report came to the other disciples, Peter and John also found the same tomb and it was empty. Did they also make a mistake like the women?
 5. The appearance of the angels prove this was the tomb wherein the Lord lay.
 - a. They said, *"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay"* (Matt 28:6).
 - b. They would not have been at the wrong tomb.
 6. Even if the women, Peter and John, the Romans and the Jews all went to the wrong tomb, then one thing is for sure, Joseph of Arimathaea knew where his tomb was.

7. If they did not find the right tomb because of the darkness, what was the gardener doing there? John 20:15
- B. The theory that **the grave was not visited at all.**
 1. If they did not visit the tomb at all, then the chief priests would have had no reason to concoct a story and bribe the soldiers that the body had been stolen.
 2. Everyone believed then and believes now that the tomb was empty! That point was never questioned!
- C. Some say **the disciples were merely hallucinating** and thought they saw Jesus alive.
 1. This assumption is just as ridiculous as the wrong tomb theory.
 2. This idea seeks to show that all of Christ's post-resurrection appearances were really only proposed appearances and all the people that saw him had an hallucination.
 3. It is not reasonable to believe that hundreds of people all had the same hallucination over a period of 40 days. It is not possible that above 500 people could all have the same hallucination at the same time (1 Cor. 15:6).
 4. The Jews would have shown the body of Jesus was still in the tomb.
 5. The hundreds and hundreds of eye witnesses coupled with the fact that the Jews acknowledged the tomb was empty, easily dispels this theory.
- D. Some suggest **the resurrection is merely a legend.**
 1. This is also preposterous.
 2. A legend is that which grows and evolves over time.
 3. The events of the resurrection and the empty tomb were immediate. Hundreds of witnesses verified its historical accuracy. As said already, the enemies of Jesus never denied the tomb was empty.
 4. Also, the fact that Joseph of Arimathaea was mentioned as the one who begged the body of Jesus and buried him in his own tomb, verifies the Lord's death to be true and not a legend.
 - a. Joseph was a well known rich man and probably a member of the Sanhedrin (Matt. 27:57).
 - b. Nicodemus also is mentioned as helping Joseph (John 19:38-42).
 - c. These were both well known men among the population. They would not have shown their faces nor allowed their names to be used if the reports were not true.
 5. Many of the eye witnesses were still alive at the time the Gospel of the resurrection was being proclaimed.
 - a. If it was a hoax, it could have been verified to have

been so. No one stepped forward to disprove the resurrection.

- b. Peter preached on Pentecost, "*This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses*" (Acts 2:32).
 - 1) His appeal was not only to his fellow apostles, but to his hearers as well.
 - 2) The people of Jerusalem were witness to the empty tomb.
- E. The "**Swoon**" theory suggests that Jesus did not actually die, he merely swooned (collapsed, fainted, passed out) on the cross and revived in the cool of the tomb.
1. All four of the Gospel records bare witness that he did not just pass out. He died while hanging on the cross (Matt. 27:50,58; Mark 15:37,39; Luke 23:46; John 19:30).
 2. The Romans were experts concerning death and certainly about death by crucifixion. If anyone could tell if one was dead or not, they could.
 - a. The Jews asked if the legs of those crucified might be broken to hasten their death so they could be taken down from the cross before the Sabbath.
 - 1) But when they came to Jesus, they noted that he was dead already (John 19:33).
 - 2) A soldier pierced his side with a spear to confirm he was dead "*...and forthwith came there out blood and water*" (John 19:34).
 - b. Not only did they believe Jesus was dead, Pilate sent to make sure he was dead before he was taken down from the cross and it was validated by the centurion in charge (Mark 15:44-45).
 3. NO ONE doubted that Jesus was dead! — the soldiers, Pilate, Sanhedrin, disciples, crowd, etc.
 4. The disciples did not perceive him as having merely revived from a swoon.
 5. He was in a severe weakened condition from the severe beating (scourging, Matt. 27:26), his hands and feet torn by the nails of crucifixion (John 20:25), a gash ripped through his side by the spear of the Roman soldier (John 19:34).
 - a. He was in no shape to revive in the cool of the tomb and free himself.
 - b. His body was wrapped from head to toe (John 19:40) as the body of Lazarus (John 11:44). He could not have gotten out of the wraps.
 - c. He could not have rolled away the great stone that sealed him in.
 - d. He would not have gotten past the Roman guards in

his feeble and helpless condition.

- e. He could not have walked that same day nearly seven miles to Emmaus (Luke 24:13) and then walked back that same distance to Jerusalem to present himself to the apostles that same night in perfect health (Luke 24:33-36).
6. He did not merely faint on the cross and revive later in the tomb!
 - a. If he pretended to his disciples that he had arisen from the dead, when in fact he was not dead, he would have lied and therefore would have been a liar and deceiver.
 - b. Jesus was the embodiment of Truth (John 14:6). He could not lie (Heb. 6:18; Titus 1:2).
- F. **The theory that Jesus' body actually decayed in the tomb and that his resurrection was purely spiritual.**
 1. John 20:27-28, *"Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. ²⁸And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God."*
 2. If it had been a spiritual resurrection, then no story would have been, nor should have been, concocted to explain the empty tomb.
 3. The tomb was empty! Everyone knew it! That was not disputed.
 4. The apostles preached Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead in the same city where the crucifixion and burial took place! It was not half-way around the world where it would be nearly impossible to verify their story. It was only a few minutes walk to the place where the body was entombed. They could go and check on it.
- G. **The theft theory (the theory that the Jews or Romans or Disciples of Jesus removed the body).**
 1. This idea is ridiculous and preposterous! It is not worthy of hardly even being mentioned except to show how absurd it is.
 2. Much precaution was taken in securing the tomb against theft.
 3. The grave clothes give testimony that the body was not stolen. Would anyone have taken the time to remove the body from the clothes and leave them lying exactly as they were placed in the tomb?
 4. When the **soldiers** reported all that had happened, the chief priests counseled with the elders and bribed the soldiers with a large sum of money to say the body was

stolen while they slept (Matt. 28:12).

- a. The testimony of the guards was not questioned. The chief priests did not try to explain the resurrection away. They knew Christ's body had not been stolen. That is why they bribed the soldiers to say his body was stolen.
 - b. If the soldiers were sleeping (Matt. 28:13), how could they say the body was stolen?
 - 1) How can anyone testify as to what took place while they were asleep?
 - 2) Could we believe all the guards at the tomb fell asleep at the same time, knowing that it meant death?
 - 3) They would not have been sleeping, for the punishment for such was death or having their garments set on fire.
 - 4) The stone was so large that it would have taken several men to roll it away. How could the disciples have accomplished it without waking the soldiers?
 - c. If they had stolen the body, they could have easily refuted the preaching of the apostles by producing the body.
 - d. It would have been an advantage to the governor to keep the body in the grave so they could prove he had not risen.
 - e. The enemies certainly did not remove the body.
 - 1) They had no purpose in doing so!
 - 2) It would have been the death penalty for anyone to remove the body from a tomb that had been officially sealed.
5. The **disciples** had no reason to steal the body.
- a. Would they have been so brazen as to desecrate the tomb of their beloved master?
 - b. There were perhaps millions of people in the city of Jerusalem at this time. It would have been near impossible to do such a thing without someone seeing them.
 - c. The disciples did not comprehend the Lord's resurrection and were therefore not even looking for it themselves.
 - 1) They were surprised to find the empty tomb and the Lord alive!
 - 2) They did not steal the body and then pretend he had arisen from the dead.
 - d. Can we believe that the disciples who were not willing to put their lives on the line for their saviour

while he was alive, would put their lives on the line for a dead imposter?

- 1) The disciples spent the rest of their lives preaching the resurrection. They were beaten and persecuted severely for it, even being put to death for it.
- 2) Would they have had such determination if it were all a lie?

CONCLUSION:

1. The vacant and empty tomb stands as an undeniable witness to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.
2. Peter told Cornelius, *"And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: ⁴⁰Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; ⁴¹Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead"* (Acts 10:39-41).
3. Rom. 1:4, *"And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."*
4. The resurrection proves the deity of Jesus.
5. The Lord will one day judge all men and is shown to have the right to do so by His resurrection. Acts 17:30-31, *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."*
6. Will you submit to and obey Him?

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior! Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord! Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Savior! Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus my Savior! He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes. He arose a victor from the dark domain and He lives forever, death He overcame.

He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Can We Trust The Bible?

Dan Bailey

1. When we ask the question: "Can we trust the Bible?" we are simply saying, can we rely upon the Bible? Can we put our confidence in the Bible? Can we depend upon the Bible? Since the Bible is a book, the question is, who wrote the Book? Can we depend upon the author of the Book? If the author is dependable, then the Book is dependable. If one can put his trust and confidence in the author, then one can put his trust and confidence in The Book!
2. God is the author of the Book. 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Jer. 1:9; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Heb. 4:12-13. If you can trust the author, you can trust the book. Isa. 40:8; Matt. 24:35; 1 Peter 1:25; Psalm 119:89.
3. Now, let us look at some, who in time past trusted in the word of God. They trusted, put their confidence in, they relied upon the author of the Bible. In a courtroom, the reliability of a witness, a plaintiff, or a defendant is proven and established by, among other things, character witnesses. Character witnesses attest to the veracity of the one who is being examined. Since God is the author of the Bible, let us consider some of those who have fully trusted in Him.

DISCUSSION:

- I. **ENOCH** — Gen. 5:24; Amos 3:3; Heb. 11:5-6; Heb. 9:27-28; 1 Cor. 15:50-58.
 - A. Enoch trusted in God.
 1. Did God fail him?
 2. Was Enoch ashamed for putting his confidence in his Maker? Mark 8:38
 3. No, my friends, God saw his great trust in Him and he translated him that he might not even see death!
 - B. Can we trust the Bible?
 1. Enoch trusted the Author!
 2. If we can trust the Author of the Book, then we can trust the Book!
- II. **NOAH** — Gen. 6-9; Heb. 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20-22; John 8:32.
 - A. Noah fully trusted in God.
 1. Did God fail him? Did God let him down?
 2. NO, my friends; a thousand times NO!
 3. God kept His word!
 - a. The skies were darkened, the lightning flashed, and the thunder roared; the fountains of the deep were opened up.
 - b. Noah and his family were safe in the ark that he

had prepared by faith.

B. Can we trust the Bible?

1. Noah trusted the Author!
2. If we can trust the Author of the Book, then we can trust the Book!

III. ABRAHAM — Gen. 12:1-3; Heb. 11:8-10; Rev. 21:1-8; 2:11.

A. Abraham fully trusted in God. Gen. 15:1; 17:1; 22.

1. Did God fail Abraham in anyway?
2. NO! and my brethren and friends, our God will not fail us!

B. Can we trust the Bible?

1. Abraham trusted the Author!
2. If we can trust the Author of the Book, then we can trust the Book!

IV. MOSES — Heb. 11:24-26; Exo. 12; Exo. 14.

A. The blood had to be upon every door.

1. Heb. 11:27-28, *"By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them."*

2. They couldn't be saved without the blood.

3. Jesus said: John 10:9, *"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."*

4. But one does not enter in without blood. Eph. 1:7

5. Jesus also said: Matt. 26:28, *"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."*

B. Heb. 11:29, *"By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned."*

1. 1 Cor. 10:1-2, *"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud and all passed through the sea; ²and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea."* Mark 16:15-16

2. Have you been baptized into Christ? Gal. 3:26-29

C. Can we trust the Bible?

1. Moses trusted the Author!
2. If we can trust the Author of the Book, then we can trust the Book!

V. JOSHUA — Joshua 1:7-9; Joshua 6

A. Jericho — God gave the prescription for victory.

- B. Heb. 11:30-31, *"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. ³¹By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace."*
1. Josh. 2:11, *"And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath."*
 2. They were spared in the house.
Josh. 2:15, *"Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall."*
 3. Are you in the house? 1 Tim. 3:15
- C. James 2:25-26, *"Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? ²⁶For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."*
- D. Joshua and the children of Israel fully trusted in God.
1. Did He fail them?
 2. Did the walls come down?
 3. Rahab was spared; her father was spared; her mother was spared, and her brethren.
 4. Are you in the house? Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47
- E. Can we trust the Bible?
1. Joshua trusted the Author!
 2. If we can trust the Author of the Book, then we can trust the Book!

VI. ELIJAH — 1 Kings 18; Mt. Carmel.

- A. 1 Kings 18:21, *"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."*
- B. Matt. 17 — transfiguration.
1. Elijah was present.
 2. Why? He trusted in the author!
- C. Can we trust the Bible? If we can trust the Author of the Book, then we can trust the Book!

VII. OTHERS — who bear witness to the faithfulness of God, and the Bible.

- A. **George Washington**, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."
- B. **Daniel Webster**, "If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scriptures. If we abide

by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

- C. **Abraham Lincoln**, "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. And the good from the Saviour of the world is communicated to us through this book."
- D. **Andrew Jackson**, "That book, sir, is the rock on which our republic rests."
- E. **Robert E. Lee**, "In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength."
- F. **Charles Dickens**, "The New Testament is the very best book that ever was or ever will be known in the world."
- G. **Sir Isaac Newton**, "There are more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history."

** Quotes from *Halley's Bible Handbook*, by Henry H. Halley, pp. 18-19

CONCLUSION:

1. Can we trust the Bible?
2. The case has been presented.
3. History has spoken.
4. The Bible is, and always will be, worthy of our complete trust.
5. Prov. 3:5-6

TRUST IN GOD, AND DO THE RIGHT

Courage, brother, do not stumble,
 Though thy path be dark as night;
 There's a star to guide the humble;
 "Trust in God, and do the right."

Let the road be rough and dreary,
 And its end far out of sight,
 Foot it bravely! strong or weary,
 "Trust in God, and do the right."

Perish policy and cunning!
 Perish all that fears the light!
 Whether losing, whether winning,
 "Trust in God, and do the right!"

Trust no party, sect, or faction;
 Trust no leaders in the fight;
 But in every word and action;
 "Trust in God, and do the right."

Trust no lovely forms of passion:
 Fiends may look like angels bright,
 Trust no custom, school, or fashion,
 "Trust in God, and do the right."

Simple rule and safest guiding,
 Inward peace, and inward might,
 Star upon our path abiding,
 "Trust in God, and do the right."

Some will hate thee, some will love thee,
 Some will flatter, some will slight:
 Cease from man, and look above thee,
 "Trust in God, and do the right."

—Norman M'Leod

*The Sunday Book of Pleasing
 and Comforting Literature,*

Prose and Poetry, by Henry
Howe, 1874.

The Impact Of Evolution On Families

Dewey Medlin

1. There comes a time when all parents must realize that their children are being taught evolution in almost every class.
2. They are taught that everything is a result of natural forces at work in the universe, with man being the result of an accident that didn't have him in mind in the first place.
3. With all these things being taught, there are certain things that follow as a result.
 - a. Feminists demand that a woman has the right to control her body and along with that, she has the right to abort the child she does not want.
 - b. Homosexuals demand rights and claim they are victims. They claim to be treated unfairly like blacks, Hispanics etc.
4. The evolutionists were so persistent in their stand that they got the supreme court in 1987 to declare it was unconstitutional to teach creation in our schools.
5. With the power they have obtained, the results are staggering as to the impact evolution has on our homes.

DISCUSSION:

- I. **THE FAMILY WILL NEITHER DESIRE NOR TOLERATE RELIGION.**
 - A. Sir Julian Huxley stated: "The earth was not created; it evolved. So will all the animals and plants that inhabit it, including our human selves, mind and soul as well as brain and body, so did religion."¹
 - B. Once we are convinced, and our children convinced, that this is true, there is but a short step to atheism.
 - C. Once evolution is accepted, religion becomes a burden quickly to be abandoned.
 - D. Did you ever wonder why so many of our children sent to state schools leave the church? If so, look at the above.
- II. **WHEN EVOLUTION IS ACCEPTED, MORAL RESPONSIBILITY IS SOON ABANDONED.**
 - A. Adultery, fornication, rape, incest, murder and every other

vile thing is the result of accepting evolution.

- B. The ardent evolutionist, Clarence Darrow once said: "There is no such thing as crime as the word is generally understood...people are in jail simply because they cannot avoid it on account of circumstances which are entirely beyond their control and for which they are in no way responsible."²
- C. As brother Guy N. Woods said, "Convince a man that he came from a monkey and he will act like one."³

III. WHEN EVOLUTION IS ACCEPTED, PARENTS AND CHILDREN FIND THEMSELVES TRYING TO DO AWAY WITH GOD'S WORD.

- A. The Bible teaches that God made man in the beginning in a perfect state and man then fell away.
- B. Evolution teaches that man began in a low state and through evolution has become more perfect.
- C. The Bible teaches that God made Eve from a rib taken from Adam. (Gen. 2:21-22)
- D. Evolutionists teach that the sexes evolved simultaneously!
- E. The Bible teaches that man has a soul that will live on through eternity.
- F. Evolutionists teach man has no soul. He is "just like rover, dead all over" and that the grave is the end.

IV. DEHUMANIZATION OF THE FAMILY AND MANKIND IN GENERAL IS THE RESULT OF ACCEPTING EVOLUTION.

- A. What are the results of such teaching on the family?
 1. Baby murder (called abortion) is legalized.
 2. How far behind will be the legalization of the killing of the elderly, the blind, the lame, etc?
 3. If one piece of matter is worth no more than another as evolutionists teach, what is the difference in killing a baby and killing a snake?
 4. If there is no God everything is permitted!
 5. If there is no God I have no right to tell you nor my children that a certain thing is right or wrong.
 6. No wonder God has said, "*The fool has said in his heart, there is no God*" (Psalm 14:1; 53:1).
 7. Look at the children, young boys, who of late have gone into the schools with guns and opened fire, killing and wounding many of their friends.
 8. Look at the number of unwed mothers. If we are nothing more than "glorified apes," what is wrong with sex outside of marriage?
- B. If there is no God, everything is permitted.

CONCLUSION:

1. Families robbed of a belief in God, by evolution, will soon come to realize that what is sown is also reaped (Gal. 6:7-8).
2. Parents will see parental control slip through their very fingers and suffering and pain will take its place.
3. Evolution has nothing good to offer the family. It brings about a hedonistic life with nothing but the grave as the end.
4. It offers no joy nor peace. The peace Paul speaks of in Phil. 4:6-8 means absolutely nothing.
5. It imposes no morals in this life. Who ever heard of two apes discussing the ethical obligations of today?
6. The saddest of all, there is no promise of peace in the eternal hereafter.
7. If Moms, dads and their children swallow the godless doctrine of evolution, our nation is bound for destruction (Prov. 14:34).

END NOTES

- ¹Huxley, Julian. *Issues In Evolution (Volume 3 of Evolution After Darwin)* University of Chicago Press. Chicago, Ill. 1960. p. 252f.
- ²Darrow, Clarence. Quoted in: *Attorney For the Damned.* Arthur Winberg editor. Simon and Shuster. 1957 pp. 3,4.
- ³Woods, Guy N. "Man Created in God's Image." In *Gospel Advocate.* Gospel Advocate Co. Nashville, Tennessee. Aug. 12, 1976. p.514.

Evolution: Animals, Insects, Birds & Atmosphere

Dean Sanders

1. Christians use many forms of evidence to undoubtedly prove the creation of this world by a mighty and supreme God. The Bible, science, nature, and archeology are but a few apologetics used to show the absurdity of evolution.
2. Within this lesson, we will be looking at nature as a genuine defense to the creation of this precious earth — an earth that has been given by a loving God who seeks those who truly appreciate the graciousness of the Almighty Creator.
3. One of the most important items to creationists and evolutionists alike is *time*. Without sufficient time, the whole idea

of evolution holds no water and can be equivocally compared with the children of Judah when they were told by the prophet Jeremiah the words of the Lord saying, "*For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water*" (Jer. 2:13).

4. With this said, let us look to the idea of evolution vs. that of creation in regard to nature — namely animals, insects, birds and atmosphere.

DISCUSSION:

I. ANIMALS

- A. *Armadillo* — A small mammal, approximately two feet in length, which has a hard armor used for protection from predators. It curls itself into a tight ball which prohibits most animals from gripping or clawing them.
- B. *Porcupine* — A small animal that has strong, stiff quills with barbed ends which it uses as a defense by striking its attacker with its tail.
- C. *Skunk* — The skunk can combine chemicals in its body into the form of a spray they can squirt up to ten feet. These glands are located near the skunk's digestive tract and are emitted from the base of the skunk's tail. This is his defense against predators.
- D. If evolutionists are correct and all creatures developed from the lesser to the greater, then there would have been a time when these animals would have had no protection from predators and would have become extinct.
- E. As we continue in this lesson, it will become all too apparent that a designer has been at work. Evolution is said to be the process from which everything has come into existence. Yet, from the atom and the smallest bacterial fungus, to the greatest bodies in the universe, all refute evolution and demand an intelligent designer.

II. INSECTS

A. *Yucca Moth*

1. Some things just naturally go together. The Yucca plant and the Yucca moth are two that fit into that category. The plant blooms only at night and the moth flies only at night.
2. The flower of the plant hangs downward with its female part higher than its male part. Therefore, the pollen of the male part cannot fall into the female pistil; so, in order for it to be pollinated, the moth is necessary.
 - a. The moth lights on the flower and scrapes the pollen

from the male part (anther) of the blossom.

- b. She then flies to another plant and pierces the ovary of the plant with her ovipositor and inserts her eggs into the place where more seeds will develop. She moves her tongue up and down on the pistil distributing the pollen, then deposits the rest of the ball of pollen into the stigma tube in the top of the pistil. After this she flies away never seeing her young.
 - c. The offspring feed on the seed but leave some to perpetuate the flower. The larva finally eats its way out of the seed then, by weaving a thread, drops to the ground, burying itself weaving a cocoon where it stays until time for the Yucca plant to bloom a year later.
3. How is this evidence of God? — Design and purpose. The moth cannot exist without the plant and the plant cannot exist without the moth.
- a. If it took millions of years to develop, then there would be no such thing today as a Yucca moth or a Yucca plant. Both would have had to have been created at the same time.
 - 1) If not, the moth would have had no place to lay her eggs, nor her young any food to eat.
 - 2) The plant would have no way to pollinate thus, could not exist.
 - b. Gradual development could not produce such an effect. Therefore, their existence must, by sound reasoning, have been instantaneous and it would have had to be right the first time.

B. Wasps

1. Certain wasps catch grasshoppers and sting them in just the right place, paralyzing them that they might live on as a source of food. The wasp then stores the grasshopper and lays its eggs beside it so as, when they hatch, the offspring might have food.
2. The first wasp would have had to do it right the first time or it never would have continued to exist.

C. Honey Bee

1. Each colony has three types of bees:
 - a. Queen — Purpose is not to rule but produce young bees. She may lay as many as 1,000,000,000 eggs in her life and as many as 1,500 a day in the summer.
 - 1) After mating, the queen carries male sperm in her body. Eggs are hatched within three days. Some eggs are fertilized and some are unfertilized. The former produce females and the latter, males.

- a) If a female is desired the queen presses the sac to fertilize the egg and deposits it into a certain cell.
- b) If a male is desired she does not press the sac. The egg is not fertilized and is deposited into a different cell.
- 2) The anatomy of the bee positively demands a designer.
 - a) Bees have sharp tips on their feet to climb on rough surfaces, while also having suction cups between their toes that enables them to walk on smooth surfaces.
 - b) The wings of bees are amazing and confound the evolutionist. They beat at an average of 75 beats per second. Their wings are small in comparison to their body weight and with the added weight of pollen it would seem impossible for them to fly. But the great designer formed them with two sets of wings which interlock solving this problem.
 - c) The eyes of the bee are quite extraordinary. With the use of their eyes and the polarity of light, a bee will never get lost. As the earth turns, the rays of the sun strike the earth at different angles. By use of its intricate eyes, the bee can glance at any part of the sky in the daytime, interpret the angle of the sun's rays and immediately calculate the position of the sun, the time of day, and its own position relative to where the bee is gathering nectar and know the location of its hive.
- b. Drones — the male bee which offers fertilization of the egg.
- c. Underdeveloped females — workers.
2. How does the female know the number of each sex of egg that is needed? From where did they receive the engineering skills to build the honeycomb? How are they able to translate the light rays and determine their position? How are they able to interlock their wings to provide the necessary wingspan to accommodate the load they must bear? Who knows? The grad designer knows!

III. BIRDS

Without a doubt, the most asked question concerning birds is, "How do they know where they will go when they migrate?"

A. Migration — the movement of animals to a place that

offers better living conditions. It has been established that about 1/3 of all birds are migratory.

- B. How do they find their way? Research shows that animals use a number of ways to gather directional information. Many are guided by the sun, the moon, and the stars. Others follow landscape features, such as rivers, mountain ranges, or coastlines.
- C. What are some of the migratory birds and their patterns?
 1. The bobolink of northern fields, the Great Lakes area, travels 9,000 miles over land and sea to Argentina, their winter retreat.
 2. The hummingbird having been banded for research, have been known to travel some 5,000 miles. They will wind up 30-40 feet from the exact spot of their forbearers the year before.
 3. Arctic geese will migrate 11,000 miles one way to an area at the tip of South America.
 4. Canadian Geese fly in the autumn as far south as northern Florida and northern Mexico.
 5. The blackpoll warbler, no larger than a sparrow, flies non-stop nearly 2,500 miles to its winter home in South America. The journey takes nearly 90 hours.
- D. Question: How did the first bird know to fly south as winter approached? Was it chance? No! The great designer of all things gave them the instinct of preservation and the ability to seek out a life giving food source.

IV. ATMOSPHERE

With the aid of a telescope men are able to look into space and see some 9,000,000,000,000,000,000 galaxies composed of suns and planets in each of them. There has been only one found with the atmosphere to sustain life. Earth. It is odd that evolution has not produced a procedure conducive of life. Considering all the wonders of this ground on which we stand, one must come to a realization of an intelligent creator. If it all happened by chance, why, after supposed billions of years, has it not happened again?

- A. The earth's atmosphere is composed of various gases that extend upward 100 miles.
 1. Nitrogen — 78-79%
 2. Oxygen — 20-21%
 3. Traces of others.
- B. If the percentage of nitrogen in our atmosphere varied by as little as a few points then, life on earth would be impossible. Again, if the percentage of oxygen were 30-35% a lightning bolt could nearly burn up the earth. Who, or

- what keeps things checked and balanced? Is it chance?
- C. Over 5 billion people live on earth today. Billions have passed on as well as trillions of birds, beasts, and fish. All have been using oxygen for thousands of years yet, the balance has been kept in tact. How is this possible?
1. Man uses oxygen and expels nitrogen.
 2. Plants use nitrogen and expel oxygen.
 3. Did this happen, as evolutionists say, by chance?
 4. Only by design and purpose could all of these things be so proportionately correct.
 5. How can the so-called intellectuals of this world not see the simplicity of creation by a far more intelligent being?

Scientific Fact or Principle	Date of Discovery	Biblical Location
Men and women have the seed of life.	17th century	Gen. 3:15; 22:18
Place void of stars in the north.	19th century	Job 26:7
Earth held in place; invisible force.	1650	Job 26:7
Taxonomical classification of matter (time, power, force, space, matter)	1735	Gen. 1:1
The earth is round.	15th century	Isa. 40:22
Day and night simultaneously.	15th century	Lk. 17:31
Certain animals carry diseases.	16th century	Lev. 11
Early diagnoses of leprosy.	17th century	Lev. 13
Quarantine for disease control.	17th century	Lev. 13
Blood is necessary for life.	19th century	Lev. 17:11
Oceans have natural tides.	1854	Ps. 8:8
Most worthy ships are built on a ratio of 30' x 50' x 300'.	1860	Gen. 6
Light is a particle.	1932	Job 38:19
Radio astronomy.	1945	Job 38:7
Oceans contain springs.	1920	Job 38:16
Snow has mat. l.	1905, 1966	Job 38:22
Infinite number of stars.	1940	Gen. 15:5
Dust is important for survival.	1935	Isa. 40:12
Huber Spencer/Scientific Principles	1820	Gen. 1
Air has weight.	16th century	Job 28:25
Light split into component colors.	1650	Job 38:24
Matter is made of invisible particles.	20th century	Rom. 1:20
Plants use sunlight to manufacture food.	1920	Job 8:16
Arcturnes & other stars move through space.	19th century	Job 38:32

Water cycle.	17th century	Eccl. 1:7
Lightning and Thunder related.	19th century	Job 38:25
Mankind was last of creation.	15th century	Gen. 1

CONCLUSION:

1. It would seem that the wisdom of man is to this day running a bit behind in figuring out the established truths which the originator of all things has set in order.
2. If we would know truth, let us look to the evidence that has been so freely given and take into ourselves the glorious wonders presented and walk with the Lord God Jehovah, the masterful originator of all life.
3. Is the need for Christian evidences important? Yes. Today, godless men have instituted godless principles which has led to a godless nation. Seekers of truth need these and other evidences to prove that *God is real*.

Humanism: Education, Music, & Freedom In Sexuality

Tom House

1. As Christians, each of us should be keenly aware of the pervading influence of humanism; its devilish dogmas, its callous and cavalier rejection of things spiritual.
2. As parents, each should learn to recognize the mediums through which this damning doctrine are being propagated.
3. Be assured that the devil is capably exploiting every avenue at his disposal to advance the concept of humanism, a product of his own device.
4. Even by casual observation, most can see the primary target of humanists is to plant their seed in the minds of our children.
 - a. Past decades of moral decline have shown us that the seed planted generations ago is now enjoying a bountiful harvest.
 - b. Many of those taught principles of humanism in earlier generations are now avowed atheists and skeptics, or at least, indifferent to anything philosophically kin to religion.
5. The mediums of education and music/entertainment industry,

are the primary and most popular tools to advance the concept of humanism.

DISCUSSION:

I. HUMANISM IN EDUCATION.

- A. To gain a greater perspective of the danger of humanism's influence, it is necessary to be reminded of the humanist's intentions, and the doctrine's basic concepts.
- B. Humanism alleges:
 1. The universe is self-existing and not created.
 2. That man is only naturalistic, he has no spirit.
 3. That modern science's depiction of nature, eliminates the supernatural and all things related to the spiritual.
 4. There is no distinction between the sacred and the secular, consequently meaning that man is his own god.
- C. Hence, one may quickly conclude, as the MANIFESTO (the humanist's bible) proudly proclaims, that humanism is founded in throngs of atheism! (Pg. 16)
- D. It should not come as a shock to us then, to realize that our children's textbooks are replete with atheistic, humanistic, and evolutionary doctrine.
 1. The humanists knows that the use of public schools is one of the best methods of advancing their theories.
 2. A name long associated with humanism and education is John Dewey (1859-1929), a professor at Columbia University from 1904 to 1929, and has been likely the most prominent figure in the educational system in our century. The following quotes are his:
 - a. "Why should we longer suffer from deficiency of religion. We have discovered our lack; let us set the machinery in order to supply it ... Education is the modern purveyor, and upon the schools shall rest the responsibility for seeing to it that we recover our threatened religious heritage."
 - b. "Essentially religion is an attempt to adjust to the actual situations of life, and these valuable experiences should be emancipated from the historical forms of organized religions which are repellent to the human mind."
- E. History shows the obvious decay of Biblical values in our schools.
- F. Consider the following statements taken from The Humanist Magazine, January/February 1983:
 1. This country was founded by those whose values and standards were based upon the scriptures.
 2. "The first public schools were established to teach students to read so that they could read the Bible."¹

3. The Massachusetts legislature in 1647, preambles a law stating: "It being one chief project of that old deluder, Satan, to keep men from the knowledge of the Scriptures."²
- G. It has since been the effort of those like John Dewey to eradicate all Biblical values and replace them with social or humanistic concepts.
- H. The tragedy of this issue lies in the fact that humanists are free to teach their theories because, as they argue, the positions they hold are "secular" and therefore "non-religious."
- I. The concepts taught in the Bible are forbidden because they are perceived as "religious" and therefore violate the separation of church and state.
 1. One finds it odd that there is an obvious effort to teach against stealing, taking drugs, or killing, yet choose to endorse abortion, homosexuality, and fornication.
 2. Humanism is clearly selective in its espousal of certain "values."
- J. The irony in this issue is that stories like Jack and the Beanstalk, Robinson Crusoe, and Treasure Island are discouraged in some places because they involve certain elements of violence, while instead, humanistic "progress" calls for stories like "Heather Has Two Mommies."
- K. We certainly need never to lose sight of the most important elements of instruction.
 1. It is vital to success in our present society to possess the basic educational skills.
 2. But most vital to the education of our children are the rudimentary elements of Biblical knowledge.
 - a. Deut. 6:1-9; 18-25
 - b. Prov. 4
 - c. Eph. 6:4

II. HUMANISM IN MUSIC.

- A. It is quite obvious that our society is obsessed with music.
 1. The young are particularly fond of the styles of music known as "hard-rock," and "rap," much of which is filled with base vulgarisms and lewdness.
 2. However, the concepts which are written in much of country music are likewise filled with these same base values.
- B. Since the sixties, humanism has found the medium of music as an expedient method to advance its creed.
 1. In 1971, John Lennon himself told "Rolling Stone" magazine that the Beatles were engaged in pushing drugs via their music.

2. Existential philosophies are commonly expressed in most all styles of modern music. (The idea that nothing is wrong, so long as no one is hurt)
3. Bondage, abuse of women and children, disregard for parents or any authority, and even killing, are common themes among rappers.
4. From searching the net, I found significant evidence of the influence of humanism in modern music.
 - a. Several artists speak about the link between music and sex.
 - b. Much of the content of heavy metal is found to be Satanic.
- C. It is little wonder that our young people have no appreciation for the sanctity of life; for they have been desensitized to killing and death.
- D. As a consequence, they find little inhibition in the taking of someone's life.
 1. The music industry has to bear some of the responsibility for the perpetuation of this problem.
 2. However, parents need to supervise the music their young purchase, and not be afraid to stand for what is right; the soul of the child is at stake!

III. HUMANISM AND SEXUAL FREEDOM.

- A. The problem of sexual freedom is not a medium of humanism, but is rather a consequence.
- B. In fact, the efforts made by humanists in fields of public education and music, specifically are employed to encourage open sexual freedom.
- C. Humanism advances the idea that man is his own god and sets his own standards; there are no laws; no inhibitions.
- D. In a newsletter called the "*American Citizenship Education Program News*," September 1982 edition, the editor, C. Brodie Harrell quotes several different journals and newsletters concerning the on-going trend in "free-sexualism."
 1. He mentions one as referencing incest as not a sexual deviation, but is normal, healthful, and indeed, can "be a very beautiful relationship as long as proper steps are taken to prevent conception."
 2. Another journal was quoted as arguing that there was nothing wrong with incest, even incest with young children. The journal felt that society's out-dated cultural taboos are the problem, and "once these are overcome, we can enjoy sexual pleasures with people of the same sex, the opposite sex, animals, children, or any other sexual object, and then enjoy the best of all

of the sexual worlds. A person well adjusted sexually is one who can fully enjoy the full range of sexual behavior available to mankind today requiring full sexual adjustment without any hang-ups caused by outdated religious concepts. And our schools are the main tool used to teach the young people this human freedom."

- E. Please note that the writer of the aforementioned statement, alleges three shocking premises:
1. Free sexualism is evidence of one being "well-adjusted."
 2. Any inhibitions are the result of "out-dated religious concepts."
 3. The schools are the tool to teach this "human freedom."
- F. Compare the former remarks with Paul's statements in Romans 1:18-32.
1. These concepts are far from out-dated, for they are eternal concepts.
 2. Free sex was wrong in the days of Sodom (Gen. 19).
 3. Lasciviousness was sinful in the wilderness (Exo. 32).
 4. Adultery was sinful in David's day (2 Sam. 11).
 5. And as seen in the Roman letter, these concepts remain to be upheld.
- G. Jesus stated that His word does not "pass away" (Matt. 24:35), for it will be by His Word that we will be judged (John 12:48).

CONCLUSION:

1. It is high time that Christians not only put on the "whole armor of God" to defend himself against the devil's wiles, but fulfill the use of the armor by using the "sword of the Spirit" to attack such a heinous doctrine.
2. Our society is at the crossroads; we can either succumb to this evil, or rally together and as David, rise up and slay this evil Goliath of Humanism.

ENDNOTES

¹Charles Macmurdo, Ph.D., The CDL Report. Date unknown

²From the CDL Report.

Fulfilled Prophecy

Gilbert Gough

1. Paul was on trial before king Agrippa (Acts 26).
 - a. He tells of his past life as a Jew and a persecutor of the church (1-11).

- b. He spoke of the events that led to his conversion when Christ appeared to him on the Damascus road (12-18).
 - c. He explains how he preached "none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come" (19-26).
 - d. As Paul brings his defensive sermon to a close, he asks, "King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets?" and Paul answers for King Agrippa, "I know that thou believest" (27).
 - 1) Just how much did Agrippa know about the prophets and their messages from God, we do not know.
 - 2) But there is one thing for sure: Agrippa (or no other man) can read the Old Testament prophets and not realize how extraordinary their prophecies were!
2. Bible predictive prophecy is one of the greatest evidences for the Bible's inspiration (God-breathed), and demonstrates, without a doubt, its authenticity and authoritativeness.
- a. Peter explained that the "more sure word of prophecy" was better than an eyewitness of the Christ (2 Peter 1:15-21).
 - b. The Bible's credibility, veracity and reliability hinges on whether predictive prophecy is true.

DISCUSSION:

I. PROPHECY DEFINED.

- A. When prophecy is discussed, usually most think of prophecy as foretelling the future, but prophecy defined is "the forth-telling of the will of God, whether with reference to the past, the present, or the future" (Vines Expository Dictionary..., p. 221).
 1. Thus, forth-telling of God's word sometimes entails foretelling, but not always, for it can refer to the giving of simple instructions without the predictive element.
 2. Prophecy means to speak under divine guidance or "to speak for or on behalf of God."
 3. Prophecy is the proclamation of that which cannot be known by natural means.
 - a. The omniscient God is involved necessarily (Psalm 139; Heb. 4:13).
 - b. As Bernard Ramm wrote, "The argument for prophecy is essentially the argument from omniscience. Limited human beings know the future only if it is told them by an omniscient Being." (Protestant Christian Evidences, p. 81).
 4. When narrowing the study of prophecy to its predictive element, E. P. M'Ilvaines' classic definition is, "A declaration of future events, such as no human wisdom or forecast is sufficient to make; depending on a knowledge of the innumerable contingencies of human affairs, which belongs exclusively to the omniscience of God; so

that, from its very nature, prophecy must be divine revelation." (The Evidences of Christianity, p. 185)

- B. Predictive prophecy is not a mere lucky guess or a highly probable prediction.
 - 1. It is not like the weather man who makes his forecast based upon what he observes and verifies from nature's law; nor is it like the late Jean Dixon making so many predictions that she just might get one right some day.
 - 2. It is not the prediction of an election based upon certain polls or statistics which may be gathered and then conclude a probable outcome.
 - 3. A classic illustration: Before the election of President Bill Clinton, one could reasonably predict that he would be re-elected with Vice-President Al Gore as his running mate. There is nothing astonishing about such a prediction.
 - 4. However, if a man lived in Outer Mongolia two thousand years ago and wrote of the future existence of the United States, and by name wrote that Bill Clinton and Al Gore would be in the White House, naming their margin of victory over their opponent, and speaking of their policies enacted, then that would have been true predictive prophecy.
- C. Human beings, whether they lived in the past, live in the present, or will live in the future, cannot foresee the future without Divine guidance.
 - 1. There are no other books written by men which contain prophecies like the those found in God's Word.
 - 2. When a prophet of God spoke or wrote of the future, not one time did their prophecy or prophecies fail.
- D. God challenged the false prophets of Isaiah's day to "put up or shut up" in Isaiah 41:21-24.
 - 1. The challenge put God's enemies to shame and embarrassment
 - 2. Yet, it was an encouragement to the prophets of God to speak God's will with boldness.
 - 3. God foretelling the future through His inspired prophets was conclusive proof that the Bible is a product of God and not men, and that all men should hear God's words (Isaiah 45:21).

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF PREDICTIVE PROPHECY.

- A. When Rubel Shelly wrote the article Biblical Prophecy as an Evidence of Inspiration in his more sober, saner and sounder days for the January, 1970 issue of the Spiritual Sword, he said there were three basic criterion for evaluating predictive prophecy.

1. "First, the prophecy must deal with nations, persons and/or events that are, at the time of the prophetic utterance, remote enough in time as to be incapable of mere guesswork or logical deduction."
 2. "Second, true prophecy is not a matter of vague generalizations but involves minutely detailed predictions."
 3. "Third, the fulfillment of the prophecy is clear and unequivocal."
- B. The late Guy N. Woods wrote, "The characteristics of true prophecy are always observable in their work. (1) They foretold future events independent of laws known to ordinary mortals, and in the face of manifold contingencies beyond the possibility of human calculation. (2) The predictions anticipated definite events. (3) The prediction was applicable to the event, and primarily to no other. (4) The language in which the prediction was announced was clear and without ambiguity. (5) The fulfillment was certain, definite, and unmistakable." (*Gospel Advocate, Prophecy an Evidence of Inspiration*, December 4, 1952, p. 791).
- C. In Deuteronomy 13:1-5 and 18:9-22, God gave instructions to the children of Israel on how to distinguish a true prophet from a false one.
1. A true prophet:
 - a. Would not be involved in things which are an abomination unto God or lead Israel into such (18:9-14).
 - b. Would speak the very words God put in his mouth (18:18).
 - c. Would only speak those things that would come to pass or be fulfilled (18:19-22).
 - d. Would have respect for the law of God (at this time, the law of Moses), and would not teach contrary to it or practice anything it did not authorize (13:4).
 2. A false prophet:
 - a. Would be involved in things which are an abomination unto God and they would lead Israel astray (13:1-5).
 - b. Would not speak the words of God because God would not speak through such a wicked, rebellious individual (18:20).
 - c. Would speak those things that would not come to pass and would utterly fail (18:22).
 - d. Would have no respect for the law of God, the law of Moses, and would teach and practice things not authorize (13:5).

III. THE BASIC ARGUMENT.

- A. As long as an argument is valid and the premises sound,

there are possible ways the basic argument could be worded regarding predictive prophecy as a proof of Bible inspiration.

- B. In the book by the then rational and reasonable Shelly entitled *What Shall We Do with the Bible?*, p.20, he proposed the following argument which was used as his basic argument.
1. All predictive prophecies which can be explained solely on the basis of supernatural influence and which were clearly made known before their corresponding fulfillments are evidences (proofs) which verify the claims of the religion involved.
 2. All predictive prophecies recorded in the Bible are predictive prophecies which can be explained solely on the basis of supernatural influence and which were made known before their corresponding fulfillments.
 3. Therefore, all predictive prophecies recorded in the Bible are evidences (proofs) which verify the claims of the religion involved.
- C. Mark N. Posey, editor of *The Pillar of Truth*, wrote in his article *Predictive Prophecy Proves that the Bible is Inspired*, dated July-August, 1993, the following argument.
1. If it is the case that the Bible possesses predictive prophecy (where predictive prophecy makes it clear that the Bible is beyond human production), then the Bible is the word of God.
 2. It is the case that the Bible possesses predictive prophecy.
 3. Therefore, the Bible is the word of God.
- D. B. J. Clarke set forth two basic arguments in his church bulletin, *The Searcher*, entitled *The Inspiration of the Bible*, May 28, 1995.
1. If the Bible exhibits even one characteristic that can be proven to be of supernatural origin, then the Bible is the inspired word of God.
 2. There is at least one such characteristic.
 3. Therefore, the Bible is the inspired word of God.
 - a. Major Premise — Any book that claims inspiration must demonstrate prophetic accuracy in prediction and fulfillment.
 - b. Minor Premise — Prophetic accuracy and predictions that are beyond human production prove such a book to be the inspired word of God.
 - c. Minor Premise — The Bible is not only such a book, but it is the only book that demonstrates these characteristics.
 - d. Conclusion — Therefore, the Bible is the inspired

word of God.

- E. Another argument that can be made for the Bible's inspiration by using predictive prophecy to thus prove its inspiration is:
 - 1. All writings which accurately predict the future are things that were given by God.
 - 2. Bible prophecies are writings which accurately predict the future.
 - 3. Therefore, Bible prophecies are things that were given by God.

IV. PREDICTIVE PROPHECIES CATEGORIZED.

- A. Old Testament Prophecies Made and Fulfilled in the Old Testament.
 - 1. The Israelites were to remain faithful to God, but if they did not, Moses prophesied they would lose access to the promise land and would be scattered among the nations.
 - a. Deuteronomy 4:25-27
 - b. Fulfillment of this prophecy came in 2 Kings 18; 24; 25.
 - 2. Joshua prophesied a curse on the man who would rebuild the city of Jericho.
 - a. Joshua 6:26
 - b. 1 Kings 16:34 records the fulfillment of Joshua's prophecy five hundred years later.
 - 3. Because David had committed adultery with Bathsheba and had her husband Uriah the Hittite murdered in battle, Nathan the prophet pronounced his punishment.
 - a. 2 Samuel 12:9-12
 - 4. The prophecy was fulfilled in 2 Samuel 16:21, 22.
- B. Old Testament Prophecies Made and Fulfilled in the New Testament.
 - 1. Isaiah prophesied about the mission of John the baptizer, the forerunner to Christ.
 - a. Isaiah 40:3,4; Malachi 3:1
 - b. When John came, over seven hundred years later, the inspired Matthew wrote of the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesy (Matt. 3:3).
 - 2. Isaiah prophesied that a virgin would conceive and bear a child who would be "God with us."
 - a. Isaiah 7:14
 - b. The inspired writers, Matthew and Luke, recorded this prophesy's fulfillment (Matt. 1:22, 23; Luke 1:26ff).
 - 3. The prophecy of Isaiah concerning the suffering Servant

reveals great detail approximately 750 years before Christ died.

- a. Isaiah 53
 - 1) He would be unattractive to the Jews.
 - 2) He would be despised and rejected.
 - 3) He would suffer grief and hardship.
 - 4) The transgression of man would fall upon Him.
 - 5) He would remain silent while on trial.
 - 6) His death would be the result of judicial decree.
 - 7) He was to die by violence.
 - 8) He would be numbered with the transgressors.
 - 9) He would be among the rich in His tomb.
 - 10) When His life was offered, He would prolong His days.
 - 11) The gospel was to prosper in His hands.
 - 12) Through His knowledge many would be justified.
 - 13) He was ultimately to triumph.
 - b. Read the four gospels and see these prophetic facts fulfilled without question.
4. There are over three hundred prophesies of the coming of the Christ into the world which directly relate to His birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection and each one is fulfilled in the New Testament.
 - a. Bethlehem, the place of His birth (Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:3-8).
 - b. He will enter Jerusalem riding upon an ass (Zechariah 9:9; John 13:18).
 - c. He shall be betrayed by a disciple (Psalm 41:9; Matt. 26:14,15).
 - d. He would be betrayed for a certain price (Zechariah 11:12; Matt. 27:3-7).
 - e. His hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16; Luke 23:33; John 20:24-28).
 - f. He will not have any broken bones (Psalm 34:20; John 19:33-36).
 - g. He will arise from the dead (Psalm 16:10; Matt. 28:6; Acts 2:22-32).
 - h. He will ascend (Psalm 68:18; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9).
 - i. And many, many more!
 5. There are prophecies that reveal to mankind that God will establish a kingdom/church.
 - a. Isaiah 2:1-4; Daniel 2:36-44
 - b. The kingdom came on Pentecost following the Lord's resurrection (Acts 2) and in the history book of the church (Acts), one can see the church's growth, and from Romans to Revelation one knows the kingdom is here today.

- C. Old Testament Prophecies Made and Fulfilled in History External to the Bible Record.
1. Moses gave a most remarkable prophecy to Israel regarding their future punishment.
 - a. Deuteronomy 28:47-68 — Guy N. Woods gives an excellent summary of the details of this prophecy in his afore-mentioned article.
 - 1) "A fierce and warlike nation from afar, whose language the people of Israel would not understand, would assail them with barbarous fury, showing mercy for neither old nor young."
 - 2) "In the fearful fray which should result from this attack Jerusalem and Judea would be besieged, their defenses destroyed and the last hope of safety be lost."
 - 3) "The attack would be characterized by horror unparalleled in the history of the world; in the famine which attended the siege human flesh would be consumed; a man would kill his wife and devour her, a 'tender and delicate woman' formerly hesitant to put her foot on the ground would secretly slay her baby and eat it."
 - 4) "Tens of thousands of Israelites were to die in the siege. Multitudes of others were to be taken captive and sold into abject slavery."
 - 5) "The people were to be scattered throughout the nations of the earth, where they were to find no rest for the soles of their feet."
 - 6) "They were to suffer oppression, hardship, persecution; and their name was to become a hiss and a byword among the nations. Their difficulties were to be of long continuance. Yet,"
 - 7) "God would not cast them away; he would not abhor them, or reject them utterly."
 - b. The fulfillment of this striking prophecy is well recorded in the annals of history especially by the historian Josephus.
 2. God sent two prophets to Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria, with a message of doom with amazing detail.
 - a. Book of Nahum and Zephaniah 2:13-15.
 - b. Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar fulfilled the prophecies of doom by bringing destruction to the Assyrian nation.
 3. Jeremiah predicted that all of the nations wherein Israel was scattered would be destroyed.
 - a. Jeremiah 30:11; 31:35-37
 - b. The Jews remain unto this day, but not as a nation.

- Also, the nations wherein Israel was scattered no longer exist.
4. Isaiah prophesied the doom of king Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian empire.
 - a. Isaiah 13:17-22; 14:23
 - 1) The Medes would overthrow Babylon (v.17).
 - 2) Its overthrow would be compared to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (v.19).
 - 3) It would never be inhabited nor dwelt in again (v.20).
 - 4) Arabian tents would not be pitched there (v.20).
 - 5) Shepherds will not take their sheep there (v.20).
 - 6) Desert animals will be its only inhabitants (v.21).
 - 7) Pools of water shall cover its landscape (v.14:23).
 - b. History records its doom and Isaiah's details of Babylon's destruction are astounding evidence of God's inspired role.
 5. Ezekiel foresaw the Babylonian siege of the city of Tyre and its eventual downfall.
 - a. Ezekiel 26 (Isaiah 23 also records the fall of Tyre.)
 - 1) King Nebuchadnezzar of the Babylonians would capture the city (v.7).
 - 2) Many nations aid in Tyre's downfall (v.3).
 - 3) The city's stones, timber and dust would be put in the midst of the water (v.12).
 - 4) The place where the city once stood would be as bare as the top of a rock (vs.4,14).
 - 5) It would be so bare that fishermen could spread their nets (vs.5,14).
 - 6) Tyre would never be rebuilt (v.14).
 - b. When Alexander the Great and his army came to Tyre two hundred and fifty years after the prophecy was made, Tyre was destroyed with the minute detail Ezekiel revealed.
 6. Ezekiel foresaw that Egypt would not be destroyed, but would be in perpetual weakness and degradation in comparison to the nations that would come to power.
 - a. Ezekiel 29:13-15
 - b. Prophecy is now history and the prophecy about Egypt has come pass and evidence of Egypt's weakness today.
 7. There are prophecies related to the future of the Jewish nation, how that they would be scattered among the nations whom their fathers have not known and how that they would be regarded as a reproach to other nations.

- a. Ezekiel 22:15; Jeremiah 9:16; 24:9
- b. The sad fulfillment of this true prediction is known to any astute observer.
- D. New Testament Prophecies Made and Fulfilled in History External to the Bible Record.
 1. Jesus prophesied about the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - a. Matthew 24
 - b. The fulfillment of His prophecy occurred in A.D. 70.
 2. Paul reveals that there will be the development of a great apostasy (which certainly depicts at least in part the Catholic church) not long after Paul's death.
 - a. 1 Timothy 4:1,2 and 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
 - b. History records the departures of the great apostasy.

CONCLUSION:

1. If one studies the predictive prophecies of the Bible with an "honest and good heart" and sees the accurate, detailed fulfillments of those prophecies, how could they deny the inspiration of the Bible?
 2. One is inevitably drawn to the conclusion that the Bible is the product of the omniscient God of heaven and has the right to be man's authority for right living and true worship!
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Evolution: Gap Theory, Fossils And Bones, The Days Of Creation

Mike Kiser

1. There is no way for the scientist and the theologian not to rub elbows with each other. They both are discussing the persistent and puzzling question of man's origin and nature.
 - a. I have a satisfactory answer, Genesis Chapters One and Two. I begin with God.
 - b. Those who deny the existence of a Supreme Being have none! They begin with nothing.
2. Many have concluded that we are making a big fuss about matters of small consequence.
 - a. Liberal scholars have control of higher education, and control the vote.
 - b. What was once a small ripple on a distant shore has become a gigantic wave on our doorstep.
3. Evolution is the backbone of every philosophy that opposes

God, the Bible, and morality.

- a. When men make a myth out of the Genesis account, then they also throw off moral restraints and allow themselves freedom to indulge in immorality without the threat of eternal punishment.
 - b. Today, we are just reaping what we have sown for the last 150 years: anarchy, intemperance, immorality, and materialism.
4. The question concerns whether man was created and placed in the Garden of Eden by a higher intelligence, or whether he evolved from a lower form through an entirely physical process.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE BIBLE AND CREATION.

A. The Old Testament on creation.

1. The first two chapters of Genesis.
2. The Law: Exodus 20:11; 1 Samuel 2:8; Nehemiah 9:6
3. The Psalms: Job 38:4; Psalm 8:3; 90:2; 95:5; 102:25; Proverbs 3:9; Ecclesiastes 12:1
4. The Prophets: Isaiah 40:21-23; 42:5; Jeremiah 5:8; 10:10; Jonah 1:9; Zechariah 12:1; Malachi 2:10

B. The New Testament on Creation:

1. What Jesus Said. Matthew 19:4 (Direct quotation of Genesis 2:24)
2. Other statements in the accounts of the Gospel, John 1:1-4,10.
3. The book of Acts, Acts 14:15; 17:2
4. Paul's Epistles: Rom. 1:19,25; 5:12,17; 1 Cor. 11:7; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:12
5. The Epistle to the Hebrews: Heb. 1:2,10; 3:4; 11:1-3
6. The Book of Revelation: Rev. 4:11; 10:6; 14:12

II. ATTEMPTS TO HARMONIZE EVOLUTION AND THE BIBLE.

A. Assumptions about the origin of all things:

1. Aristotle was the first to express the belief that there had been a gradual transition of the lower to the higher, with man standing at the peak.
2. Along came Darwin... *Origin of the Species* (1859)
 - a. All present life has evolved from other more primitive forms.
 - b. That new species arise by the continued survival and reproduction of individuals best fitted or adapted to the particular environment.
3. Synthetic theory of evolution.
 - a. Assumes that mutation is the acting mechanism and
 - b. Natural selection as the guiding force.

4. The Idea of Theistic evolution.
 - a. Evolution and the Bible cannot be reconciled!
 - b. The only way to harmonize the two is to change the Bible!
- B. Evolution is still just an unscientific theory!
 1. Science is limited to the material, matter and energy, and to the investigation of observable facts. The scientist deals only with phenomena that are universal, timeless, repeatable at will and dependable. It is only an approach to truth, not truth itself. It can only work with hypotheses, theories, and principles (laws).
 2. There are competent scientists who are bold enough to declare that "natural selection" simply does not work. Evolution is not a closed issue and established fact.
 - a. The idea that Bible believers are ignorant and unscientific is unreasonable.
 - b. Evolution cannot be demonstrated! It is a philosophy, not a science.
 3. There is a great contradiction between science and evolution.
 - a. Law of biogenesis: life comes from life.
 - b. The origin of matter FROM WHICH life supposedly came.
 - c. The first law and second law of thermodynamics.
 - d. All higher animals have organs which are useless until fully developed! How do we account for the survival and reproduction of these animals!
 - e. The reproduction of some plants depend upon the habits of some animals which in turn depend upon that plant!
 - f. The necessity of perfect and complete instincts. There could have never been a time in which these instincts were half evolved.
 4. Evolutionists want to interpret the evidence in the light of their theory rather than to view it objectively and scientifically.
- C. The liberal or modernistic theologian prior to WWI.
 1. The Bible is just a human product mixed with certain divine truths.
 2. The Genesis writers (JEPD) just updated the Babylonian myths, purifying them of their polytheism.
 3. The Genesis account is just the worldview (Jewish) of that day.
 4. Man is inherently good, therefore the need for atonement is denied!
- D. The Rise of Neo-orthodoxy.
 1. World War I dashed the optimistic hopes of Modernism

- and gave us Neo-orthodoxy:
2. Define Neo-orthodoxy. (1920's) Application of Theistic existential philosophy to Liberal theology.
 - a. Uses Biblical terms, but assigns different meaning to the words.
 - b. The Bible a humanly produced book, containing errors.
 - c. Jesus not divine, but the first Christian, we hold views he held.
 3. Leading personalities
 - a. Karl Barth—account of creation not actual history, but poetry, a saga.
 - b. Emil Brunner—troubled about the alleged contradictions between the Bible and science, and therefore Genesis is a very limited view of the world, and evolution is a mechanism of creation.
 - c. Reinhold Niebuhr—mythological presentation of spiritual truths.
 - d. Paul Tillich
 - E. There are no missing links in this dangerous chain.
 1. Agnosticism and atheism rest squarely on the foundation of evolution.
 2. Modernism rests squarely on the foundation of agnosticism and atheism.
 3. Liberalism rests squarely on the foundation of modernism.
 4. Neo-orthodoxy rests squarely on the foundation of liberalism.
 5. And the evangelical movement rests squarely on the foundation of neo-orthodoxy.

III. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE AGE OF THE EARTH?

- A. The age of the earth would not prove evolution.
 1. An old earth would not rule out the possibility of special creation but a young earth does rule out the possibility of evolution.
 2. Present methods of dating the earth depend upon the principle of radioactivity (disintegration of Uranium into lead).
 3. Methods of estimating the age of the earth have produced inconsistent results; bringing the time table from billions down to millions of years!
- B. Paleontology, a study of life in the past, has long been regarded as the strongest link in the evolutionary chain of evidence.
 1. The Historical Period of man can only be extended back

5000 to 7000 years.

- a. Origin of cities 5000 BC
- b. Origin of writing 3200 BC
- c. No evidence of human activity before this.
- d. Lightfoot (1602-1675; famous Cambridge Hebraist) said Adam was created on Oct. 23, 4004 BC, at 9:00 A.M., 45th meridian time.
- e. The Bible account is to give us genealogy, not chronology.

2. Evolutionists say the supposed time table for the rocks calls for from 2 to 5 billion years.

- a. The theory of uniformitarianism. (Once again a theory, not a fact!)
- b. Darwin built his theory upon the theory of uniformitarianism. (Far from being scientific!)
- c. The smallest, simplest creatures were developed before the larger, more complex creatures. This would place the smaller on the bottom layers and the larger on the top layers.

3. The "star witness" for evolution becomes a surprise witness for creation!

C. The Fossil Story Does Not Prove Evolution.

1. Fossils are the impressions or traces of plants and animals found within the various layers of the earth's outer crust.

- a. At the very lowest point of the fossil record (Cambrian period) are to be found thousands of highly complex animals. (2,000 species all together!)
- b. Proof that animals of complex nature have been here from the beginning.
- c. They also show a sudden appearance contemporaneous with each other.
- d. Geologists have only a hypothetical chart. The entire geological column would have to be some 500,000 feet thick... the most they have is 16,000 feet (very few places); 5,000 feet (some places); less than 5,000 feet (most places) with much less than 1,000 feet thick!
- e. In some places, the layers are not in their needed order to support the theory.

2. There is no evidence that higher forms of life (plant and animal) developed from simple lower forms of life; and that life itself developed from non-living material.

- a. There are no animals to bridge the gap between protozoas (one celled) and metazoas (thousands of cells).
- b. No fossil record of a bridge between vertebrates and

invertebrates.

- c. There are no transitional links between groups of animals.
3. We find that the earliest animals are sharply differentiated into species, genera, families, orders and phyla as they are today. Every fossil remain exhibits an animal that was full developed with all the features that distinguished the group to which it belonged.
4. There is no proof that the ape developed into a man. The missing links are still missing.
5. It can be assumed that God created the earth perfectly aged to accommodate man's needs.

IV. THE "GAP THEORY" EXAMINED AND REFUTED.

- A. One of The Compromising Views of Evangelicals.
 1. View held by many: Hengstenberg; Delitzsch; Harry Rimmer
 2. Popularized by the Scofield Reference Bible.
 3. The actual rendering of Genesis 1:2 in the RSV
- B. Explained: Earth perfect in Genesis 1:1; verse 2 "earth became," rest of the chapter describes a refurbishing of the earth. Between verses 1 and 3 we have the geological development as revealed in the rocks. (see: Isa. 45:18)
 1. Different from the view that calls for a "long chaos."
 2. J. D. Thomas saw this as possible explanation, but does not personally subscribe to it.
- C. The major missing link is still missing! The link between the physical man and the spiritual man.

V. THE "DAY AGE THEORY" EXAMINED AND REFUTED.

- A. Explained: Day is not a solar day of 24 hours, but an indefinite period of time ranging up to one million years or more. Once again trying to reconcile Genesis with Geology.
- B. Another one of the compromising views of evangelicals.
 1. Espoused by Bernard Ramm, *The Christian View of Science and Scripture*.
 2. J. D. Thomas argues for this: *Facts and Faith*, pp. 161-163
 3. "Are they 24-hour days, or are they long periods of time? I have to answer I do not know. ... The account seems to refer to 24-hour days, but this may be incorrect... it is foolish to attempt to harmonize the days of Genesis with the geologic ages." — Jack Wood Sears (1969)
- C. Refutation of this theory:
 1. Hebrew "yom" when used with definite article normally designates a solar day.

2. "Evening and morning" designates a solar day, not ages.
 3. Exodus 20:8-11 refers to creation to illustrate the Sabbath.
 4. Plants on third day, the sun on the fourth day.
 5. Plants (of third day) that depend on animals (of the sixth day).
 6. Man came on 6th day, lived through seventh, and into the eighth.
- D. The major missing link is missing still! The link between the physical man and the spiritual man.

CONCLUSION:

1. Evolution remains an unproved, unscientific theory. The missing links are all still missing.
 2. The link between the physical man and the spiritual man has only one explanation. Gen. 1:26-28
 3. Therefore we hold to our faith that:
 - a. God is. Exodus 3:14; Psa. 90:2
 - b. God created. Gen. 1:1; John 1:1,2
 - c. God upholds. Heb. 1:3; 2 Peter 3:5,6
 - d. God cares. Heb. 4:15,16; 1 Peter 3:12
 - e. God provides. Phil. 4:19; Heb. 11:40
 - f. God will judge. Acts 17:30,31
 - g. God rewards. 2 Tim. 4:7,8; Heb. 11:6
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Does God Exist?

1 Peter 3:15, Genesis 1:1 and Hebrews 11:6

David Stevenson

1. Why is there a need to study this topic?
2. Do not some believe in God already?
3. However, there are many in this world who do not believe in God. Such as:
 - a. Atheists who say, "I don't believe in God."
 - b. Agnostics who say, "I don't know if there is a God, and I don't think you can prove it."
 - c. Skeptics who say, "I am not sure if there is a God or not, but I doubt it."
4. Christians have the obligation to teach others and to be able to give an answer for the things we believe.
5. Answering will build up our faith (Heb. 11:1; Rom. 10:17).

DISCUSSION:**I. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF OUR PROOF THAT GOD EXISTS?**

- A. "Can we really prove that God exists?"
- B. Proof called PRIMA-FACIE evidence?
 1. "It exists when adequate evidence is available to establish a fact, and unless it is contradicted with proof, it legal stands as a proven fact."
 2. This proof comes by compiling all the evidence and if that evidence forces a conclusion, beyond a doubt, and is not contradicted by other evidence, then it stands as a proven fact.

II. MAN IS A RELIGIOUS CREATURE.

- A. Man is the only creature on the earth who has a desire to want to be religious — Acts 17:16-28 (wanted to cover all god's, so they made one to cover any they missed).
- B. But where did man get this religious tendency?
- C. Where does man get his knowledge of things? There are only three sources for knowledge:
 1. Observation: Watching and closely examining something.
 2. Experience: Actual participation in or direct contact with something.
 3. Direct revelation: Having something revealed directly to you.
- D. The only reasonable explanation as to how we can know God is through all three of these methods.

III. THE ARGUMENT FROM "CAUSE AND EFFECT."

- A. The law of "cause and effect" simply says, "that for every effect there must be an adequate cause."
- B. The law of "cause and effect" proves that nothing comes from nothing and that things that are living do not come from things that are non-living.
- C. The Bible uses this same thought — Hebrews 3:4.
- D. In fact, nature itself shows us an effect and argues for a cause, which is God — Psalm 19:1.
- E. ILLUSTRATION: universe, respiratory system, bone (Genesis 1).

IV. IF THERE IS A DESIGN, THERE MUST BE A DESIGNER.

- A. The fact that if something has an order, arrangement or design shows that there is a purpose and a designer of such a system.
- B. ILLUSTRATION: watch, car, computer, earth, the human

body (Acts 14:17; Psalm 139:14).

- C. Some may argue, "you have never seen God with your eyes. So how do you know there must be a designer?"
 - 1. Let me ask you, have you ever seen the person who designed the watch, car, or computer?
 - 2. No!
 - 3. But you still know there has to be a "designer" because these things are here.
 - 4. And, the same is true with God, because his design is here proves he does exist.

V. MAN IS A MORAL INDIVIDUAL.

- A. Man is a moral being — he realizes there are some things that he ought to do, and some things that he ought not to do.
- B. Plants and animals do not possess this.
- C. Someone once said, "if there is no God, then everything is permitted."
 - 1. This is where many atheists contradict themselves.
 - 2. They say there is no God, but there is a problem of evil.
 - 3. But if there is no God, then nothing would be evil.
 - 4. Because without God, everything would be permissible.
 - 5. Man would simply be like other wild animals without morals and a rational mind.
 - 6. Thus, someone gave man these standards of morality, and that someone is God.

VI. THE HISTORICAL JESUS.

- A. Jesus lived on this earth — we can prove that. He also had a great influence upon people — we can prove that.
- B. Because of the nature and character of Jesus, there is no way to explain him apart from the fact that he came from God.
- C. Jesus is unlike any others. He was a unique person. Even Jesus' worst enemies could not convict him of sin (John 8:46; 18:38; Matt. 27:4).
- D. No philosophy or religion in the world can even begin to compete with the religion of Jesus.
 - 1. His teachings have shaken the whole world.
 - 2. Jesus forbade what many allow.
 - 3. Jesus' teachings are for our betterment, now and in eternity.
- E. The fact that the church of Christ exists is proof that Jesus is the Son of God and that there is a God.
 - 1. His teachings showed him to be the Son of God.
 - 2. His life showed him to be the Son of God.
 - 3. His credible miracles prove him to be the Son of God.

- F. Thus, because Jesus was the type person He was, and because of the things He did and taught; it only adds to the proof that there is a God in heaven.

VII. THE BIBLE PROVES THAT GOD EXISTS.

- A. The Bible plainly states this fact, Genesis 1:1 (Acts 17:16-28).
- B. The Bible teaches that nature shows God exists (Psalm 19:1; Job 12:7-10).
- C. The Bible points out that men are fools if they reject the fact that God exists, Psalm 14:1.
- D. Romans chapter 1 shows how degraded men become when they reject God and true is the case indeed (vs. 24-27).
- E. The Bible gives commands in a way that they must be obeyed if you want salvation — no man would have simply come up with this idea had it not been for something bigger than man to give him these thoughts of restrictions, salvation, man's soul or such. Thus, God has given these commands and he does exist.
- F. Think about the Bible!
1. It's unity proves there is a God.
 - a. It covers 1,500 yrs. Written by 40 different people. Containing a host of prophecies. All fulfilled to the detail (except those that pertain to the end of time and the judgment, which shall be fulfilled completely).
 - b. No other book like this could ever have been written by mere men without the direction from God through inspiration guiding them to write these things.
 2. No other book in the Earth is like the Bible.

CONCLUSION:

1. All these evidences combined illustrate and prove that God does exist.
2. Let us build up our faith by the evidence.
3. Let us show others these facts so that they too can believe in God and obey his commandments.
4. We can know and prove that God does exist.
5. God does not ask anyone to believe in him without proof, but when the proof is presented, he expects one to accept it and act correctly upon that proof (Isaiah 1:18-20; 1 Thess. 5:21).
6. God is not a "possibility," but rather a "certainty."
7. Let us sing the song, "Our God, He Is Alive" (There Is A God) — fully believing and meaning what we say.
8. Let us not forget that because God exists, we must also realize that he has given us rules to live by in the New Testament;

and that if we do not follow those rules, we will be punished, but if we will keep his commandments, great blessings shall be ours to enjoy (2 Thess. 1:7-9; Heb. 11:6).

9. If we know that we know him, let us keep his commandments (1 John 2:3).
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Evidence Of The Mosaic Authorship Of The Pentateuch

Walter W. Pigg

1. Pentateuch defined.
 - a. The word "Pentateuch" is from the Greek *penteteuchos*, meaning "Fivefold book."
 - b. It is composed of the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
 - c. In the Hebrew the Pentateuch is one volume, referred to by Jews as "the Law," or "*Torah*."
2. The evidence that Moses is the author of the Pentateuch is overwhelming.
 - a. We shall devote a considerable part of our discussion to this most important subject.
3. Response to the critics of the Mosaic authorship.
 - a. It is noteworthy that the majority of the critics of the Mosaic authorship do not believe in the inspiration of the Pentateuch.
 - b. The critics are generally without any serious evidence to uphold their criticisms.
4. The importance of the issue.
 - a. Valid evidence for the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch gives a solid foundation for all the Old Testament Scriptures.
 - b. There is an inseparable connection between the Old Testament Scriptures, including the Pentateuch, and the New Testament.
 - c. The references of Christ and His apostles to the writings of Moses assures us that they are inspired of God.

DISCUSSION:

I. EVIDENCE OF THE MOSAIC AUTHORSHIP.

A. Acceptance of the Mosaic authorship over the years from antiquity.

1. One scholar said: "Prior to that date [middle of last century], the claim of Moses to be regarded as the

author of the Pentateuch may be said to have been supported by the almost unanimous consent of both Hebrew and Christian antiquity."¹

- a. The above scholar added: "With the exception of that offered by the second century heretics, it is problematical if the genuineness of the Mosaic writings encountered any serious opposition until towards the close of the seventeenth century..."²
 2. Another source says of the Mosaic authorship: "There can be little doubt but that the Book of Genesis was written by Moses, as were the other Books of the Pentateuch. The author of Exodus must have been the author of Genesis, as the former history is a continuation of the latter, and evidently manifests the same spirit and intention ... it comes to us as the authentic work of an author who wrote as he was inspired by the Holy Ghost."³
 3. Speaking of the internal evidence of the Pentateuch, it is said: "For it cannot be shown to bear any traces of post-Mosaic times and circumstances; on the contrary, it has the evident stamp of Mosaic origin both in substance and in style. All that has been adduced in proof to the contrary by the so-called modern criticism is founded either upon misunderstanding and misinterpretation, or upon a misapprehension of the peculiarities of the Semitic style of historical writing, or lastly upon doctrinal prejudices, in other words, upon a repudiation of all the supernatural characteristics of divine revelation, whether in the form of miracle or prophecy."⁴
- B. Internal evidence from the Pentateuch.
1. References to Moses' writing in the Pentateuch.
 - a. "*And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua...*" (Exodus 17:14).
 - b. "*And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill...*" (Exodus 24:4). See also Exodus 34:27.
 - c. "*And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,*" or similar words are found in the following places in Leviticus: 1:1; 4:1; 6:1,8,19,24; 7:22,28; 8:1.
 - d. "*And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the Lord...*" (Numbers 33:2).
 - e. The king to write a copy of the law. "*And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of*

that which is before the priests the Levites" (Deut. 17:18). See Deut. 27:1-8.

f. *"And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished"* (Deut. 31:24).

C. New Testament references which support the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch.

1. *"...See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them"* (Matt. 8:4).
2. *"He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so"* (Matt. 19:8).
3. *"Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat"* (Matt. 23:2).
4. *"And he saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded for a testimony unto them"* (Mark 1:44).
5. *"For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother..."* (Mark 7:10). See also Mark 10:3,4; 12:26.
6. *"Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.... And he said unto them, If they will not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead"* (Luke 16:29, 31).
7. *"Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"* (Luke 20:37).
8. *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up"* (John 3:14).
9. *"Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses in whom ye trust"* (John 5:45). See also John 6:32; 7:19, 23.
10. Luke speaks of Christ: *"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself"* (Luke 24:27).
11. John speaks of Moses: *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ"* (John 1:17).
12. The apostles speak of Moses.
 - a. *"For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me..."* (Acts 3:22).
 - b. *"And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses"* (Acts 13:39).

- c. *"...Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved"* (Acts 15:1). See also Acts 15:5, 21; 26:22; 28:23).
 - d. *"For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law..."* (Rom. 10:5).
 - e. *"But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are not people..."* (Rom. 10:19).
 - f. *"For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn..."* (1 Cor 9:9).
 - g. *"But even unto this day, When Moses is read..."* (2 Cor. 3:15)
13. To those who believe in the inspiration of the scriptures, the above references to Moses and his writings, along with others which have not been noted, should suffice as adequate proof that Moses is indeed the writer of the Pentateuch.
- a. If Christ and the apostles accepted the writings of Moses as genuine (as they do), then we certainly should do the same.

D. The interconnection between the Old Testament books.

- 1. The reference to Moses in the first five books of the Old Testament are numerous.
- 2. In the book of Joshua, chapter 24, much of the history covered by the Pentateuch is given in a nutshell.
- 3. There are connecting links between many of the Old Testament books, which have some relationship to the Pentateuch.

E. The value of internal evidence.

- 1. Brother McGarvey says, "Unless internal evidence can be set aside by valid proof, it must stand good before the bar of enlightened opinion."⁵
 - a. There is lack of valid proof by the critics to refute the Mosaic authorship.

II. RESPONSE TO THE CRITICS OF THE MOSAIC AUTHORSHIP.

- A. Most criticism of the Pentateuch relates to its author and time of composition.
- 1. In 1753, *Astruc* published what is known as the post Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch.
 - a. The position was taken that the Pentateuch was written from 700 to 1,000 years after the death of Moses.
 - 1) It was also alleged that it was composed by a number of different authors.

- b. This hypothesis made rapid progress from that point.
 - c. The criticism was primarily the rationalistic criticism of Germany.
- 2. The critics maintain that the Pentateuch is comprised of four major documents.
 - a. These documents are: the Elohist, the Jahvistic, the Priestly document, and the Deuteronomistic document. They are designated: E, J, D, and P.
 - 1) Some believe these to be different writers, others to be schools.
 - b. Of the above hypothesis, one authority says: "Again and again the critical approach gives evidence of being guided by purely subjective opinion instead of valid proof."⁶
 - c. More than a century ago the following comment concerning critics of the Pentateuch was made: "in the present day a new attack has been made by persons professing their belief in Christianity, and directed against the internal evidences of the Book, on the alleged ground, that though it does contain in all its parts the Word of God, yet from the ignorance, weaknesses, and prejudices of the men who wrote it, the truth is so mixed up with errors and traditionary legends, that we have only a fallible Bible, stamped with the infirmities and imperfections of its human authors."⁷
- 3. A comment from earlier this century speaks of those who believe in the authorship of Pentateuch by Moses, and of those who are critics. "It is still believed by the mass of Jews and Christians, but in most universities of Northern Europe and North America other theories prevail. An application of what is called 'higher' or 'documentary criticism' has led to the formation of a number of hypotheses. Some of these are very widely held, but unanimity has not been attained, and recent investigations have challenged even the conclusions that are most generally accepted."⁸
- 4. The response to the critics of the Mosaic authorship by one source included the following areas of direct and indirect evidence:
 - a. "The statements of the book itself."
 - b. "By frequent references in the subsequent books of Scripture."
 - c. "The testimonies borne in the New Testament."
 - d. "From the nature of the case in many portions of the record."

- e. "From the form of the record."
 - f. "From the testimony of the Jews in our Lord's time."
 - g. "From the collateral testimony of all Pagan antiquity."⁹
5. Brother Rex A. Turner, Sr., an excellent student of the Old Testament, makes the following observation in his work on "The Authorship of the First Five Books of Old Testament." "Now, the determination relative to the authorship of the first five books and their accuracy must rest on viable evidence. The evidence presented by the liberal school thought — whether by those who embrace the 'documentary hypothesis,' or 'form criticism,' or 'oral tradition,' when properly analyzed, goes begging at every point; whereas, the evidence for the conservative school of thought is definite, abundant, and accurate — in fact overwhelmingly accurate."

III. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE.

A. The evaluation of Bible scholars.

1. "The Book of Genesis is probably the most important contained in the Bible; it forms the basis of all revelation; is necessary to account for the moral condition of man, and his consequent need of redemption by Christ. The history, doctrine, and prophecy of all inspired writings take their rise in its narrative, and without it would be unintelligible to us."¹⁰
2. Another scholar describes the importance of the Pentateuch this way: "The value set upon this opening portion of Scripture cannot be over-estimated, for its records occupy a place in universal history which cannot elsewhere be supplied; and its author has, next to Jesus Christ, exercised by his Divine legation, the most extensive and powerful influence over the progress and destinies of the human race."¹¹
3. The Pentateuch forms the very basis of God's revelation to man.
 - a. It is there that we learn of our origin and that of the universe.
 - b. The first reference to God's scheme of redemption (Gen. 3:15) is found therein.
 - c. Without it, much of the Old Testament and the New Testament would mean little.
4. Without valid evidence of the authenticity of the Pentateuch, there would be no basis for believing the New Testament or the other books of the Old Testament.

CONCLUSION:

1. With all the valid evidence of the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch, we should not question it.
2. With the fall of the Pentateuch would be also the fall of the New Testament.
 - a. The Old Testament and New Testament are inseparably connected.
3. It behooves us to gain a great knowledge of the inspired writings of Moses.
 - a. Without such, we can never understand the New Testament as we should.
4. In this time of the secularizing of our society and the removing of Godly influence, there is a special need to be able to defend the authenticity of the Pentateuch.
 - a. We would see an increase in the strength of the Lord's church if all members would be better educated in the Old Testament Scriptures.

ENDNOTES

¹Thomas Whitelaw, *The Pulpit Commentary*, Vol. 1, p. lxxv.

²Ibid.

³*The Preacher's Homiletic Commentary*, Vol. 1, p. 2.

⁴Keil-Delitzsch, *Commentary On The Old Testament*, Vol. 1, pp. 19,20.

⁵McGarvey, *The Authorship of Deuteronomy*, p. 200.

⁶H. C. Leupold, *Barnes' Notes*, Vol. 1, p. 18.

⁷Jamieson, Fausset, Brown, *A Commentary*, Vol. 1, Part 1, Preface.

⁸*The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, Vol. 4, p. 2299.

⁹Jamieson, Fausset, Brown, op. cit., Vol. 4, pp. xx, xxiii.

¹⁰Joseph S. Exell, *The Preacher's Homiletic Commentary*, p. 1.

¹¹Jamieson, Fausset, Brown, op. cit., Vol. 1, Preface.

The Bible And Science

Jeffery L. Orr

1. Although the Bible is not intended as a book of science, it certainly does not discourage man from pursuits of knowledge about the world around him.
 - a. In creating man, God desired that he "subdue" and "have dominion" over the earth itself and the animal world therein (Gen. 1:26-28).
 - b. God created the world and all that is therein for the benefit

- of mankind with the intent that he exercise this dominance as the superior creation in recognition of the One who created him (Psalm 19:1-3).
2. The natural resources of the earth are at man's disposal and through his intellect and ingenuity, these are pursued after and obtained with God's sanction.
 - a. As early as Genesis 4:22, we read of Tubal-cain who is described as *"the forger of every cutting instrument of brass and iron."*
 - b. God told the children of Israel they would be able to dig brass out of the hills of Canaan (Deut. 8:9), which assumes their knowledge of how to extricate and use this natural resource.
 3. These are two passages in the King James Version which translate the English word **Science**.
 - a. In Daniel 1:4, a description of the young men, including Daniel and his friends, taken into Babylonian Captivity mentions they were *"cunning in knowledge understanding science."*
 - 1) It should be noted that the terms "knowledge" and "science" found here are from the same Hebrew root word *yaada*, which is a general word for knowledge.
 - 2) The term "science" seems to indicate a more specific type of knowledge in which the Hebrews excelled, the areas of music, architecture, natural history, agriculture, theology, war, etc.
 - 3) This passage speaks impressively about the educational system of the Hebrew people under which these young men were trained.
 - 4) Although, the Hebrew people had, for the most part, left God and His law and even credited idols and themselves for their physical prosperity, Daniel and his friends seemed to have maintained their faith in the Almighty.
 - b. In 1 Timothy 6:20, Paul warned Timothy to *"avoid profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so-called."*
 - 1) The word "science" here is from the Greek word *gnosis*, which simply means knowledge.
 - 2) Paul is most likely warning Timothy of the Gnostics who dishonestly claimed to have special revelations from God; hence, knowledge *"falsely so-called."*
 - 3) Both Paul (Col. 2) and John (1 & 2 John) put brethren on alert about these false teachers.
 4. In this lesson entitled **The Bible And Science**, we want to consider the following points:
 - a. The true meaning and purpose of science;
 - b. Why science and religion are considered rivals;

- c. The fact that true science and the Bible complement one another (scientific foreknowledge in the Bible); and
 - d. Sincere Bible believers should not compromise with pseudo-science.
5. In this lesson, let us note —

DISCUSSION:

I. THE TRUE MEANING AND PURPOSE OF SCIENCE.

A. Science defined:

1. In the modern sense of the word, science is *"the investigation, discovery and classification of physical laws."*
2. The spirit and method of science was described by Harris Rall in his book, **Faith For Today**, in the following terms: *"Science stands for a way of study, and an attitude of mind. To leave theories and prejudices to one side, to bring an open mind and ask only for the truth, to study concrete facts with endless patience, to try to find an order of behavior in the world, as indicated by these facts, to test these findings by experiments and more facts."*
3. In his work, **Genes, Genesis and Evolution**, Dr. John Klotz stated that: *"...science, on the other hand, is man's groping for the truth. Science deals only with the natural, with things that can be apprehended by the sense organs. Science deals with those things that can be measured."*
4. Hence, science deals only with those things that can be observed or measured by use of the five senses, and it can be generally understood as man's attempt to gather and explain the facts about the Universe in which we live.

B. There are five basic assumptions of science:

1. Nature is understandable;
2. All nature is subject to the same laws (uniformity);
3. Measurable causes underlie observable effects;
4. The simplest explanation is probably the correct one (Principle of Parsimony, also known as "Occam's Razor"); and
5. The unfamiliar is explainable in terms of the familiar through analogy.

C. The scientific method consists of the following steps;

1. Observation;
2. Statement and definition of problem,
3. Formation of hypothesis;
4. Deduction from hypothesis of prediction;
5. Experimentation; and
6. Formation of theory or law.

- D. Science is categorized **specifically** according to the object of investigation: *astronomy* (study of space, galaxies, stars, etc.); *biology* (study of life); *geography* (study of the physical earth); *oceanography* (study of the ocean); *psychology* (study of man's thought processes and possible causes); *sociology* (study of man's interaction with one another); *topography* (study of land surfaces), etc.
- E. Science is **generally** classified in the following way: *formal sciences* (math, logic, etc.); *physical sciences* (physics, biology, psychology, etc.); and *social sciences* (sociology, political science, etc.).
- F. Having considered what modern science entails, let us now consider—

II. WHY THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE ARE CONSIDERED RIVALS.

- A. In his work, *Life of the Past*, Dr. George G. Simpson wrote: "*Man stands alone in the universe, a unique product of a long, unconscious, impersonal, material process with unique understanding and potentialities. These he owes to no one but himself, and it is to himself that he is responsible. He is not the creature of uncontrollable and undeterminable forces, but is his own master. He can and must decide and manage his own destiny.*"
 - 1. This self-centered, rebellious attitude is nothing new in light of man's history.
 - a. In Genesis 11, the account of the tower of Babel reveals such a disposition due to man's thinking there is strength in numbers — God confounded the language and scattered them.
 - b. The book of Judges sets forth a vicious cycle of prosperity, digression, oppression and delivery. During times of prosperity, such an attitude was evident — God allowed other peoples to oppress His own.
 - c. Prior to the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities, God's people experienced great physical prosperity. Instead of recognizing the true source of such, Israel and Judah credited themselves and fleshly alliances with other nations for their physical wealth.
 - 2. With the great strides and technological advances experienced in recent years, it seems that many in the "scientific" world are developing a similar attitude.
 - a. Many have come to believe that if science does not first "prove" something true, judgment must be suspended and anything with which the scientific method cannot deal must be discarded, ignored, or

- belittled.
- b. This has generated the false philosophy of scientism, which is so prevalent in our society today.
 - c. In his book entitled **Origins**, the famous paleontologist, Richard Leakey wrote: *"...the fruits of intellectual and technological endeavor in this latter quarter of the twentieth century give us just an inkling of what the human mind can achieve. The potential is enormous, almost infinite. We can if we so choose, do virtually anything...."*
 - d. The clear implication is that man, through science, can, and indeed someday will, find all the answers which will free him from any dependence upon God.
3. This is the same attitude depicted time and time again in man's history — the only difference is in the type of prosperity.
- B. When this way of thinking is coupled with a false concept of God and His desire for man, one can readily see why the so-called Bible-Science conflict has poisoned the minds of many today.
1. As a matter of history, this false concept of God and Christianity which has fueled this controversy resulted from the efforts of the Roman Catholic Church (in the period now known as **The Dark Ages**) to discourage and destroy any scientific advancement or studies.
 - a. During this time, the Roman Church had become a political empire controlling the lives of men wherever its long arm went.
 - b. Converts to the church were made, under penalty of death should they refuse, and any political opposition was seen as rebellion against God and dealt with promptly.
 2. Since the Scriptures were reserved for clergy and leaders of this corrupt system, anything that appeared to contradict their warped interpretations of God's word was fought against.
 - a. The Bible's mention of the "four comers of the earth" led them to believe the earth was flat; which belief permeated the thinking of man during this time.
 - b. Because the Bible sets forth the earth as a special creation of God for man to inhabit, the thinking was that the universe (stars, planets, etc.) revolved around the earth.
 - c. When the astronomer **Copernicus** discovered the earth revolved around the sun and his findings were publicized, he was promptly excommunicated and imprisoned as a heretic.

3. The period of history known as the **Renaissance** represented a breaking away from the strongholds of this corrupt political/religious system.
 - a. Unfortunately, the concept of God and His will for mankind was forever warped in the minds of many because of the evil influence of Catholicism.
 - b. Instead of seeking the truth of God's word, which also became increasingly muddled due to the many denominational bodies resulting from the reformation movement, the so-called thinkers of this day turned to humanistic endeavors.
 - c. Writings which propagated atheism and agnosticism became the norm. Schools, such as the Tubigen school in Germany, specialized in higher criticism of the Bible in efforts to discredit God's word.
 - d. In addition, scientific endeavors were resumed and not stifled as before.
- C. Is it any wonder that some have concluded, based on human history, that the Bible and Christianity are opposed to science and scientific endeavors.
 1. Such a conclusion, however, would be based on a misconception of what the Bible actually teaches and what true Christianity actually entails.
 2. As considered earlier, God desires man to "subdue" and "have dominion" over the earth, which would include the idea of "learning of" and "benefitting from" that which was created for him.
 3. Such is an encouragement to true science, not a condemnation or stifling of it. Such is not a threat to God, but a confirmation of the greatness of our Creator, and hence, an affirmation of the truthfulness of Christianity.
 4. Christianity and Science only appear to be contradictory when there is a false concept of God and Christianity or a perversion of true science and the spirit of honest investigation.
- D. Having considered this pseudo-rivalry between the Bible and Science, let us now consider—

III. THE HARMONY THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE.

- A. After practically a lifetime of study, the British philosopher, **Herbert Spencer**, declared that there are basically five fundamentals of science: *time, action, force, space and matter*.
 1. Little did he know that he was echoing what had been written by a man more than 3,000 years earlier.

2. The man was Moses, his book was Genesis and this is his statement: "*In the beginning (time) God (force) created (action) the heavens (space) and the earth (matter).*"
- B. In addition, there are many startling scientific facts found within the sacred text which were written thousands of years before they were known to the modern scientific mind.
1. The scientific accuracy of the Bible is one of the most thrilling evidences of its divine origin.
 2. In his work, **The Bible and Modern Science**, Dr. Henry M. Morris wrote: "*One of the most arresting evidences of the inspiration of the Bible is the great number of scientific truths that have lain hidden within its pages for thirty centuries or more, only to be discovered by man's enterprise within the last few centuries or even years.*"
- C. Examples of scientific foreknowledge in the Bible:
1. **Oceanography**—
 - a. The psalmist's mention of the "*paths of the sea*" led Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873) to be the first man, through scientific research, to recognize the seas were circulating systems with interaction between wind and water. "Psalm 8:8" is carved at the base of a statue erected in his honor in his home state of Virginia.
 - b. The "*springs of the sea*" (Job 38:16a) from which fresh water flows were first scientifically recorded by Roman geographer Strabo (63 B.C.—A.D. 21). Such springs have been discovered off the coasts of Greece, Italy, Israel, Syria and the continent of Australia. Fresh water was also found in the Atlantic Ocean along the seacoast from New England to Georgia.
 - c. In the second half of the same verse (Job 38:16b), God asked Job if he had ever walked "*in the recesses of the deep.*" It was not until the Challenger expedition (1873-1876) began the first scientific exploration of the ocean floor that a canyon 5½ miles deep was discovered in the Pacific ocean and more recently a 7-mile-deep trench was found near the Philippines.
 2. **Medicine**—
 - a. God through Moses revealed that "*the life is in the blood*" in Leviticus 17:11-14. Science did not uncover the significance of this statement until it was found that the hemoglobin in the blood carries oxygen

through the body, thus giving life to the body.

- b. According to Genesis 17:12, God commanded that Hebrew males be circumcised the eighth day. It was not known by scientific discovery until recently that prothrombin, which is produced by the liver because of vitamin K, is responsible for the coagulation of blood. It is at the highest level in the newborn on the eighth day.
- c. Although ancient writers believed that only the male possessed the seed of life and that the female was simply a glorified incubator, Genesis 3:15 speaks of the "*seed of woman.*" Although Moses is writing concerning Christ, His virgin birth, death and resurrection, he also reveals a scientific fact concerning the presence of the female ovum (seed).

3. Physics—

- a. When Moses wrote, "*And the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them*" (Genesis 2:1), the use of the Hebrew word for "finished" coincides with the *First Law of Thermodynamics* which states that matter nor energy can be created or destroyed, indicating that we live in a closed universe. This law contradicts Sir Fred Hoyle's "Steady-State" or "Continuous Creation" hypothesis which postulates that matter/energy is created literally from nothing in points in space called "irtrons."
- b. The Bible states that the Earth is wearing out (Isaiah 51:6; Psalm 102:26; Heb. 1:11), which is confirmed by the *Second Law of Thermodynamics* which states that with the passage of time energy/matter becomes less organized, disorderly and unstructured.

4. Astronomy—

- a. Man at one time erroneously thought the world to be flat, even misusing Scripture to validate such a view (Isaiah 11:12; Rev. 7:1); however Isaiah writes that God "*sitteth upon the circle of the earth.*" The Hebrew word for circle (*khug*) used here means something with roundness or sphericity.
- b. When the Lord made a distinction between light having a "way" (literally, a traveled path or road) and darkness having a "place" (literally, a place, spot or standing) in Job 38:19, He was setting forth a fact that man only came to discover beginning with Sir Isaac Newton — that light (radiant energy) is composed of small particles which travel in a

straight line; hence, that it has a way or path.

- c. The orbit ("*circuit*") of the Sun is set forth in Psalm 19:5,6. The earth revolves around the Sun, but the Sun is also moving through space at 600,000 miles per hour in an orbit so large that it would take an estimated 220,000,000 years to complete one orbit.

5. **Biology**—

- a. Although the science of genetics was not instituted until the turn of the century (1900), Moses wrote long ago that all things reproduce "*after their own kind*" (Gen. 1:11,12,21,24).
- b. In 1 Corinthians 15:39, Paul stated there are four fleshes: men, beasts, birds and fishes. Science has discovered this to be the case and even evolutionists admit these fleshes are different in their biochemical makeup.
- D. Although these examples are but a sampling of scientific facts presented in the Bible, they should be sufficient in supporting the point that the Bible and true scientific efforts are not contradictory, but are in complete harmony one with the other.
- E. Having considered these matters, let us conclude this lesson by setting forth that—

IV. **SINCERE BIBLE BELIEVERS SHOULD NOT COMPROMISE WITH PSEUDO-SCIENCE.**

- A. Thus far, we have noted that—
 - 1. "*God created the heaven and the earth*" (Gen. 1:1).
 - 2. God intended that man subdue that which He put under his dominion, which involves, to some degree, scientific pursuits.
 - 3. Any seeming controversy between the Bible and science has arisen either from false concepts pertaining to God's word or false ideas of what true science entails.
 - 4. God's word sets forth, in a very simplistic and matter of fact way, scientific facts which man has only recently discovered to be the case through scientific pursuits. The Bible has been right on every count.
- B. Since no real controversy actually exists between the Bible and true science, the call to find compromise between the two is fallacious and ill-founded.
- C. **Theistic Evolution** is one of the biggest farces to invade the thinking of self-proclaimed Bible believers in recent years.
 - 1. Evolution is not a fact of science. Evolutionists have to go outside the realm of science (philosophy, metaphysics) to even begin to discuss origins and beginning

- of life, and also must of necessity violate basic scientific tenets to arrive at this belief.
2. In fact, evolution is basically man's attempt to explain the existence of physical matter (i.e., the universe, life, etc.) and its development leading up to its present state, without the presence of the Grand Designer and Creator — God.
 3. **Question: Why would a Bible believer desire to seek compromise with a false doctrine, the main premise of which is atheism?**
 4. Such can only be attributed to a desire to appear "intellectual" and in good standing with the wisdom of man (1 Cor. 1:20-25), however faulty it may be.
 5. Plain Bible passages have to be explained away and basic hermeneutical principles violated to uphold such a foundational contradictory belief.
- D. An article entitled "**Darwin's Last Hours**" appeared in Bulletin Digest some time ago which began with the words: *"From reliable testimony, it may be assumed that Charles Darwin (the father of modern evolutionary thought) returned to the faith of his early manhood."*
1. The article recounted a conversation between Darwin and his attending nurse as he lay bedridden shortly before his death.
 2. It seems that he was reading the Bible and praising it as "the Royal Book," when Lady Hope pointed out the mention of creation in the early chapters of Genesis.
 3. Darwin reportedly became greatly distressed and stated: *"I was a young man with uninformed ideas. I threw out queries, suggestions, wondering all the time over everything, and to my astonishment the ideas took like wildfire. People made a religion over them."*
 4. Darwin even expressed misgivings in his work **Origin of Species**, when he stated the following: *"If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down."*
- E. **Dr. John Robert Russell**, a professor who holds a Ph.D in physics, recently made this statement: *"It is widely accepted on all sides that, far from undermining it, science is deeply indebted to Christianity and has been so from at least the scientific revolution. Recent historical research has uncovered many unexpected links between scientific enterprise and Biblical theology."*

CONCLUSION:

1. In this lesson, we have considered that the Bible and science are truly compatible.
2. It is only when one or the other (or both) is abused or mishandled that controversy between the two arises.
3. Brother **Bert Thompson** noted: "*True science and true religion are not in conflict. They are, in fact, wholly harmonious. Science is the 'looking glass' given to man by God for the purpose of investigating and having dominion over His creation. Properly used, it is a most beneficial tool.*"
4. Such will lead to man's recognition of his Creator, reverence toward His revealed will and the decision to serve Him. This is the "whole" of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

SOURCES

Bert Thompson & Wayne Jackson, **A Study Course In Christian Evidences** (Montgomery, AL Apologetics Press, Inc., 1991)

Wayne Jackson, **Christian Courier** Feature Article; "*Science and Faith—A Budding Romance*" (Stockton, CA: Christian Courier On The Web. www.christiancourier.com June 1, 1999).

Bert Thompson, **Reason & Revelation**; "*How Does Science Work?*" (Montgomery, AL: AP On The Web www.apologeticspress.org March, 1981).

Alleged Contradictions In The Bible

Tom W. Snyder

1. Charles Dickens opens his book, *A Tale of Two Cities*, with "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." and is applauded as a great novelist.
2. Worldly philosophers contend that truth is subjective and personal, making something both true and false at the same time — they are considered a great asset to humanity.
3. The "Humanist Manifesto" affirms morals are "autonomous and situational," making murder, rape, etc., both wrong and right — and 144 modern sophists and educators put their signature to it.
4. Politicians get up and lie and contradict themselves — and they are elected to a second term.

5. Someone finds what they think is a contradiction in the Bible — and it is slandered, maligned and heralded as a fool's trust.
6. This is a favorite tool of the skeptic, critic, and atheist.
7. We must know how to "give answer" to these.

DISCUSSION:

I. DEFINITION OF TERMS.

- A. There are a number of terms used to describe our problem
 1. Contradiction — Definition 1. To assert or express the opposite of (a statement). 2. To deny the statement of 3. To be contrary to; be inconsistent with.
 - a. Examples of a contradiction.
 - 1) All Christians are believers who have been baptized; Some Christians are believers who have not been baptized.
 - 2) Some Gentiles are Christians; No Gentiles are Christians.
 - b. Not a contradiction.
 - 1) Man is saved by **grace and** saved by works.
 - 2) Becomes a contradiction if we insert the word "only."
 - 3) I know of a board that is both red and black (checkerboard) but not both all red and all black.
 2. Discrepancies—
 - a. Definition: disagreement between facts, inconsistency
 - b. Example: the age of Jehoiachin (2 Chronicles 36:9) says he was 8 years old when he began to reign; 2 Kings 24:8 says he was 18 years old when he began to reign.
 3. Moral Atrocity—
 - a. Definition: this is a charge of inconsistency leveled against the Lord.
 - b. Example: the moral argument is set forth in terms of a dilemma.
 - 1) If God is all powerful, He could destroy evil;
 - 2) If God is all good, He would destroy evil;
 - 3) Evil exists today;
 - 4) Therefore, He is either not all powerful or not all good;
 - 5) Therefore, the God of the Bible does not exist
 - c. Answer: Isaiah 55:8-9. We cannot impose our limitations upon God. Let us redo the above argument—
 - 1) If God is all powerful, He has the **power** to defeat evil.
 - 2) If God is all good, He has the **will** to defeat evil.
 - 3) Evil exists today.

4) God will one day defeat evil.

B. Scope of the problem.

1. Man, we know, will from time to time contradict himself in some way, i.e., he will lie; he will be hypocritical (practice a lie); he will forget; he will be ignorant and speak without knowledge.
2. God, on the other hand, is perfect in all His attributes.
 - a. If God makes a "mistake," He is not God.
 - b. It is then the unceasing effort of the atheist, humanist, skeptic to try to find some error in His word to declare the world God-less.

II. SOURCES OF PROBLEMS.

A. We should expect difficulties.

1. God is so much greater than man.
2. God is so much purer than man.

B. There can be a translation problem — a word or phrase out of place. We must remember the original documents were inspired, but the translators had no such guidance.

C. There can be words with more than one meaning. For example, "borrow" in Exodus 3:22.

D. There can be words of unique meanings, Phil 4:11.

E. Figurative literature: tools to convey truth and lessons.

F. Textual problems.

G. Moral dilemmas: Jephthah and killing of children.

III. HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THE CRITIC?

A. Realize these difficulties carry more weight with the superficial reader and infidel than with the Bible student.

1. There have been great men of faith who didn't understand God at times.

- a. Abraham
- b. Prophets

2. These are the things the unbeliever dwells on.

B. Realize that while there are things we might not be able to answer, these are small compared to the great proofs of the Bible.

1. Unity of the Scriptures.

2. Numerical accuracy.

3. Pre-scientific knowledge.

4. The support of prophecy in history and archaeology.

C. Realize we don't have to have an answer for some things.

1. Some things belong only to God, Deut. 29:29.

2. Some things may one day be answered.

3. The burden of proof is upon the affirmative.

D. Realize that the Bible doesn't promise an answer to all man's curiosities. To not have an answer to all of man's

curiosity does not constitute a contradiction.

IV. PROBLEMS FROM MAN.

- A. Man does not rightly divide the word.
 - 1. Understanding darkened by lust.
 - 2. Understanding darkened by error.
- B. Some don't want to believe.
 - 1. These search out ways to be a skeptic.
 - 2. They major in the difficult and know what the un-believers say.
- C. Some men are arrogant.
 - 1. They approach the Bible knowing they are wise.
 - 2. They assume that if they cannot answer a difficulty it cannot be answered.
- D. Some are unfair with the Scriptures.
 - 1. They first assume an error.
 - 2. They refuse proper exegesis.
 - 3. They assume they are right and the Bible wrong until proven otherwise.
 - 4. They will not apply the same rules of literature to the Bible as to other works (Josh 10:12-19, "sun stood still").
- E. We are guilty of causing contradiction when we ignore the time setting and try to fit the Scripture into our 20th century.
 - 1. The time problem of the kings: must understand they had various ways to record time.
 - 2. Time problem of the Lord's death and resurrection.

V. HOW DO WE DEAL WITH AN ALLEGED CONTRADICTION OR ANY DIFFICULT TEXT?

- A. Define the problem.
- B. Define the words of the verse. This will sometimes solve the problem.
- C. Consider the context: Who is speaking?, When written?, Under which covenant?, Does God approve?
- D. Determine if word(s) have special meanings. Is there a figurative usage?
- E. Consider other helpful sources.
- F. Analyze
 - 1. Consider all the possibilities.
 - 2. Eliminate those that could not be due to contradiction with Bible.
 - 3. Choose the one or ones that best answer the problem — for the skeptic this is sufficient in that it shows there is no contradiction.

CONCLUSION:

1. If there is a problem with the Scripture, the problem will be with man and not God, Rom 3:4.
 2. It is easy and convenient to charge the Bible with errors; it is another thing altogether to prove it.
 3. Since time began, God's word has been attacked; but it has stood and will stand the test: *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"* (Matt. 24:35).
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Preparing Our Children For The Teaching Of Evolution In The Colleges And Universities

Victor M. Eskew

1. Joshua 24:15
2. It has been said, "If we do not teach our children, someone else will."
3. This is especially true with regard to the false theory of evolution.
 - a. Television programs (i.e., Public Television, Discovery, etc.).
 - b. Magazines (i.e., National Geographic).
 - c. Tour guides at National Parks, State Parks and caves.
 - d. Colleges and universities.

DISCUSSION:

- I. **PARENTS MUST BE TAUGHT AND CONVINCED OF TRUTH.**
 - A. Parents are the first teachers of their children. Deut. 6:6-7; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4
 - B. Before we can effectively teach the truth, we must be convinced of it.
 - C. Some questions that adults need to answer:
 1. What is the age of the earth?
 2. Did dinosaurs exist when man existed?
 3. Is the Biblical account of creation correct?
 4. Are the missing links from ape to man real?
 5. Are the dating methods of the scientists accurate?
 6. Refutation of Gap-Theory and Day-Age Theory.
- II. **START TEACHING EARLY.**
 - A. Teach the Truth (John 8:32; Eccl. 12:1; 2 Tim. 3:15).

B. KISS (Gen 1:1).

Either	Or
God/eternal	Matter/eternal
Life from life	Life from non-life
Intelligence	Mindlessness
Order	Chaos
Powerful word	Big Bang?
Purpose	Accident
Hope	Hopelessness

C. Example using a toothpick, a watch, or the alphabet.

III. PROVE ALL THINGS.

A. The tendency is to trust men because of their degrees, or, because they are our brethren. These individuals can err.

1. *The Gist of the Bible*, Charles A. Shook, Gospel Advocate Company, p. 51, 1979.

"Study VII. The Creation.

"1 The scope of Genesis 1. The account of creation, as recorded in Genesis 1, undoubtedly covers vast epochs of time ... It has been estimated that not fewer than one hundred million years have elapsed since the earliest life-forms appeared, which, being true, the account of the first chapter of Genesis must comprehend vast and incomprehensible ages.

"2 The significance of the term 'day.'" It has been a mooted question whether the term 'day,' as employed in this chapter, must of necessity be understood literally or whether it may be understood representatively. The latter is now the prevailing opinion."

2. John Clayton, gospel preacher.

a. Tries to harmonize evolution and creation in his "Does God Exist?" Seminars.

b. His views are influenced by the geologic timetable, a very old earth, and the modified Gap Theory, a teaching that there is a gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:5.

c. Quotes:

1) "If dinosaurs existed 200 million years before Adam and Eve, it does not present any problem to a literal understanding of the Genesis account" (Teacher's Manual, *Does God Exist?* Series, p. 16).

2) "The question of evolution has nothing to do with the question of the existence of God," Clayton said. He said evolution "only has to do with the process of how things got the way they are today

... Evolution is a fact of biology. I believe in evolution ... It is the purpose of Genesis to give us a historical record for the existence of everything," Clayton says. "It is not complete. Genesis tells us two things: that God created everything – not how, when or why – and that God created man in his image." ("For Atheist Says Bible and Creation are Compatible," *The Sunday Press*, Binghamton, New York, May 17, 1981, as quoted in *Contending for the Faith*, June 1981, Vol. XII, No. 6, p. 8).

3. Professors at Abilene Christian University in 1985.

a. Archie Manis.

- 1) Professor, preacher, and elder of the Lord's church.
- 2) Handout – Note # 14:
"Evolution's history and methodology will continue to feed debates for generations, but the fact of evolution is beyond dispute. The concept is rational, scientific, and supported by an overwhelming mass of evidence from past and present" ("Evolution Notes," A. Manis, p. 3 as quoted in *Is Genesis Myth?*, Bert Thompson, Apologetics Press, 1986, p. 12).
- 3) Brother Manis recommended evolutionary readings from such men as Ashley Montagu, Douglas J. Futuyma, Philip Kitchner, and Stephen J. Gould.
- 4) Another handout to his class was a page from his Bible upon which he included notes that indicated that Genesis contains two creation "myths."

b. Kenneth Williams:

- 1) Professor at ACU.
 - 2) Used a transparency on day one of his class, entitled, "Phylogenetic History." This overhead taught the evolution of plant life on the earth through the different Geological Periods.
- B. The above indicates that we must heed the Bible's admonitions to "prove all things." 1 Thess. 5:21-22; 1 Cor. 1:26; 1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11; Rev. 2:2
- C. Mark and avoid those in error. Phil. 3:18-19; Rom. 16:17-18; Titus 3:11-12; 2 John 9-11

IV. CHURCHES MUST INCLUDE APOLOGETICS IN CURRICULUM.

- A. Elders have the responsibility of making sure the congre-

- gation is fed. Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4
- B. Some of the responsibilities in feeding the diet:
 1. Keep back nothing that is profitable (Acts 20:20).
 2. The whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26-27).
 3. In season and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2).
 4. Sound doctrine (2 Tim. 1:13; Titus 2:1, 7-8).
 - C. Develop a good library for the members:
 1. Books
 - a. *Evolution or Creation?* Basil Overton.
 - b. *Fortify Your Faith in an Age of Doubt*, Wayne Jackson.
 - c. *The Mythology of Modern Geology*, Wayne Jackson.
 - d. *A Study Course in Christian Evidences*, Bert Thompson and Wayne Jackson.
 - e. *Theistic Evolution*, Bert Thompson.
 - f. *There is a God in Heaven*, Otis Gatewood.
 - g. *These Things Speak*, Hugo McCord.
 2. Subscription to publications.
 - a. *Reason and Revelation, Discovery*, Apologetics Press, 230 Landmark Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117.
 3. Video and audio cassettes.

V. CHILDREN MUST BE TAUGHT TO BE COURAGEOUS AND FAITHFUL DURING RIDICULE AND PERSECUTION.

- A. Persecution and ridicule will come when one holds to the creation account. Matt. 5:10-12; 2 Tim. 3:12; James 1:2-4
- B. Courage is needed. Matt. 10:28; 2 Tim. 1:7; Heb. 13:5-6
- C. Examples:
 1. Hebrew youths (Dan. 3:15-18).
 2. Peter and John (Acts 4:17-20).
 3. Paul (2 Tim. 1:12).

CONCLUSION:

1. Genesis 18:19
 2. Most individuals probably know that we need to teach these things to our youth.
 3. The real question is not, "What to teach them?" but, "How to teach them effectively and efficiently so they will not be led astray?"
 - a. With authority (Titus 2:15).
 - b. Stedfastness (Acts 2:42).
 - c. Do not grow weary (Gal. 6:9).
 - d. At every opportunity (Deut. 6:6-7).
-

Inspiration Of The Bible

Charles Blair

1. A belief in the existence of God is a necessary part of faith (Heb. 11:6).
 - a. Faith must arise from the Word of God.
 - b. It is a faith which must manifest itself by confidence in the written Word God (1 Peter 2:2,3).
2. God has been in constant communication with man since man was created either by signs, wonders, spoken Word or written Word (Heb. 1:1,2; 2 Peter 1:20,21; John 20:30,31).
3. Since the early days of man upon the earth, Satan has tried to destroy the power of God's Word from the hearts of men. Gen. 3:4,5; Gal. 1:6,7
4. Our task in this study is not to answer the assault of every skeptic and every argument which they might raise. Our task is to remind us that the written Word of God has the same force as the spoken Word and hence the Word of God is with us today. May God bless our study together.

DISCUSSION:

- I. **IF THE BIBLE IS OF DIVINE ORIGIN AND NOT HUMAN, THEN ALL THE FACTS CONTAINED THEREIN MUST BE ACCURATE.**
 - A. The knowledge of man changes his ideas about his world.
 1. The more we learn, the more we should understand.
 2. Men as late as the 1400's still thought the world was flat.
 3. With the increase of knowledge and technology, we know now that the world is not flat, but sphere shaped.
 - B. One would expect the Bible, if it is of human origin, to reflect the mind set of the day in which it was written.
 1. However, if the Bible is of divine origin, one would expect the knowledge it conveys to reflect on the intelligence of the One who wrote it.
 2. Isaiah 40:21,22
 3. Job 22:14 (comments of Eliphaz to Job); circuit — circle.
 - C. For years, men thought not only was the earth flat but also the ocean floor was flat as well. Not until after WWII and the invention of sonar was man able to map out the floor of the ocean.
 1. What he found was volcano type structures arising from the floor of the ocean. Upon investigation it was found that from this volcano looking things, that fresh or spring water was being emitted into the ocean.
 2. Job 38:16 — springs — to burst forth, a fountain.
 - D. Many such examples could be cited, these however, should

be enough to cause us to study deeper into the Bible, knowing its origin is Divine and not from man.

II. IF THE BIBLE IS OF DIVINE ORIGIN, ONE WOULD EXPECT THE LAWS TO REFLECT AN INTELLIGENCE HIGHER THAN MAN'S:

- A. When God moved to a written code, He gave the Israelites a direction for their lives as a nation of people.
 1. Rom. 3:1,2
 2. The written code of the law of Moses should therefore show an intelligence which is far superior to man's.
 3. Let us consider the simplicity as well as the power of what God said.
 - a. Honor parents (Exodus 20:12).
 - b. Do not kill (murder) (Exodus 20:13).
 - c. Do not commit adultery (husband/wife relationship) (verse 14).
 - d. Do not steal (verse 15).
 - e. Do not covet (verse 17).
 4. Many other laws were given to them but the ten commandments served as a foundation from which all other laws flowed.
 - a. Matthew 19:17-19
- B. Go back and see the laws which other men lived by who did not have the written code to measure their lives by:
 1. Rom. 1:18-28
 2. Look at the affects of such a life without God. Rom. 1:29-32
- C. Compare the two worlds (one with God and one without God) and see the laws given by God. The Bible is of divine origin.

III. HOLY MEN OF GOD SPAKE AS THEY WERE MOVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. AT ALL TIMES THEY UNDERSTOOD THE MESSAGE WAS FROM GOD AND THAT THEY WERE WRITING SCRIPTURE:

- A. Jeremiah declared the Word of the Lord came to Him, Jer. 2:1.
- B. He then moves to tell Israel that they should hear the Word of the Lord, 2:4.
- C. Jeremiah says the Word came to him; he then calls upon Israel to hear that same Word.
- D. On still another occasion, Jeremiah states the Word of the Lord came to him.
 1. Jer. 36:1
 2. God wanted Jeremiah to write the Word from God in a scroll, Jer. 36:2.

3. God then tells Jeremiah this Word written down on a scroll may provide the motivation for Israel to repent because they would know this was God speaking to them, Jer. 36:3.

E. Peter, in the New Testament, referred to the writings of Paul as Scripture as well as the other writings which were also scripture, 2 Peter 3:16.

1. These men understood what Scripture was and that they had a part in revealing to mankind, the mind of God.

IV. THE BIBLE STANDS THEREFORE AS THE WORD OF GOD AND NOT OF MEN:

A. All Scripture (sacred writings) has its origin with God, 2 Tim. 3:16,17.

B. Men were given the Words to use and not simply the thoughts to ponder about, 1 Cor. 2:13.

C. They were given "all truth" to reveal to the world, John 14:26.

D. When those of the first century heard the spoken Word by holy men of God, they accepted it as the Word of God, 1 Thess. 2:13.

V. DO WE HAVE THE WORD OF GOD TODAY?

A. Hear our Lord and know the meaning of His Words, Matt. 24:35.

B. God does not lie. Heb. 6:18; Titus 1:2

C. Either we have His Word today or He is not God.

CONCLUSION:

1. One must believe that we have with us today in written form, the Word of God.

2. Likewise, we must come to know that God is not speaking to us by any other means than His Word.

3. Will you hear God today? Then open His Word where He can talk to you.

Humanism: Ethics, Values Clarification, And The Bible

Marlin Kilpatrick

1. Humanism defined:
 - a. *Humanist Manifesto 1* and *Humanist Manifesto 2* set-out the basic humanistic philosophy.
 - 1) Manifesto 1 was written in 1933, consisting of some 15 points.
 - 2) Manifesto 2 was written in 1973 reaffirming Manifesto 1 and expanding into areas of religion, ethics, the individual, democratic society and world community.
 - b. "Thus, on the word of 'Humanists' themselves, a 'Humanist' is one who substitutes devotion to man for devotion to God. He rejects, among other things: God, the creation of the universe and man, the soul of man, salvation from sin by Jesus Christ, the essentiality of the church, the necessity of worship, the reality of heaven and hell." (Warren, *Editorial in Spiritual Sword*, January, 1982, pgs. 1,2).
2. Humanism is simply a false philosophy which has made inroads into our society, i.e. through the media, education and medical fields.
3. How are "ethics" and "values clarification" influenced by humanistic philosophy?

DISCUSSION:

I. THE ETHICS OF NATURALISTIC HUMANISM:

- A. The survival and fulfillment of the human race are more morally significant than "revelation, God, ritual, or creed" (H.M. II, pp. 15,16).
 1. Humanistic ethics begins with man, not God.
 2. "...Humans are responsible for what we are or what we will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves" (H.M. II, p.16).
- B. The values of humanism are "autonomous and situational" (H.M. II, p.17).
 1. The individual is given sole control over his moral choices.
 2. People are said to be more important "than decalogues, rules, proscriptions, or regulations" (H.M. II, pp. 18-19).
- C. The social ethic of modern humanism is the norm. "We urge recognition of the common humanity of people. We further urge the use of reason and compassion to produce the kind of world we want — a world in which peace,

prosperity, freedom, and happiness are widely shared.... It is a classical vision; we can now give it new vitality. Humanism thus interpreted is a moral force that has time on its side. We believe that humankind has the potential, intelligence, good will, and cooperative skill to implement this commitment in the decades ahead" (H.M. II, p.23).

- D. A summary of the major emphases of Humanistic Ethics:
1. There is no supernatural authority.
 2. The goal of human existence is human well-being and fulfillment in this life.
 3. There are no absolutes, morality is situational.
 4. There is dignity for every human individual — equal rights for all.
 5. There must be proper freedom of individuals to do as they choose, so long as they do not harm others. (Morris Storer, "A Committee to Investigate the 'Paranormal?' Can We Broaden the Base of Humanist Agreement in Ethics?" *The Humanist* 39 (1979), p.7., as cited by Dick Sztanyo, *The Spiritual Sword*, January, 1982, Vol. 2, p.21).

II. NATURALISTIC HUMANISM AND VALUES CLARIFICATION.

- A. Defined: Values clarification is a popular method used in schools to promote "moral" education. Leading proponents of the "Values Clarification" method are: Louis Rath, Merrill Harmin, Howard Kirschenbaum, and Sidney Simon.
- B. Values Clarification affirms the individual is autonomous. This autonomy is due to the humanistic philosophy of the individual being amenable to no one but himself.
- C. Values Clarification allows the student to bring his own belief-system to the process. See the following quote. "There is no sermonizing or moralizing. The goal is to involve students in practical experiences, making them aware of their own feelings, their own ideas, their own beliefs, so that the choices and decisions they make are conscious and deliberate, based on their own value systems." (Simon, Howe, and Kirschenbaum, *Values and Clarification*, back cover, as cited by Dick Sztanyo, *The Spiritual Sword*, January, 1982, Vol. 2, p.21).
- D. Values Clarification holds that truth is not absolute, but relative and situational. The individual alone determines what is right/wrong for himself/herself.
- E. Values Clarification is false because it involves inconsistency and self-contradiction. Advocates of the Values Clarification:

1. Deny any system of teaching is "the right" system of teaching, but claim Values Clarification is "the right" system of teaching.
2. Claim no behavior is "wrong," but look with disdain on those who oppose the V. C. process.
3. Claim no ethical system should be forced on anyone, but teach that the subjective, "do your own thing" is the only correct system.
4. Claim there is nothing that is right for everyone, all the while teaching that V. C. is right for everyone.

III. THE BIBLE VERSUS HUMANISTIC ETHICS AND VALUES CLARIFICATION.

A. Presuppositions held by Bible believers:

1. God is.
2. God has revealed His Will in a book.
3. God chose His Holy Spirit to reveal his Will in a book.
4. God's Book is His final and completely inspired revelation to man.
5. God's Book is the Bible.
6. All accountable beings must one day answer to God's will. cf. John 12:48

B. Refutation of humanistic ethics.

1. Humanistic ethics denies, but the Bible affirms the existence of God. cf. Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 45:22
2. Humanists claim the goal of human existence is human well-being and fulfillment, the Bible denies this to be the case. cf. Jer. 10:23; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2 Peter 1:5-11; Rev. 2:10; Luke 16:19-31; Mark 9:43-48
3. Humanistic ethics denies the existence of any absolutes, and morality is said to be situational, the Bible denies such to be true. cf. Psalm 119:89; John 8:32

C. Refutation of Values Clarification.

1. Parents, not teachers, have the responsibility for the total training of the child. cf. Deut. 6:6-9; Prov. 22:6; Matt. 5:13-16; Eph. 6:1-4
2. The Values Clarification concept of individual autonomy is denied by the Bible.
 - a. Self-rule to the exclusion of any outside influence or authority. cf. Jer. 10:23
 - b. God is in control. cf. Jer. 18:1-6
3. Inconsistencies and self-contradictions of the Values Clarification method show it to be a false system.

CONCLUSION:

1. Naturalistic humanism is atheistic in its nature.
2. Humanistic ethics substitutes man for God and is an outright

rejection of man's need for absolutes and especially objective truth.

3. Values Clarification is a tool (method) of atheistic evolutionists (Satan's servants) used to teach a new morality which amounts to the old immorality in a new robe.
4. Christians are suppose to be the "*salt of the earth*" (Matt. 5:13). This "salt" must take a public stand and oppose humanism in all it's effective and far-reaching efforts.

The Canon Of The Bible

Bill Crossno

1. The word "canon" means,
 - a. Index or list; as applied to the Bible.
 - b. It refers to those books which make up a unique list and are regarded as Holy Scripture.
 - 1) Jesus, for example, often speaks of an authoritative group of writings which He calls "Scriptures."
 - 2) **It is interesting** to notice that the books which He and His apostles termed "Scriptures" are the very books found in the Old Testament.
2. There is a difference between the canonicity of a book and the authority of a book.
 - a. Canonicity is based upon authority.
 - 1) When an apostle wrote a letter, the letter was authoritative from the time he wrote it.
 - 2) It was not canonical, however, until sometime later when it was acknowledged in an accepted list of writings.
 - 3) A book first has divine authority due to its inspiration and then attains canonicity due to its general acceptance as a divine product.¹
 - b. Miller Burrows, a concerned top authority on the scrolls, said: "*It is a matter of wonder that through something like a thousand years the text underwent so little alteration.*"²
 - 1) The Christian can take the whole Bible in his hand, "*and say without fear or hesitation that he holds in it the true word of God, handed down without essential loss from generation to generation throughout the centuries.*"³
3. The term canon also means:
 - a. A straight "rod" or a measuring "rule."
 - 1) From this it derives the secondary meaning, "Line" or "Rule," and even "Law."
 - b. It is the canon of truth

- c. It is the rule of faith.⁴

DISCUSSION:

I. DEVELOPMENT OF THE OLD TESTAMENT CANON.

- A. The word "canon" is from a rule or measuring stick. Gal. 3:16; Phil. 3:16
1. Canonical standards included such questions as:
 - a. Was the author inspired?
 - b. Can the book be traced to the author?
 - c. Is the book a true record of actual facts?
 - d. Was the book accepted by earlier generations as inspired?
 2. Canonicity is determined by God, not by church councils.
- B. The books have gotten to us in four steps.
1. Inspiration
 2. Recognition
 3. Collection
 4. Transmission
- C. The writings of the Old Testament extended over a period of 1,100 years.
1. Moses, 1500 B.C.
 2. Malachi, 425 B.C.
- D. The books were apparently assembled about the time of Ezra, 400 B.C.
1. Books were written and laid up before Jehovah.
 2. The collection completed by Ezra and school of prophets founded by him. Nehemiah, Zachariah, Malachi, included. Hence men decided which books were canonical.
 3. All (39) books were frequently referred to by Christ and the apostles.
 4. The New Testament contains 263 direct quotations, and 370 allusions to the 39 books.
 5. Josephus and the rabbinical writers accepted all 39 books.
- E. The Septuagint version was translated about 280 B.C.
1. Jesus seems to have approved it from Genesis to 2 Chronicles. Luke 11:51.
- F. All Hebrew Old Testaments contain the same 39 books we read.
1. We follow the books in the Hebrew Old Testament.
 2. We follow the order of the Septuagint Greek.⁵

II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON.

- A. The oral gospel lasted from A.D. 33 to A.D. 48 or 50.
1. There were many who could not read.

- 2. Excited eyewitnesses could tell the story accurately.
- B. From 50-100 A.D. the written gospel appeared.
 - 1. The church was spreading.
 - 2. The eyewitnesses were dying.
 - 3. Oral transmission was untrustworthy. Luke 1:3-4.
- C. Approximate dates for the appearance of the gospel.
 - 1. Mark, 48 A.D.
 - 2. Matthew, 58 A.D.
 - 3. Luke, 60 A.D.
 - 4. John, 67 A.D.
- D. Dates for the appearance of the epistles range from 45 A.D. to 90 A.D.
- E. Acts was written about 63 A.D.
- F. Revelation was written between 91-96 A.D.
- G. Thus the entire New Testament was written from 45 to 96 A.D.

III. **STANDARDS FOR ACCEPTING THE NEW TESTAMENT WERE:**

- A. Was the book written by an apostle or a companion?
- B. Were they read and accepted in the congregations?
- C. Were they quoted by the early writers?
- D. Were they consistent in teaching with the other books?
- E. Does the book edify strongly?
- F. Is there evidence that the Holy Spirit bore witness to it?

IV. **THE LANGUAGES OF THE BIBLE.**

- A. There were three languages used in the writing of the Bible. They were Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.
- B. Each of these languages are used today.

V. **THE BIBLE IS DIVINE IN ORIGIN.**

- A. Inspired of God, 2 Tim. 3:16-17
 - 1. Hence influence of God, exercised by Holy Spirit over minds of Biblical writers
 - a. Old Testament: 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Samuel 23:2; Jer. 1:9; Nehemiah 9:30.
 - b. New Testament: John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:9-13; Gal. 2:11-12.

VI. **FORMATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CANON.**

- A. The books were prized and read avidly in the congregations. 1 Thess. 5:27; Gal. 1:1-2; 1 Cor. 1:1-2; Rev. 1:11
 - 1. The books were copied by the scribes.
 - 2. Collections of the books were made and translated.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Bible begins with God. Genesis 1:1
2. The Bible with man.
 - a. The last of all of God's creation.
 - b. Revelation 22:21

ENDNOTES

¹*Spiritual Sword*, Volume 1, January 1970. p.17.

²Ibid

³Ibid

⁴*The Bible Book By Book*. J. A. Tidwell. p.28.

⁵*How We Got Our Bible* by Neil Lightfoot Baker Book House 1965. (outlined).

⁶*How We Got Our Bible* by Roy J. Hearn. (outline).

⁷*Questions and Answers Open Forum*, Volume 1, Woods.

What About Theistic Evolution?

Bobby (Bob) Carey

1. I am convinced that one of, if not the greatest dangers facing the church today is evolution, especially, Theistic Evolution, because it claims to be compatible with the Bible.
 - a. Our children are being subjected constantly to this teaching:
 - 1) The schools are teaching biological evolution as a fact.
 - 2) Cartoons for children are being used as a tool to teach this theory.
 - b. The News Media has joined in to assist in propagating this false theory of origins and speak of the theory as fact.
 - c. Our government is spending millions of dollars through our space program trying to find and identify the where, when and the how of the beginning.
2. As if this were not enough, many so called "preachers" have accepted the theory of theistic evolution and are preaching this false doctrine as though it were true. They claim the Bible and evolution are compatible.
3. There are many examples which could be used to show the fallacies of the claims of evolutionists. However, time and space will allow no more than three examples in this lesson to show differences between the Bible and theistic evolution. And, to show there can be no compromise with this false theory.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE DAYS OF CREATION.

A. Theistic evolutionists say:

1. God created the world a shapeless watery mass, then withdrew to allow the world and all things pertaining thereto to evolve by chance and circumstance.
2. They claim the days of creation cover unspecified millions of years, thus allowing time for evolution to do its work.

B. The Bible affirms that God created all things in six literal (twenty four) days (Exodus 20:8-11).

1. God used very precise terms in describing the days of creation (Gen. 1:5,8,13,14,18,19,23,31; 2:20).
2. Note, God, and the days of creation:
 - a. God called the light day.
 - b. And the darkness He called night (vs. 3-5).

II. EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENT LIVING THINGS: ANIMALS, BIRDS, FISH AND HUMANS, ETC., PSEUDO SCIENCE SAY EVOLUTION:

A. Has there been a change from one kind to another by evolving?

1. Evolution claims there has been many changes in all life forms.
2. The term evolution is defined as:
 - a. A gradual process in which something changes, especially into a more complex form.
 - b. Biology. The theory that groups of organisms, such as species, may change or develop over a long period of time so that descendants differ morphologically and physically from their ancestors. (American Heritage, a computer program, dictionary)

B. True science says, life can only come from life.

1. In the study of origins, one of the most common accepted and widely used laws of science is the law of "biogenesis." (Essays In Apologetics p. 47).
2. The law of biogenesis requires that every thing produce after its kind.
3. DNA was discovered in 1953 (by James Watson and Francis Crick), this discovery made possible to understand the chemical code which provide understanding of genetics. DNA is passed on from parents to offspring.
4. "...According to the now-famous model, hereditary information is transferred from one generation to the next by means of simple code resident in the specific sequence of certain constituents of the DNA molecule." (*The Scientific Case For Creation*, by Bert Thompson).

- D. The Bible declares God to be the active cause of all living.
1. All vegetation and animals. Gen. 1:11-12, 20-21, 24-25; Psalm 146:6; Exodus 20:11; Acts 4:24
 2. God created man in His own image. Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7; 5:1-2; Mark 10:6; Matt. 19:4

III. THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED OF GOD.

- A. Theistic Evolutionists tell us that the first three chapters of Genesis is just Jewish folklore, that it should not be considered part of the Bible.
- B. The Bible says that all Scripture is from God. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Peter 1:20-21
- C. If Genesis cannot be trusted to be part of the Bible, God's Word, can any part of the Bible be trusted? Many passages of Scripture declare God to be the creator of all things, both in the Old and New Testaments. Genesis 1 & 2; Exodus 20:11; Psalm 146:6; Gen. 5:1-2; John 5:46-47; Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6

CONCLUSION:

1. Modern man is just too intelligent to worship idols, right??
2. Joshua said it well, *"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD"* (Joshua 24:15).

What Does The Bible Claim For Itself?

Robert C. Oliver

1. This topic concerns the simple basics of Christianity.
 - a. Every member of the Lord's church should be well aware of each and every truth presented in this lesson.
 - b. Without an understanding of and a firm conviction of what the Bible claims for itself, one has no basis upon which to argue any facet of doctrine.
2. However, many of the claims of the Bible for itself are being denied and rejected today by both those in the church and those without.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD.

A. Inspiration defined.

1. Only found once in the New Testament (2 Tim. 3:16).
2. Comes from two Greek words.
 - a. "*theos*" which means God.
 - b. "*pneo*" which means breath.
3. Thus, it means "God breathed."
4. 2 Peter 1:20,21 provides the best explanation of what inspiration is.

B. Order of authority.

1. God has absolute authority. Gen. 1:1,2; Matt. 7:21; Rom. 9:20,21; Jer. 18:6
2. Christ has been given authority over this Christian age. Heb. 1:1,2; Matt. 17:5; Matt. 28:18; Col. 3:17
3. Christ has used inspired men. Acts 9:15; 2 Cor. 4:7
4. To hear those He sent is to hear Him. Luke 10:16; John 13:20

C. Thus, the book we call the Bible is God's word given to man. 2 Tim. 3:16; Gal. 1:6-12; 1 Cor. 14:37; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 1 Cor. 2:9-13

II. THE BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE THE PLENARY WORD OF GOD.

A. Plenary defined.

1. "Complete in all aspects or essentials" (The American Heritage Dictionary).
2. The word "plenary" is not found in the Bible, but the Bible fits the definition, for it is complete in all aspects or essentials.

B. There is nothing left out and nothing else needed.

1. Deut. 4:2; Gal. 1:8,9; 1 Tim. 4:16
4. Jude 3; James 1:25; 2:12; 1 Cor. 13:8-12

III. THE BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE THE POWERFUL WORD OF GOD.

A. The Bible claims to be the word of God and the word of God is powerful (Heb. 4:12,13).

B. The word of God brought this world into existence from nothing. Gen. 1:1-3; Psalm 33:6,9

C. The word of God continues to uphold all things. Heb. 1:3; 2 Peter 3:5,7

IV. THE BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE THE ALL SUFFICIENT WORD OF GOD.

A. It will provide for our every need in the journey to heaven

(2 Peter 1:3).

- B. It is all we need to save our souls. Rom. 1:16; James 1:21; 1 Cor. 15:1-3; Rom. 6:17,18
- C. We will be judged by it in the last day. John 12:48; Rom. 2:16; Rev. 20:12
- D. It is all we need for spiritual nourishment. 1 Peter 2:2; Matt. 4:4
 - 1. A problem today is that all too many do not want to feast upon the nutritious feast provided by our Heavenly Father, but upon the junk food of the world.
 - a. Amos 8:11; Heb. 5:12-14; 2 Tim. 4:2-4
 - 2. It will build us up (Acts 20:32).

V. THE BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE THE ABSOLUTE TRUE WORD OF GOD.

- A. What God says is true (John 17:17).
- B. What God says will happen, will happen. Josh. 23:14-16; Isa. 55:11; Luke 24:44; Acts 27:25
- C. The Bible writers wrote only the truth. John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13

VI. THE BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE THE PRESCRIBED WORD OF GOD.

- A. The Bible is a prescribed pattern that must be followed.
- B. Many today reject the Bible as a pattern that must be followed.
- C. Yet, the Bible claims to be our pattern. Psalm 119:105; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; Rom. 6:17,18; 2 Tim. 1:13

VII. THE BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE THE UNDERSTANDABLE WORD OF GOD.

- A. Many claim we cannot all understand the Bible alike.
- B. Many claim we cannot understand the Bible at all, unless we have some direct help from the Holy Spirit.
- C. Many claim they are misunderstood.
- D. But, the Bible claims to be understandable. John 8:32; Eph. 5:17; 2 Peter 3:16
- E. If we cannot understand God's revelation to us, then God is the failure, not us.

VIII. THE BIBLE CLAIMS TO BE THE INDESTRUCTIBLE WORD OF GOD.

- A. God's word will never fail. Matt. 24:35; 1 Peter 1:25; Isa. 40:8
- B. Many have prophesied the demise of God's book.
- C. But, it is still here!

CONCLUSION:

1. The Bible makes many claims for itself.
2. What is needed is for mankind to accept these truths and respect and obey the Book of Books, so that all might be pleasing to God and claim for themselves one of those mansions the Bible claims is awaiting those who will obey its instructions.

The Bible And Archaeology

"I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times." Psalm 77:5

Max Miller

1. Archaeology, Gk *archaios*, old or ancient, and *logos*, word, 1837. The study or science of ancient ways of human life.
2. The scientific study of material remains (as fossil relics, artifacts, and monuments) of past human life and activities. Remains of the culture of a people. Antiquities
3. Biblical archaeology is the study of Biblical relics, events, customs, locations of people and events mentioned in the Bible.

DISCUSSION:

I. BEGINNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCIENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGY.

A. Unscientific exploration.

1. Grave robbers, curio seekers, cave explorers. Natural inquisitiveness. Sphinx.
2. Attraction by fame of ancient sites, e.g., Jerusalem, Megiddo, Jericho, Bethel, Shechem.
3. Consequentially, many valuable artifacts damaged or destroyed, e.g. Rosetta Stone.

B. Renaissance Period.

1. Progression in Europe between medieval and modern times, 14-17 century. Humanistic revival of classical influence expressed in a flowering of the arts and literature and by the beginnings of modern science.
2. Explorers of the period were not scientific in their approach to archaeology.

C. Scholarly approaches in 19th Century: German, Ulrich Jasper Seetzen, 1805-1807 (Caesarea Philippi); Swiss, Johann Ludwig Burckhardt, 1801-1812 (Petra); Englishman, C.L. Irby and James Mangles, 1817,1818.

D. Ready for an altogether scientific exploration of excavat-

ing, recording, interpreting finds.

1. 1838 brought a complete revolution in the surface explorations of Palestine. American Theologian, Edward Robinson, who knew Hebrew, spent time in Palestine with Eli Smith who was proficient in Arabic.
2. 1850-1851, 63 F. de Sauley explored Palestine. Artifacts he found are in the Louvre.
3. Palestine Exploration Fund was established in 1865.

II. DISCOVERIES, A STUDY IN THE SCIENCE OF ARCHAEOLOGY.

- A. Important factors in the improvement in the archaeological methods of work are:
1. *Stratigraphy*, the examination of levels or strata of a Tell.
 2. *Typology*, the classification of objects found. Methods of classification owe much to such as Sir Flinders Petrie, W. F. Albright, Roland de Vaux, Edward Robinson, G. E. Wright, Kathleen Kenyon, Nelson Glueck, Yigael Yadin.
- B. Scientific techniques from other fields have assisted in the field of archaeology.
1. Paleobotanists determine ancient crops and diets.
 2. Engineers determine ancient methods of construction.
 3. Language experts decipher and interpret the materials.
- C. Archaeological discoveries:
- 1798, Napoleon's Expedition to Egypt. The beginning of Modern archaeology.
- 1830, Rosetta Stone. Egyptian hieroglyphs first deciphered by Young and Champollion.
- 1845, Layard's excavations in Babylonia. Nineveh.
- 1850, Babylonian cuneiform deciphered by Rawlinson. Behistun Rock
- 1865, Foundation of Palestine Exploration Fund.
- 1868, Moabite Stone found by Klein. Oldest known Semitic monument. 2 Kings 3
- 1871, Gilgamesh Epic deciphered by George Smith.
- 1880, Siloam Inscription found by Schick. Hezekiah's Tunnel
- 1887, Tell el Amarna Tablets found.
- 1896, Merenptah's Israel Stele found by Petrie.
- 1900, American School of Oriental Research established in Jerusalem.
- 1901, Code of Hammurabi found by de Morgan.
- 1902, Macalister's excavations at Gezar.
- 1905, The Elephantine Papyri interpreted.
- 1907, Boghaz Kevi Tablets found by Winckler.

- 1915, Sumerian Epic of Paradise published by Langdon.
- 1919, Hittite cuneiform deciphered by Bedrich Hrozný.
- 1921, Fisher's excavation of Bethahan.
- 1923, Woolley's excavation of Ur. Great Flood.
- 1928, Garstang's excavations at Jericho.
- 1930, Ras Shamra Tablets deciphered by Dhorme.
- 1934, Starkey's excavations at Lachish (Tell Duweir).
- 1947, Dead Sea Scrolls.
- 1947, Publication of W. F. Bade's excavations of Tell en-Nasbeh (Mizpah, 1926-1935).
- 1947, In 1926-1932 M. G. Kyle and W. F. Albright excavated Tell Beit Mirsim, thought to be ancient Debir.

III. SOME CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGY TO THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE.

- A. Archaeology authenticates many Bible records.
 - 1. It is useful in "proving" the truthfulness and accuracy of the Bible.
 - 2. In truth, the Bible needs no external proofs. Its fulfilled prophecy and its results upon mankind are its best proof of authenticity.
 - 3. Archaeological discoveries will ever prove the Genesis account of Creation, the virgin birth of Christ, His return to heaven and His reign in glory. These wonders are to be accepted by faith in the reliable testimony of Holy Spirit endowed apostles and prophets. cf. Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:6
- B. Archaeology has helped in dealing a death blow to higher critical theories. Such as:
 - 1. Patriarchs were legendary figures.
 - 2. Moses could not have written the Law.
 - 3. Proves Belshazzar was king at the fall of Babylon as Daniel stated, Dan. 5.
 - 4. That Sargon of Isa. 20:1 actually lived. In 1843 Paul Emile Botta discovered his palace at Khorsabad.
 - 5. Jehoiachin of Judah (2 Kings 25:27-30) is mentioned as "Yaukin King of the land of Yahud," in cuneiform tablets dating between 595 and 570 B.C.
- C. Archaeology supplements the Bible.
 - 1. Jer. 7:12-15; 26:6,7, Destruction of Shiloh. Danish Expedition uncovered pottery and other evidence proving destruction occurred around 1050 B.C. possibly by Philistines.
 - 2. Ahab and Jehu mentioned in the Monolith Inscription of Shalmaneser II (858-824 B.C.) and on the Black Obelisk found by Austen Layard in 1846 in Shalmaneser III's palace at Nimrod.

3. Moabite Stone, discovered in 1868, mentions Omri.
4. Stele of Benhadad I of Aram, about 850 B.C., discovered in 1941 shows Benhadad I, contemporary with Asa and Boasha was also Benhadad II of Elijah and Elisha's day. This authenticates the dynastic list of Aramean kings who reigned at Damascus as given in 1 Kings 15:18.
5. Gallio's Proconsulship at Corinth. Corinth, a Roman colony, also the capitol of Achaia in Paul's time. A monument found at Delphi, dates the arrival of Gallio there as proconsul appointee by Emperor Claudius in A.D. 51. Paul appeared before Gallio. Paul's arrival in Corinth can be dated in A. D. 50.

IV. INTERESTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES.

- A. **Rosetta stone.** Jean-François Champollion (1790-1832), Egyptologist. His study of the Rosetta stone obtained clues for deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics (1821-22).
- B. **Nineveh,** Sir Austen Henry Layard, 1817-1894. English archaeologist and diplomat. Excavated Assyrian city of Calah (1845-1847); at Nineveh, discovered (1849-1851) palace of Sennacherib, artwork, cuneiform tablets from state archives. Author of *Nineveh and its Remains* (1848-1849), *Discoveries in the Ruins of Nineveh and Babylon* (1853).
- C. **Rassam, Hormuzd,** 1826-1910. Turkish Assyriologist. Assisted Sir A. H. Layard in digs near Nineveh (1845-1847, 1849-1851). Found (1853) palace of Ashurbanipal at Nimrud; excavated palace of Shalmaneser II; found (1880) Mesopotamian tablet at Sippar identifying site as temple of sun god; made other investigations in Assyria and Babylonia (1876-1882).
- D. **Behistum.** Inscription. Sir Henry Rawlinson, 1810-1895. English army officer and Orientalist. In East India Company's military service (1827-1829), studied Persian and Indian vernaculars; at Kandahar (1840-1842) and Baghdad (1843), completed transcript of cuneiform inscription of Darius I (the Great) at Behistum which he deciphered and interpreted (1846).
- E. **Rawlinson, Sir Henry Creswicke** (1810-95), English Assyriologist, deciphered and interpreted Persian cuneiform writing, expanding European knowledge of history and ancient languages of Persia.
- F. **Paul Émile Botta** (1802-1870), French archaeologist. In 1842 was assigned to Mosul in Iraq. Searched for Assyrian antiquities at Khorsabad. Digs uncovered ruins of the city Dur Sharrukin, founded by Sargon II, king of Assyria

(r. 722-705 BC). Statues of Sargon and winged bulls that guarded his palace are at the Louvre.

- G. **Mesha Stone.** King Mesha of Moab, c.850 B.C., paid tribute to Ahab. After Ahab's death, ceased payments; resisted attack by Jehoram and Jehoshaphat; sacrificed his first-born son to avert defeat. The Moabite stone (1868) on which this event is recorded is oldest known Semitic monument. 2 Kings 3
- H. **Moabite Stone.** This stone, bears inscription from reign of the same King Mesha mentioned in 2 Kings 3, discovered in 1868 near the ruins of ancient Dibon, by a German missionary. Known also as The Mesha Inscription, the monument reports the major achievements of King Mesha's reign. He boasts especially of having recovered Moabite independence from Israel and of having restored Moabite control over northern Moab. The Stone supplements the biblical record.
- I. **Dead Sea Scrolls,** discovered 1947-1960 in a cave near the western Dead Sea in a ruin called Khirbet Qumran. Paleographic evidence indicates that most of the documents were written approximately 200 BC and AD 68. Scrolls include manuals of discipline, hymn books, biblical commentaries (e.g., Habakkuk, Nahum), and apocalyptic writings; two of the oldest known copies of the Book of Isaiah, almost wholly intact; and fragments of every book in the Old Testament except Esther, and a fanciful paraphrase of the Book of Genesis. Copies of Old Testament books are the oldest we now possess.

V. MAN-MADE STRUCTURES MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE UNEARTHED BY ARCHAEOLOGISTS?

- A. Base of the Tower of Babel in Babylon where language was confused, Gen. 11:1-9.
- B. Palace at Jericho where Eglon, king of Moab, was assassinated by Ehud, Judges 3:12-30.
- C. East gate of Shechem where Gaal and Zebul watched forces of Abimelech approach the city, Judges 9:34-38.
- D. Temple of Baal/El-Berith in Shechem, where funds were obtained to finance Abimelech's kingship and where citizens of Shechem took refuge when Abimelech attacked the city, Judges 9:4, 46-49.
- E. Pool of Gibeon where the forces of David and Ishbosheth fought during the struggle for the kingship of Israel, 2 Sam. 12:12-32.
- F. Pool of Heshbon, likened to the eyes of the Shulamite woman, Song of Songs 7:4.
- G. The royal palace of kings of Israel at Samaria, 1 Kings

- 20:43; 21:1,2; 22:39; 2 Kings 1:2; 15:25.
- H. Pool of Samaria where King Ahab's chariot was washed after his death, 1 Kings 22:29-38.
- I. Water tunnel beneath Jerusalem dug by Hezekiah to provide water during the Assyrian siege, 2 Kings 20:20; 2 Chron. 32:30.
- J. The royal palace in Babylon where King Belshazzar held the feast and Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall, Dan. 5.
- K. Royal palace in Susa where Esther was queen of Persian King Xerxes, Esther 1:2; 2:3,5,9,16.
- L. Royal gate at Susa where Mordecai sat, Esther 2:19,21; 3:2,3; 4:2; 5:9,13; 6:10,12.
- M. The Square in front of royal gate at Susa where Mordecai met with Halthach, Xerxes' eunuch, Esther 4:6.
- N. Foundation of synagogue at Capernaum where Jesus cured a man with an unclean spirit (Mark 1:21-28) and delivered the sermon on the bread of life (John 6:25-59).
- O. House of Peter at Capernaum where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law and others, Matt. 8:14-16.
- P. Jacob's well where Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman, John 4.
- Q. Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, where Jesus healed a crippled man, John 5:1-14.
- R. Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem, where Jesus healed a blind man, John 9:1-4.
- S. Tribunal at Corinth where Paul was tried, Acts 18:12-17.
- T. Theater at Ephesus where the riot of silversmiths occurred, Acts 19:29.
- U. Herod's palace at Caesarea where Paul was kept under guard, Acts 23:33-35.

CONCLUSION:

1. Archaeology bears testimony to many Biblical facts.
2. Diligent Bible students make the study of archaeology one of his most favored research tools.

Establishing Biblical Authority

Clifford Dixon

1. There are those who hold that the authority we have for religion is direct revelation.
2. There are those who say the church has its leaders who receive

new revelations in addition to the Bible.

3. There are those who claim the baptism of the Holy Spirit and that God speaks to them today. Also, they say that one cannot know the meaning of the Bible until he has the Holy Spirit to direct him.
4. The restoration movement is based on the principle that the Bible is an all sufficient guide in religion. The same hold the principle that the Bible must be rightly divided in order to be understood.

DISCUSSION:

I. THE THEORY THAT THERE IS DIRECT REVELATION FROM GOD TODAY IS NOT TRUE.

- A. 1 Cor. 13:8-10 shows that prophecy ceased when the perfect was come. The New Testament Gospel is referred to as the perfect (James 1:25).
- B. Contradictory doctrines of those who claim latter day revelation show that their information is not from God. cf. the Mormons, Holiness sects, etc.

II. THE THEORY THAT THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH RECEIVE NEW REVELATIONS IS NOT TRUE.

- A. 1 Tim. 3:14,15 was not speaking of new revelations but of contending for the faith that has once for all been revealed (Jude 3), and acknowledging that the Apostles received all that pertains to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3,4).
- B. Doctrines that contradict the Bible's teaching given by the Catholic Church show that this theory is false. cf. Mary a perpetual virgin contradicts Matthew 1:25; 13:55.

III. THE THEORY OF DIRECT REVELATIONS BASED ON THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT ARE ALSO FALSE.

- A. The baptism of the Spirit was limited to:
 1. The apostles on Pentecost (Acts 1:5,8,26; 2:1-47).
 2. A like gift to Cornelius' household (Acts 10,11).
- B. Contradictory doctrines, divisions, and general confusion of the charismatic movement shows this to be false.
- C. The Holy Spirit operates on the Christian through the word only (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:15,16; Eph. 6:17).

IV. THAT THE BIBLE IS OUR ALL SUFFICIENT GUIDE IS THE TRUTH.

- A. Bible claims for itself — John 20:30,31; Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Cor. 13:8; Eph. 4:11; Jude 3; Rev. 22:18,19.
- B. It must be understood that we are not under the Patriarchal age in which God spoke to the fathers of the families.

Heb. 1:1-3; 2:1-4; Matt. 17:5

- C. It must be understood that we are not under the law of Moses which was given only to Israel (Deut. 5:1-16; John 1:17; Col. 2:14-16).
- D. We need to notice who is speaking, to whom he speaks, and the subject matter.
- E. We need to notice commands, approved examples and inferences.
- F. We need to keep in mind that Pentecost day of Acts 2 is the beginning of the Christian age.

