

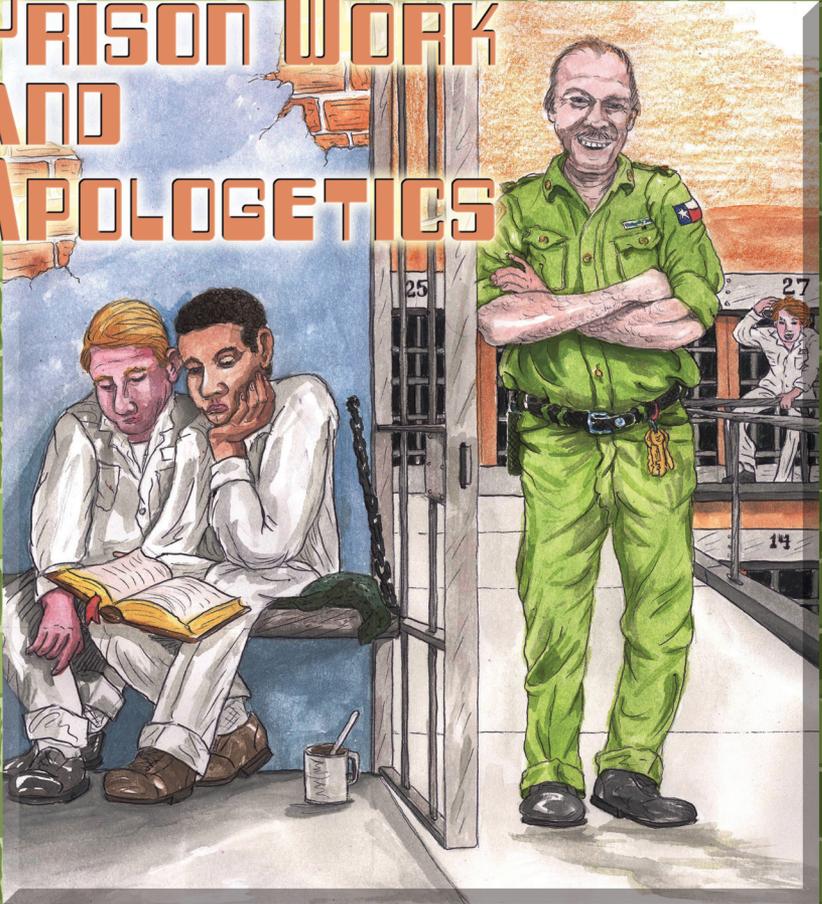
March/April 2012

Volume 39, Number 2

DOES GOD EXIST?

A nonprofit effort
to convince mankind
that God is real and
the Bible is His Word.

PRISON WORK AND APOLOGETICS



Does God Exist? Lectureships

- Apr. 2-3 Ohio Valley Univ.
Lectureship
Vienna, WV
304-865-6128
- Apr. 13-15 Little Rock, AR
501-374-2039
- June 28-30 Spiritual Growth
Workshop
Orlando, FL
352-357-6616
- July 23-27 Canyonlands Tour
269-687-9426
(see page 26)

*Check our website for an
updated list of lectures.
www.doesgodexist.org*

In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

Articles in this Issue:

Prison Work and Apologetics	3
Medical Marijuana and the Venice Beach Boardwalk	6
Misunderstanding the Death Sin Produces	10

Guest Article:

Does Humanity Have Value Without God	13
-----------------------------------------	----

Special Features:

Scientists and God	20
Cynthia's Corner	21
Book Reviews:	
First Century Truth for a Twenty-First Century World	22
Evangelism in a Post Christian Culture	23
Dandy Designs:	
How Do You Clean a Frog's Foot?	24
Bird Nests	25
News and Notes	26
2012 Canyonlands Tour	26

The **Does God Exist?** program offers apologetic materials in several languages for all ages. We are designed to serve and help others. Our materials are available on a loan basis or at our cost. If you are not aware of our DVDs or video tapes, CDs or audio tapes, courses, books, teaching materials, materials for the blind, and on-line question/answer services, contact us for a catalog and information sheets or visit www.doesgodexist.tv.

Correspondence should be addressed to John Clayton
1555 Echo Valley Dr., Niles, MI 49120-8738
e-mail: jncdge@aol.com

Home phone: 269-687-9426 FAX: 269-687-9431

Does God Exist? websites: <http://www.doesgodexist.org>;
dandydesigns.org; scienceterrific.com; whypain.org;
doesgodexist.tv; and grandpajohn.tv

Send subscription requests, orders, or address changes to:

Does God Exist?, PO Box 2704, South Bend, IN 46680-2704
Phone: 574-514-1400 or by e-mail: marcusen@michiana.org

DOES GOD EXIST? (USPS 011-010) is published bimonthly in January/February, March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December by Does God Exist?, 814 S. Main St., South Bend, IN 46601-3008. Subscription is free upon request. Periodicals postage paid at South Bend, IN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: **DOES GOD EXIST?**, PO Box 2704, South Bend, IN 46680-2704.

PRISON WORK AND APOLOGETICS

The cover of this month's issue is a picture drawn by Robert Avila, one of the students in our correspondence course. Robert is incarcerated at Lubbock, Texas, and has studied with us for many years. He has been on dialysis all that time, but maintains a positive spirit as well as possessing great artistic ability. When I moved to South Bend, Indiana, in 1959 and tried to find something I could do in the local congregation, there were two areas available. One was working with teenagers in the area and in the church, and the other was a small jail ministry. Since I was employed as a teacher and had experience in the military with prisons and military prison training programs, I took on both ministries. Now I find myself 52 years later still involved in both.

My work with high school and college-age students and my experiences with prisoners

have convinced me that a major remedy for the problems of young people and people in prison is to help them find a solid faith in God—help which is found in the teachings of Christ. The action of God's Spirit can give people struggling with direction in life a solid start on getting and keeping their lives in order.

Atheists would like to convince us that there is no correlation between belief in God and moral conduct. Frequently we will hear people give statistics suggesting that most prisoners have a church preference in



Drawings on the cover and pages 3 and 5 by Robert Avila.

answers to good questions. When a young person is told, “because I said so” or gets a shrug, he will assume that there is no answer. In our apologetics courses the first lessons deal with things like:

- How do we know that God exists?
- How do we know which God is the true God?
- How do we know the Bible is true?
- Why do we exist?
- Why does God allow suffering?
- Why am I special?
- How do I know I will live when this life is over?
- Why should I not immerse myself in sex, drugs, alcohol, etc.?

When these questions are not logically and rationally answered and a person has no reason to accept any guide or moral limitation in life, the result is going to be disastrous.

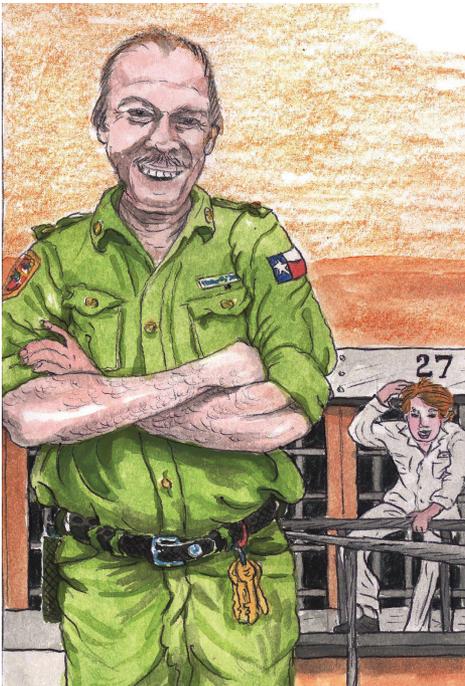
Too many Bible correspondence courses and class studies ignore these vital questions and ask students to make simple, mindless, multiple choice answers out of a lesson book that are simply copied and require no understanding. Those students get a certificate to add to their parole board dossier—but the questions that put them into destructive behavior in the first place remain unanswered.

This article is a call to prison work and workers to look at what is being done in prisons and what the real needs are. People whose

lives are in chaos need to start with basics and learn to think through what is needed to guide their lives. The **Does God Exist?** program offers two courses free to all prisoners. The basic course is written at an upper elementary grade level and is where most prisoners should start. Academically strong students should take the college level course and may wish to participate in our scholarship program.

We stand ready to assist all attempts to reach those in our society who are disenfranchised and desperately in need of a solid direction for their lives.

—John N. Clayton



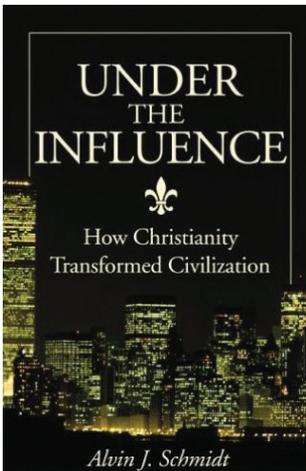
MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND THE VENICE BEACH BOARDWALK

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (Genesis 6:5).

This description of ancient man refers to a time when man was primitive, barbaric, violent, uncivilized, abusive, destructive, and totally without moral or religious direction. One has to be impressed however, with how little mankind as a whole has progressed in many of these attributes. The difference is that early man came from a position of ignorance and lived in a natural world where he struggled to be dominant. Today we live in a world where man is dominant and has the lesson of history as his schoolmaster. The mistakes of the past are spelled out in the hope that man will not make the same mistakes again. The most fundamental lesson of the past was originally stated in Deuteronomy 28 where God says that if we will live as God has called us to live, mankind will be blessed in every way, but if we reject God's teachings the results will be catastrophic. The entire Old Testament is the history of mankind showing God's prophesy to be true.

In our day nothing has changed. Following the principles laid down by Jesus in Matthew 5–7, as opposed to the violence of other religious and political systems, has revolutionized whole nations of people. Books like *Under the Influence* by Alvin J. Schmidt have documented the positive effects of the Christian system. The negative responses to such materials from a wide variety of quarters show how ingrained secularism and selfish exploitation are.

A major area of controversy is the use of recreational drugs. A recreational drug is a chemical substance that serves no positive purpose other than to bring temporary pleasure to the user. Recreational drugs have been a negative because of the damage they do to the body. In 1 Corinthians 3:16–17, the Apostle Paul writes about our life's work and purpose and says, "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"



If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.” The message is clear, that our lives must be built on a constructive use of the physical bodies that God has given us. In the same book, chapter 6 verses 15 and 16, prostitution is condemned in the same way.

The response to this by the alcohol and marijuana industry has been to point to the beneficial aspects of these substances or to point to their use in the day of Christ. The alcohol of Jesus’ day was used to purify water and was more of a source of water and minerals than a social lubricant. In our day of distillation, alcohol is rarely used in that way. The claim of nutrient value is based on flavonoids which do not come from the alcohol but from the natural substances used—namely the grapes. Alcohol is unquestionably the most destructive drug of the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries so far. It is difficult to find any positive nutritive quality to justify its use.

In the case of marijuana the attention of the public has shifted to the use of medical marijuana as a means of fighting a variety of common human ailments. There is some medical research showing that smoking pot reduces inner eye pressure in glaucoma patients. Any drug that reduces cerebral function has a chance of lowering pain sensation which may be helpful in cancer or other painful chronic human maladies. The recognition of these facts has caused some states to legalize the medical use of marijuana. We recently visited Venice Beach in Venice, California, which has become a center for medical marijuana. We have also talked with some experts in the field and have learned some things that we feel Christians and the general public should know about medical marijuana.

1. Smoking pot is not the only way, and in fact not the best way, to deliver the beneficial aspects of the active ingredient. Marijuana is *Cannabis sativa* containing the chemical delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). There are receptors in the brain called cannabinoid receptors which the THC trips. This is a part of the brain which controls memory, time perception, and coordinated movement.



Marijuana business cards handed out on Venice Beach Boardwalk.

Studies have shown that THC can lower intra-ocular eye pressure aiding in the treatment of glaucoma. It also has been shown in many cases to ameliorate nausea making it useful in medical treatments where nausea is a frequent by-product. It is a general analgesic and stimulates hunger, all useful in medical applications.

On the negative side THC interferes with problem solving, memory, and learning. It has a high correlation with schizophrenia and depression. Marijuana smoke is between 50% and 70% more carcinogenic than tobacco and increases heart attacks among its users by a factor of 4.8. The key point here is that rapid scientific advances have produced a growing number of drugs containing THC that reduce and control these side effects or eliminate them. Dronabinol, nabilone, and Sativex mouth spray are already available and a variety of other drugs are in the wings. Smoking pot is the worst way to get the benefits of THC.

2. Legalization is not working. Many people argue that the best way to control a drug is to legalize it. The argument is that the drug can be controlled and taxed and will not be under the control of the criminal element of society. The first response to that statement might be to ask if the legalization of alcohol has solved the destructive effects of alcohol in our culture, and removed it from the control of the criminals? Recreational drugs are big business, and big business has great problems with a workable moral code that controls how it affects the lives of common people.

In the case of the legalization of marijuana, California offers a showcase on this issue. Venice, California, is on the ocean west of downtown Los Angeles. The Venice Beach boardwalk stretches along the beach with skateboard parks, souvenir shops, Muscle Beach gym, and a variety of tourist attractions. Teens and children abound mixed with every segment of society one can imagine. Every twenty feet or so of the boardwalk there will be someone standing in a white coat with a medical patch of some kind on his sleeve. He is passing out colorful, expensive business cards that say, “Medical ... Doctor... Get Legal Now! ... Come in for your evaluation and recommendation letter for medical marijuana ... for any illness for which marijuana provides relief” including stress, anxiety, or insomnia. Once you have your interview and get your letter you are directed to a place which claims to be “Venice’s Premier Medical Marijuana Dispensary.” You can smoke this pot anywhere as long as you have the letter showing you are recommended. The smell of marijuana is all over the boardwalk, and drugged recipients are everywhere in the area. When I asked a policeman who was standing there about the situation, he threw up his hands and said that as long as no one caused any trouble, the police had to focus their energy on more serious problems.

The place we visited was just one of many outlets on the beach. The point we are making here is that once the drug is legalized, the enforcement of any kind of control is a virtual impossibility. Legalization is not an answer, and getting real help to people in real need is only hindered by situations like Venice Beach.

3. The only solution to this issue is Christianity in its biblical form. What that means is living and encouraging others to live as Christ has called us to. That means not supporting the pleasure obsession of our culture, but serving others in a way that brings real answers to the world in which we live. I would love to see a ministry in California near Venice Beach that has qualified doctors who would actually help real patients with real needs find relief through every medical tool available—not pushing recreational drugs in the name of medical needs. In the meantime we must work on educating the church and our own young people with the facts of how destructive all recreational drugs are. Sources: National Institute on Drug Abuse at www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/marijuana

—JNC



ScienceTerrific.com

A science website with a Christian worldview —
DESIGNED FOR KIDS.



Did you know the largest animal that ever lived on earth is alive today? Did you know that some birds sleep standing on one foot or with one eye open? Did you know that frogs shed their skin and eat it? Did you know ...



Find out more about God's creation at
www.ScienceTerrific.com



MISUNDERSTANDING THE DEATH SIN PRODUCES

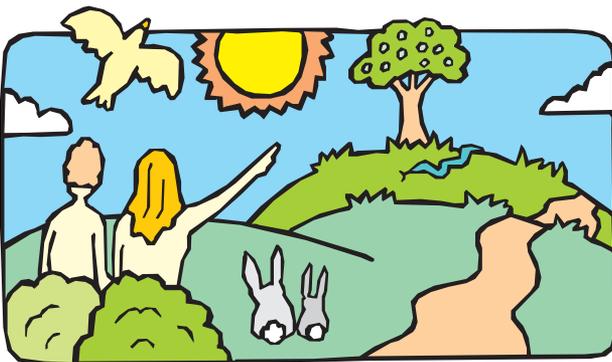
And the Lord God commanded the man, saying “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat but you shall not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat it you will die.” (Genesis 2:16-17).

There are many passages in the Bible which have been interpreted by theologians in ways that were probably not intended by God. One of the ways that these misinterpretations get corrected is by scientific evidence and a little bit of common sense.

A good example of this is the way ancient theologians interpreted Revelation 7:1. The passage says, “I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, ...” Artwork from ancient times shows the earth as a flat surface and sometimes even shows an angel at each corner of the flat earth. When it became obvious that the earth was not flat, people took a second look at Revelation 7:1 (and perhaps at their whole view of the book of Revelation) and realized that the passage was not saying that at all.

Some theologians have suggested that Genesis 2:16, 17 is intended to tell us that there was no death of any kind until man sinned. There are many creationists who believe that this applies to the plant and animal kingdom as well, so the notion that *Tyrannosaurus rex*, or lions, or sharks, ate other living things is rejected. We even see some creationist literature showing happy human babies riding on the back of smiling *Tyrannosaurus rex* adults. Prophetic passages like Isaiah 11 are held up as proof that physical death is completely dependent on man’s sin since some prophecies talk about wolves dwelling with lambs, leopards lying down with goats, calves living with lions who eat straw, and babies playing with asps (verses 6–9).

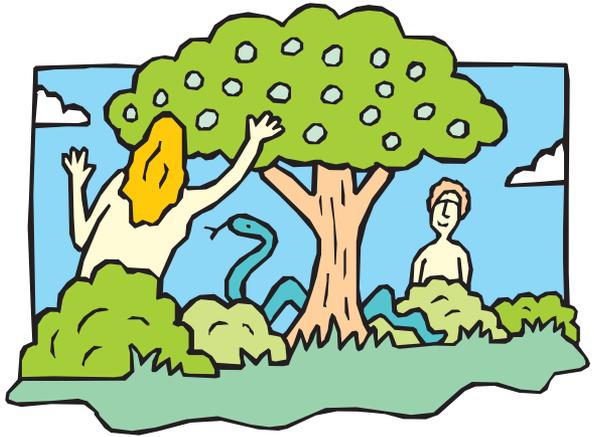
Such explanations take the Genesis account out of the realm of common sense



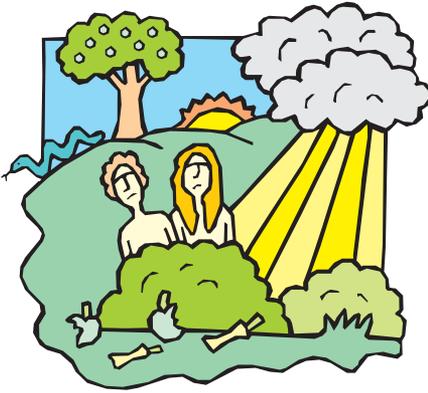
and scientific evidence. You cannot eat any fruit without something dying. Straw is dead plants. Adam had skin (Genesis 2:23) and skin dies and he got new skin. In fact every cell in our body (with the exception of some brain cells) are replaced every seven years. Insects die and together with dead plants, produce the soil needed for a garden to exist. Some theologians have handled this situation by maintaining that Genesis is an allegory and not historically true. Others have maintained that all of science and all of our common sense is worldly thinking and a rejection of a literal understanding of the Bible. I would suggest that the problem is a refusal to think about the real message of Genesis. Let us look at what it says more carefully.

The Garden of Eden was not heaven. All that man needed was in the Garden, but man was still physical and had to do physical things. Genesis 2:15 tells us that man had to labor, he was to “dress and keep” the Garden. That would involve labor which our physical bodies need to remain healthy. Heaven is not going to involve physical labor. When our souls are united with our Creator our whole nature will change, “For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:53).

Genesis 2:9 tells us that there were two trees in the Garden of Eden in addition to our familiar trees. “And the LORD God made all kinds of trees to grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food” describes our familiar trees. But then we are told, “In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Man was forbidden to eat from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, “... for when you eat of it you will surely die” (Genesis 2:17). In chapter 3, verse 5, Satan told Eve that death is not the issue in eating the fruit, but that “your eyes will be opened and you will be as God, knowing good and evil.” In verse 7 we are told that when they ate the fruit, “the eyes of both of them were opened and they realized they were naked.” What “eyes” are we talking about? Is this passage talking about physical, light-dependent, bodily eyes? No, this is referring to spiritual sight. In verse 22 God confirms this by saying, “the man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil.” The man



and woman had disobeyed God and they bore the punishment for their sin. They would now be cut off from the fruit of the tree of life. They had died a spiritual death by disobeying and cutting themselves off from God. Now they would have to die a physical death by being cut off from the tree of life. In verse 22 God said that if the couple could continue to eat from the tree of life (which they were never forbidden to eat from) they would live forever in this sinful state. Whatever a person's interpretation of this passage might be, the implication was that eating of the tree of life would prevent death. The two trees, and



what their fruit would do, seems to suggest that eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was distinct and separate from eating of the tree of life. Knowing good and evil and physical life are two different things.

So God prevented mankind from eating from the tree of life after they had sinned. The source of everlasting life was lost because of sin. However, when we turn to the book of Revelation we find the tree of life again

becoming available to those who are redeemed by the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. In Revelation 2:7 Christ tells the church in Ephesus, “To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” In Revelation 22:1–2, 14, and 19 we are told that the tree of life grows along the river of the water of life which flows from the throne of God and runs through the city of God. Verse 14 says, “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life”

The theme of the Genesis 2–3 account is not physical death, but spiritual death. Physical death is always portrayed in the Bible as a natural thing. Ecclesiastes 3:1–2 tells us “to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, a time to die;” In 1 Corinthians 15:25–58 Paul talks about the fact that there are “natural bodies” (our physical, material bodies) and that there are “spiritual bodies” (verse 44). He tells us our physical bodies are dying bodies (which) cannot inherit what will last forever (verse 50). In verse 53 we are told that our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die. As Revelation 22:17 tells us, “The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ . . . Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.”

—JNC

DOES HUMANITY HAVE VALUE WITHOUT GOD?

by John Billington

“Humanism Promotes Communing with Humanity, Not God” –Corliss Lamont in *The Humanist*



only by our shared humanity, unburdened by the notion of God. For them it brings hope and freedom. However, implicit in this statement is the notion that humanity is valuable in and of itself—that humanity is valuable for no other reason than being human. The essence of this humanist statement is relationship; that a relationship solely between human beings is preferable over a relationship between God and humanity. Relationship at its core is first

a valuing of the person; it is to consider the person worth the effort a relationship involves. Or, in the case of this humanistic statement, it is to consider humanity worthy of the effort and sacrifice required for such a communal relationship to exist.

Humanists argue for a communal relationship between humans alone as better than a communal relationship with God. This idea starts with the facts that they value one over the other and that human life is worthy of the effort involved. But if atheistic beliefs such as humanism are true, why should any human being value their own life, let alone that of a fellow human being? Without God can atheistic beliefs claim and sustain notions such as value, let alone that humanity is valuable? While the answer to many Christians will seem intuitive, we should be able to articulate arguments in order to respond to these questions and beliefs. Human experience argues that human beings value themselves and cannot separate themselves from value. If so, it can be argued that these atheistic beliefs are inadequate founda-

tions for such a deep-seated need on two fronts. One, it can be shown that they are philosophically motivated statements of faith. Two, it is arguable that without God, humanity simply has no legitimate claim to value.

Philosopher Bertrand Russell wrote in 1902, “That Man is the product of causes which had no pre-vision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the grave; that all the labors of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius, are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of Man’s achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins—all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain that no philosophy which rejects them can hope to stand.” Then, stunningly, Russell concludes, “Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul’s habitation henceforth be safely built” (Russell, p. 3). In 1971, Biochemist Jacques Monod wrote, “Man must at last wake out of his millenary dream and discover his total solitude, his fundamental isolation. He must realize that, like a gypsy, he lives on the boundary of an alien world; a world that is deaf to his music, and is indifferent to his hopes as it is to his sufferings or his crimes” (quoted in Colson, p. 225).

The dark tone of these atheistic pronouncements is undeniable. These men hold to a belief they acknowledge as futile. In the end all hu-



man endeavor, struggle, and advancement ends in meaningless extinction. It is utterly void of value that transcends this existence. Many people will say this end is in the too distant future to be relevant to them. But death

is not far off for any of us and if this belief is true the death of a person may as well be the final end of all things. The majority of people are not remembered past one or two generations before their “person” vanishes from the human landscape altogether. All that is left is the

impersonal and voiceless effects of their life that may linger for a few more generations or, at best, ripple down through the ages to end in the futility of universal extinction. This is why intuition causes many of us to ask, “With all human activity set against ultimate futility, what value is there in any human activity whether it is remembered or advancing humanity?” Unquestionably, these apostles of atheism recognize the utter futility in their belief, but they are willing to accept it. Are the rest of us willing to do so? If the atheists own testimonies are so bleak, should we accept that their testimonies are true on blind faith?

The first premise of the argument is that atheism is a philosophically motivated statement of faith. To be sure these folks seethe at the very mention of such suggestions. They emphatically deny their belief is, in any way, a faith. But notice, importantly the quotes lack scientific fact. Such quotes are often said by respected scientists and thus, almost unperceived by the audience, the nod of scientific authority is attached to these statements. In his autobiography on his journey from atheism to Christianity, C. S. Lewis writes, “You will understand that my rationalism (naturalism/atheism) was inevitably based on what I believed to be the findings of the sciences and those findings, not being a scientist, I had to take on trust—in fact, on authority” (Lewis, *Surprised*, p. 97). Lewis is saying that someone whom he considered an authority on the subject told him science has all but proven naturalism, thus by implication disproven supernaturalism, religion, and spirituality. Thus as a reasoning person he had to accept their testimony on the subject as authoritative. C. S. Lewis went on to discover that these authorities were masquerading philosophy for science and such claims are simply unjustified posturing. The persuasive power of their argument can be great on an unsuspecting public when well-credentialed, respected atheists unjustly usurp science to overstate their case. Arguably the most damaging fact against those who push the view that science has all but disproven the supernatural is the fact that many scientists, including a lengthy list of Nobel Prize recipients, adopt beliefs of faith over naturalism.

Understanding that atheism is a faith is important. If atheism were true that could not be debated, the question of humanity having value without God (the second premise of this argument) would be moot. On the other hand, if atheism is a faith competing with other faiths, the question of God and value is an extremely relevant question. The few quotes given adequately lay a foundation that the fathers of atheism understand the implications of their philosophy. They understand and embrace with a kind of dark foreboding mentality, the fact that humanity has no ultimate value if naturalism is true. Given this foundation, the question becomes, “Does humanity have any claim to value at all if we do not have ultimate value?”

Naturally one would expect such pessimism to lead to a nihilistic view of life—that life has no meaning or purpose. But Dr. Richard Dawkins, an evolutionary biologist and leading atheist seems to think this should not be the case. He writes, “The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference” (Dawkins, p. 133). Such a view is apparently no reason to see life as valueless and pointless for Dr. Dawkins. *Skeptical* magazine hosted an interview with Dr. Dawkins. The interviewer referenced the above quote and likened it to Shakespeare’s “a tale told by an idiot, filled with sound and fury, signifying nothing.” Dawkins’ responded, “Yes, at a sort of cosmic level, it is. But what I want to guard against is people therefore getting nihilistic in their personal lives. I do not see any reason for that at all. You can have a very happy and fulfilled personal life even if you think that the universe at large is a tale told by an idiot” (Miele, p. 5). Although I’ve since validated these quotes, I am indebted to Jill Carattini for her article “First A Story” where I first saw them together.

If atheistic humanism is true, a few questions arise concerning Dr. Dawkins conclusions. Dawkins makes the assumption that to have a “very happy and fulfilled personal life” is better than nihilism. But what warrants such an assumption in such a bleak view of the universe? Dr. Dawkins’ assumption is derived from value judgments about human life—that life “ought” to be valuable and is thus worthy to be happy and fulfilled. But a purposeless universe simply has no regard for such “oughts” and values. Dawkins acknowledges this fact only a few sentences before when he writes the universe has “at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.” There is no free lunch. If the universe is an accident, has no purpose and is indifferent to all things, it follows that the universe is indifferent to distinctions of value, i.e. it is valueless. In a valueless universe what grounds are there for value statements like “life is valuable” and “life is not valuable” or “good is better than evil?” In Dawkins and company’s view of the universe we simply have no grounds to appeal to a fundamental principle that anything, let alone human life, “ought” to be valuable. Notice this is not asking, “Why do we value?” It asks a very different question, “Why should we value?” This is the crux of the problem with atheistic philosophies. Dawkins believes there is no reason to give into nihilism in the face of a pitiless, indifferent universe. But in his valueless universe why determine one state of mind as “better than” another state of mind? Why do we know which one is really better than the other? If we say it is because we feel one way or the other, truth becomes predominantly a function of emotion and is extraordinarily subjective. No matter how adamantly the atheist denies it, for

such questions to be answered with any legitimacy and authority the universe must fundamentally possess value and purpose, something an accident simply cannot bestow. If the universe is nothing more than a mere accident, then we, being part of it, are also nothing more than mere accidents. No matter how grand the accident, there simply is no rational judgment for or against assuming nihilism is better or worse than being happy and fulfilled. To say it is a grand and miraculous accident is ludicrous. What is cognizant life apart from value, meaning, and purpose?

The question is not, “Why do we make value judgments?” Simply put, no human being can escape making them. If naturalism is true, the question is why valuing anything is so deeply human. It is the very notion of a valueless universe that Dr. Dawkins’ mind simply will not accept. In the face of his utterly hopeless universe he manufactures purpose and meaning for his being. He manufactures value for himself. It takes very little attention to see that such value and purpose is truly subjective and meaningless. If naturalism is true, cognizant life is the cruelest joke ever played. It is this “oughtness” that



is fundamentally woven into nature and existence—that human life ought to be valuable—that demands both an intellectual and emotionally satisfying answer. What would life be like if we, at our most fundamental levels, did not think life is valuable? Why do we fight for human rights? Why is it our tendency to elevate the value of animal life to be equal with humanity instead of devaluing humanity to be equal with animal life? If naturalism is true there is no rational judgment for thinking the cloud of atoms making up a person is more or less valuable than a cloud of atoms making up the rock the person may be sitting on.

The opening sentence of this essay is the title of an article that states 12 tenets of Humanism. The first two tenets are, “First, that Nature or the universe makes up the totality of existence and is completely self-operating according to natural law, with no need for a God or gods to keep it functioning. This cosmos, unbounded in space and infinite in time, consists fundamentally of a constantly changing system of matter and energy, and is neutral in regard to man’s well-being and values. Second, Humanism holds that the race of man is the present culmination of a time-defying evolutionary process on this planet that

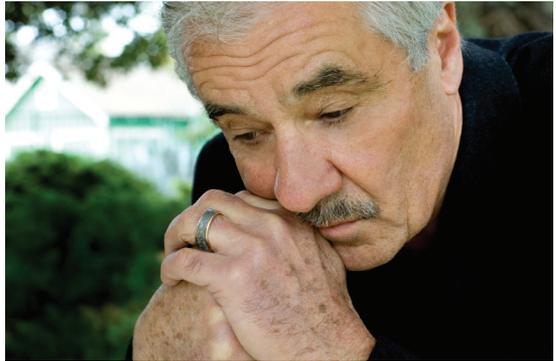
has lasted billions of years; that each human being exists as an inseparable unity of mind and body, and that therefore after death there can be no personal immortality or survival of consciousness” (Lamont, p. 1). The fathers of atheism understand the bankruptcy in these elegant and lofty sounding words. Jean-Paul Sartre expresses, “Atheism is a cruel, long-term business; I believe I have gone through it to the end” (quoted in Guinness, p. 134). However, my experience leads me to believe that the majority of people hold a more uninformed acceptance of such notions. One of my most telling experiences occurred when I attended an invitation-only lecture on the evolutionary rise of morals hosted by North Carolina State. The presenter was a world renowned researcher in his field of study. The room was full of Ph.D’s from the related fields. A question and answer period followed the presentation in which I asked why I should accept such a view when it is dependent on Supervenience. To the presenter’s credit, he knew what Supervenience is. But this world renowned leader in evolutionary theory anticipated something about his colleague’s knowledge, because he asked the room if they knew what Supervenience meant. To my astonishment the vast majority had never heard the term. Yet Supervenience is the leading explanation for human personality and mind in evolutionary thought. The best that evolutionary thought has delivered to date to explain humanity’s very personhood is a tenuously held and likely unprovable hypothesis that is apparently little known among evolutionary academics.

After completing a survey of western society and thought, the twentieth-century theologian and philosopher Francis Schaeffer wrote, “Man beginning with his proud, proud humanism, tried to make himself autonomous, but rather than becoming great, he had found himself ending up as only a collection of molecules—and nothing more.” He then goes on to say, “Beginning only from man himself, people affirm that man is only a machine” (Schaeffer, p. 164). This truth was profoundly personal for C. S. Lewis. He wrote of his struggles and emotions



caused by the death of his wife, Helen Joy, from cancer, “If H. ‘is not’ (now that she is dead), then she never was. I mistook a cloud of atoms for a person. There aren’t, and never were, any people” (Lewis, *A Grief*, p. 28). I

close with a quote from my own book, “This is the dichotomy in our existence. We rail against God to be our own, rejecting His claim to us. In so doing, we also give up His higher purpose and reason for humanity, leaving us free to claim ourselves, yet we cannot live coherently with the hopelessness of that rejection. In short it states, ‘I am my own,’ and then relentlessly asks, ‘But what am I?’” (Billington, p. 25).



Works Cited.

- Billington, John. *An Account of Hope: Christian Faith in an Age of Relative Truth and Religious Pluralism*. Mustang: Tate, 2007.
- Colson, Charles, and Nancy Pearcey. *How Now Shall We Live?* Wheaton: Tyndale, 1999.
- Dawkins, Richard. *River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*. New York: Basic Books, 1995.
- Guinness, Os. *Unspeakable: Facing Up to Evil in an Age of Genocide and Terror*. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.
- Lamont, Corliss. *The Humanist*. 1971. “Humanism Promotes Communing with Humanity, Not God”.
- Lewis, C. S. *A Grief Observed*. New York: HarperCollins, 1996.
- Lewis, C. S. “Surprised by Joy”. *The Beloved Works of C.S. Lewis: Surprised by Joy/Reflections on the Psalms/The Four Loves/The Business of Heaven*, The Inspirational Christian Library.
- Miele, Frank. “Darwin’s Dangerous Disciple.” *Skeptic* 1995: 4-5. Academic Search Premier. EBSCO. Eva H. Perry Regional Lib. Apex NC. 19 Mar.
- Randall, John. *The Making of the Modern Mind: Fiftieth Anniversary Edition*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1976.
- Russell, Bertrand. “A Free Man’s Worship” Philosophical Society. com. Tim Ruggiero, 24 Mar. 2009.
- Schaeffer, Francis. *The Three Essential Books in One Volume Trilogy: The God Who Is There, Escape from Reason, He Is There and He Is Not Silent*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1990.
- Schmidt, Mark Ray. *Constructing a Life Philosophy* (Opposing Viewpoints Series). San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2002. Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center. Gale. Central Carolina Community College Lib. 6 Apr. 2009.

SCIENTISTS AND GOD

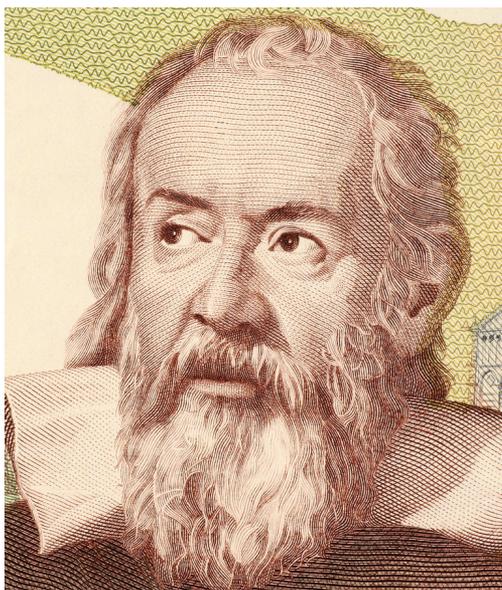
Editor's Note: Our thanks to Tihomir Dimitrov on the nobelists.net website for quotations from many of the founders of modern science who were also fundamental believers in the God of the Bible. As we share these quotations we are reminded that being a good scientist is not at odds with belief in God.

GALILEO GALILEI

Physicist, mathematician,
astronomer, and philosopher,
who played a major role
in the Scientific Revolution

“To the Lord that I worship and thank, that governs the heavens with his eyelid. To him I return tired, but full of living.” “When I reflect on so many profoundly marvelous things that persons have grasped, sought, and done, I recognize even more clearly that human intelligence is a work of God, and one of the most excellent.”

“The Holy Scripture cannot err and the decrees therein contained are absolutely true and inviolable. But its expounders and interpreters are liable to err in many ways.” “The Holy Bible can never speak untruth — whenever its true meaning is understood.”



ADDRESS CHANGE? To remain on our mailing list, please give us both your old and new addresses with both zip codes at least six to eight weeks before the move, if at all possible. Thanks!



Cynthia's Corner



INNER FREEDOM

“Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent—the Lord detests them both” (Proverbs 17:15). Human justice is not always just, right, and fair. Those who have had their freedoms and personal liberty taken from them, whether justly or not, have a unique and difficult challenge because they cannot escape their physical captivity and outward control by others. To help them recognize and focus on what they can change and control is an immense challenge psychologically and spiritually. To understand that our mind and spirit cannot be controlled outwardly by someone else or by circumstances is to begin to comprehend the power and deeper meaning of inner freedom. To experience personal control over thoughts, attitudes, and emotions, no matter what the circumstances is a power and freedom that cannot be taken away. It can only be relinquished by us.

The apostle Paul experienced severe hardships, beatings, and imprisonments because of his faith and obedience to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:23–28). In spite of that, he was able to say, “I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want” (Philippians 4:12). His secret was inner power and control. His mind, will, and spirit were not controlled outwardly by anyone or anything. Paul identifies the source of his strength in the next verse saying, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” Paul’s contentment, inner peace, and self control, no matter how dire his circumstances, came from giving God control of his life. “The mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace” (Romans 8:6).

John and his coworkers have been privileged through correspondence courses to get to know many people in prison who have become believers and have been obedient to Christ while in prison. They all say that good has come from their time in prison because they have become new spiritually. They have given their life to God in baptism (Romans 6:3–7) and become “a new creation” in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Their relationship to God enables them to have victory over their surroundings and their inner demons. God’s Spirit within gives them a new attitude and, indeed, a “new self” (Ephesians 4:22–24). The irony of inner freedom is that we all have the power to choose who and what will control us. Those who have been “born again” have chosen God.

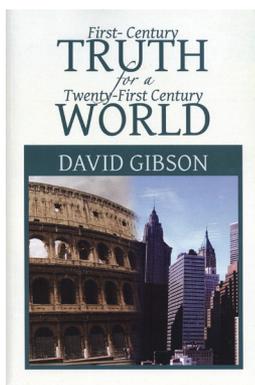
—Cynthia Clayton



The books that are reviewed in the Book Review section are not available through us, but can be obtained from a local bookstore or through many online bookstores.

First Century Truth for a Twenty-First Century World

by David Gibson, Xlibris.com, 2011, 215 pages,
\$19.99 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-1-4653-3538-8



We live in a world that not only has a difficult time understanding the nature of God and the evidence that God exists, but also struggles with religious authority. We have dedicated a number of pages in this journal to the fact that people are confused about the Bible and struggle with good answers to the flood of material on atheist and extreme religious websites making claims that are not true. How do we know the Bible is true? How do we know we have the right Bible? How do we know that the books in

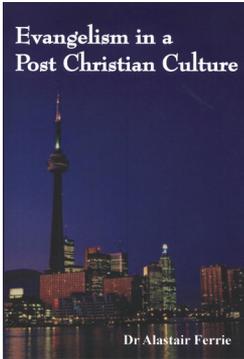
the Bible are the right ones? What about the apocryphal books, the Book of Mormon, oral tradition, and the Bible? How do we go about restoring faith in Christianity in the twenty-first century?

David Gibson has taught classes on these subjects at Texas A & M-Commerce, and has presented public seminars on these subjects for some forty years. This book is a product of his preparation for those classes and seminars. It is divided into 13 chapters which begin with the need to have a common standard to make religious decisions. It deals with the question of how we got the Bible and how we know we have the right books. It looks at how God's communication with man has changed throughout history. There are separate chapters on the role of miracles, Catholicism, subjectivism, Mormonism, and a guide as to how we should make decisions in religion.

This book is not about the existence of God, but about reasonable theology and how and why the Bible should be understood in today's world. Those struggling with religious pluralism and the credibility of the Bible will find it very useful. All readers will find the wide range of topics and the clear and organized study helpful.

Evangelism in a Post Christian Culture

by Alastair Ferrie, iUniverse.com, 2008, 219 pages,
\$18.95 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-0-595-53005-2



In 2010 we were privileged to work for several weeks with various congregations in Scotland. Dr. Alastair Ferrie was our primary contact. He is a minister in Dundee who has a strong academic background and is a physics major. Dr. Ferrie has written a book that we feel will be of interest to ministers and personal workers throughout the world. He has been doing a number of presentations in the United States at various university lectureships and workshops. Because he is Scottish and has an understanding of the European “Post Christian” mind-set his understandings and suggestions carry great significance.

Under the heading “The Changing Face of Evangelism” Ferrie begins by developing the concept of how worldview has affected the approach needed to reach people today. He correctly identifies how people think about God and religion and how ignorance has impacted our approach to people. The implications of naturalism and evolutionary thought are carefully described and well handled. There are excellent charts on the contrast in beliefs and where those beliefs take one. Ferrie also emphasizes the importance of using the Bible and using it correctly. How and what we share is carefully explained and is well done.

The second section of the book consists of eight presentations that can be used in home studies. Ferrie says “They are a structured approach to sharing the gospel, sharing the Person of Christ with others.” What Ferrie does is to take eight biblical miracles and use them to explain Christ and the concept of Christianity. These are structured so a person can add his own approach based on the fundamentals the book gives. The last five chapters are apologetic chapters that start with “I believe because ...” and offer answers to faith issues. These are basic, practical, easy-to-use approaches which answer common questions. If a person does not believe the Bible is the Word of God, quoting scripture will not usually work. For that reason, I would have put these chapters closer to the front of the book. This book is intended for Christian workers and for some people the apologetics section might not be needed.

This is an excellent book and we recommend it highly to people who are interested in seeing the church grow, and who are willing to do what God put us as Christians here to do—to spread the Good News about Jesus and salvation.

DANDY DESIGNS

HOW DO YOU CLEAN A FROG'S FOOT?

In the past decade, scientists have looked to animals to find new devices to assist man in daily living. Velcro, for example, came into existence by the study of certain materials in the natural world. If you have ever watched a tree frog move about on a leaf, you have to be impressed with the fact that it can stick to the surface it is walking on, even when it is upside down.

Researchers at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, have been studying a tree frog species called *Litoria caerulea*. These small tree frogs stick to the leaf they are walking on by the use of a mucus. When the frog walks on a dusty leaf the mucus secreted through its feet picks up the dust making the frog lose its grip. The mucus has a chemical make-up that causes the dust to clump together, so immediately the frog secretes more mucus which allows it to again stick to the leaf. The dust comes off then with each step the frog takes so the frog's feet are self-cleaning.

Researchers are excited about this discovery, because they believe it may lead to self-cleaning, long-lasting adhesives. Like Velcro we have a design seen in the natural world that we can copy to improve our lives. The intelligence built into every nook and cranny of the world in which we live is incredible, and our knowledge of that fact grows every day as new discoveries are made. Wherever man looks—up or down—a wonder-working hand has gone before.

Source: *Science News*, August 27, 2011, page 4.



BIRD NESTS

The basic premise of this regular column is that nature is full of things that speak of an intelligence as being the basic cause of what we see. The alternative is an attempt to find some series of events that might possibly explain how what we see could develop by chance. A good example of the difference in these two approaches is seen in the way in which birds build their nests. Sharon Beals has written a book titled *Nests: Fifty Nests and the Birds that Built Them*. She says there are basically six different types of nests that birds build in the Midwestern part of the United States:



Cavity nests: Naturally excavated trees. This includes woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees, titmice, and bluebirds.

Cup nests: Small cups usually placed in trees or bushes made of spider silk, plant down, lichen, moss, and plant fibers. Some cup nests are so tightly woven they can hold rainwater. Hummingbirds, phoebes, goldfinches, and vireos make this kind of nest.

Pendant nests: Elaborately woven pouches hung on the ends of tree branches. The main users of this style in our area are orioles.

Platform nests: Massive platforms of sticks lined with shredded bark or leaves. Herons, eagles, osprey, and hawks construct these huge nests that can be nine feet across, 20 feet deep and weigh several tons.

Scrape nests: A depression is scraped out and then lined with down, grass, or leaves. Ducks, killdeer, shorebirds, and gamebirds use this style of nest.

Saucer nests: This is a jumble of sticks and plant material piled into a loose saucer shape. "Mourning dove nests are often so flimsy the eggs can be seen from below!" Chimney swifts use saliva to cement their saucer to the inside of a chimney or hollow tree.

When these birds are raised in captivity, they still use the same nest type as their parents even if they never saw a nest or their own parents. It is clear this is programmed into their genes and is not a learned behavior. Because not all birds use the same style, a variety of nest sites is always available and materials are not depleted. The method by which the genetic programming takes place is an interesting question, but computers need to be programmed by an intelligence, and we would suggest that an intelligence programmed not only birds to build good nests, but also has given all animals a way to survive in a complex world.

Source: *Fernwood Notes*, Fall 2011, www.fernwoodbotanical.org.

News and Notes

2012 CANYONLANDS TOUR JULY 23–27, 2012

**DEADLINE FOR OUR 2012 CANYONLANDS TOUR IS
MAY 1—WE MUST GET MOTEL RESERVATIONS
MADE—PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO GO.**

PURPOSE: To help Christians understand the Canyonlands area, the history of the earth as seen in the rock record, and how that history correlates with a literal understanding of the Bible.

WHERE: Leave from Flagstaff, AZ, visiting Sunset Crater, Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, Meteor Crater, Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, and points in between.

CONDUCT: Air-conditioned motor coach with lectures presented by John Clayton and Alan Doty en route. At each point participants will have the option of hiking or staying in one place and enjoying the view. Hiking is not required.

PARTICIPANTS: Anyone age eight or older who is willing to participate in lectures, devotionals, studies, and wholesome activity.

INCLUDED: Bus transportation, motels, field guides, entry fees, breakfasts Tuesday through Friday. **Not included:** Other meals, gratuities, souvenirs, transportation to and from Flagstaff.

COSTS: No money is paid to **Does God Exist?**, to your guides, or to John Clayton.

The only cost is for the items described above. Cost is: singles: \$949; doubles: \$889; three or four in a room: \$549. Trip insurance is available.

**FOR A COMPLETE ITINERARY,
RESERVATION, OR INFORMATION,**
call Queenslander Tours at 877-865-6711
(toll free) or by e-mail at mark@qltours.com.
Information can be viewed at www.queenslandertours.com/qtt/grandcanyon/.

Other questions can be directed to John Clayton at 269-687-9426 or e-mail at jncdge@aol.com.

26 • www.doesgodexist.org



RESPONSE TO ACLU NOTE. In the September/October 2011 issue we told of an ACLU suit in South Carolina to allow inmates to have pornography while in jail. Dr. Paul Smith who has had experience in this area sent the following to us in response to that note:

“I read the ‘News & Notes’ item concerning the ACLU, jail, and the inmate use of pornography. I was once a guest of the State of Texas and I know for a fact that pornography in prison increases perverted sexuality and objectifies the female officers rather than recognize and/or respect their authority. That is why I wrote the following piece while in prison. Paul”

THE MULTIFACETED SIN OF PORNOGRAPHY

“But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Matthew 5:28). In Genesis 2:25 it is written concerning Adam and Eve: “The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.” In Leviticus 18 we find that to look upon the nakedness of one who is not your spouse is an abomination before God and a practice of the ungodly.

Pornography is pictures, writing, and other explicit media that is intended to cause sexual arousal. The word pornography is derived from the Greek word *porne*, which is the root word of the Greek *porneuo*, which is to indulge in immoral behavior (lust) and illicit sexual activity by both genders. This includes adultery, fornication, incest, and homosexuality.

Pornography is a multifaceted sin that contributes to other sexually deviant behavior such as rape and child molestation. It is also a form of idolatry because it turns the human body into an idol of fornication and perverse pleasure that is totally out of the realm of God’s purpose for His creation. Pornography objectifies women and degrades the beauty and purpose of God’s special gift to man (Genesis 2:18).

Pornography is a powerful stimulant that is very addictive and desensitizes the user and it leads to more and more perverse behavior in order to satisfy the addict. The majority of rapists and child molesters are heavy users of pornographic materials.

One of the many terrible tragedies is that many of the adult women and all of children who become active participants in pornography were sexually abused and many—especially children—are forced and/or sold into pornography. Therefore, those who use pornographic materials, and derive pleasure from them are actually deriving pleasure from a human being who has had his individuality and self-esteem ripped from him by both physical and psychological force. Therefore, the users of pornography are just as guilty as those who horribly hurt and pathetically abuse these women and children. Unless they confess and repent of this awful sin, they will stand before God under severe judgment.

As a final note, in God's eyes, pornography also includes those so-called men's magazines that contain pictures of scantily dressed women in seductive poses. No "real man," and especially not Christian men, would be viewing such things (Proverbs 6:25)!

Dr. Paul Douglas Smith, M NC/Th.D.

ATHEISTS DEMAND THEIR OWN CHAPLAINS IN MILITARY. Jason Torpy is the president of The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers. He is demanding that atheists should have their own chaplains since the military provides chaplains to Catholics, Jews, Muslims, and Protestants. His group has been a 501(c)(3) organization for five years and Torpy is a former Army Captain. Army Lt. Col. Robert Maginnis points out that the chaplains have provided encouragement by using belief in the hereafter. He is quoted by CNSNews.com (11/17/11) as saying "If you get someone who says 'Sorry, if you get killed, you're just going to become a potted plant. There's no hereafter.' that would not be terribly motivating, especially to a military that goes to war."

CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS DIES. One of the major players in the "new atheism" of the twenty-first century and the author of *God is Not Great*, Christopher Hitchens has died at the age of 62 of esophageal cancer. Hitchens was vicious in his sarcasm and hatred of God and Christianity and people like Mother Teresa, but he was wildly inconsistent. He believed in marriage and that wives should be able to stay out of the workplace and live at home with children "because they were the gentler sex," but was well known for his use of alcohol and unclean living including cigarettes. He opposed Bill and Hillary Clinton, Michael Moore, Sarah Palin, Saddam Hussein, and Galileo but supported George Bush and the war in Iraq, Salman Rushdie, Ayatollah Khomeini, and homeopathic medicine. He went to his death maintaining his beliefs and causes and rejecting God. The idea that atheists turn to God as they die was not borne out in Hitchens' case. Source: Hillel Italie, AP, online.wsj.com, 12/16/11.

STEVE JOBS DIES. In a similar vein, Steve Jobs passed away on October 5, 2011. In *The Week* (November 11, 2011, page 5) his sister who was with him as he died quotes him as saying, "Oh wow. Oh wow. Oh Wow." There have been all kinds of speculations as to what he was seeing or what the meaning of his words were. There have been many famous people who have said some tantalizing things as they died. Emily Dickinson is quoted as saying "I must go in, the fog is rising." Thomas Edison said "It is very beautiful over there." Like "out of the body experiences" there are likely to be physical and/

or chemical explanations for what these folks saw, so we would not attach great significance to them.

A new biography *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson indicates that, like many others, Jobs was turned away from faith in God by the question of why God would allow suffering. When he was 13 years old *Life* magazine published a shocking cover picture of two starving children in Biafra. Jobs took it to Sunday School and asked his pastor if God knew about those children. The pastor told him that God knows everything. Young Steve said that he did not want to worship a God who knew about this suffering and did not do anything about it. He never went back to church again, but he did spend years studying Zen Buddhism. We have often dealt with the question of why would a loving God allow pain and suffering in this world. We have a website devoted to that question. Go to whypain.org or use the QR code below to see it. The simplified bottom line is that man's bad choices lead to suffering and God's people are his instruments to bring peace and healing. We need to be doing that. Jobs apparently recognized that because much later in life he said, "The juice goes out of Christianity when it becomes too based on faith rather than on living like Jesus or seeing the world as Jesus saw it." We would suggest it is because of our faith in Jesus that we should be living like him and seeing the world as he saw it.



When Jobs was facing death he wanted to believe in God. He said, "For most of my life, I've felt that there must be more to our existence than meets the eye. . . . I like to think that something survives when you die." Steve Jobs changed the world in computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing, and digital publishing. However, in this life he never found the answer to that most important question, "Does God Exist?"

THE LARGE HADRON COLLIDER AND GOD. One of the interesting research programs going on right now is the huge particle accelerator with a 16.5-mile-long tunnel beneath the border of Switzerland and France. The hope is that this research will enable the detection of the Higgs particle which would tell how elementary particles acquire mass. Dr. Lisa Randall who is involved in this research has written a book titled *Knocking on Heaven's Door* which suggests that extra dimensions exist close to our own four-dimensional world. The biblical description of God and his action in our world closely resembles this suggestion. Those who believe in God never have to be concerned about any research negatively affecting their faith, because the lesson of history is that the more we know about the creation the more we see the accuracy of the Bible and the reasonableness of faith in God as the creator. Source: *Smithsonian*, December 2011, page 25.

ATHEISTS WHO GO TO CHURCH. In the December 2011 issue of the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* there is a report of a study of 275 scientists at “elite” research facilities in the United States. Sixty-one percent of the participants describe themselves as atheists or agnostics, and 17% of those reported they had attended church more than once in the past year. The sociologists conducting the study suggest that the cause of this is that the children of these skeptics are being allowed to make up their own minds about their personal faith. That is an interesting speculation, but it may also be that these researchers are researching questions about choices in life, and have not ruled out God as a possible answer.

SUPERNOVA GOES OFF IN PINWHEEL GALAXY. On August 24, 2011, astronomers were able to watch a star explode in a galaxy known as M101 or the Pinwheel Galaxy. Seeing a star explode is a fairly rare occurrence, but we usually observe them long after the event took place. In this case the star was being observed through the whole process. Because we know how bright a star like this is both normally and also when it explodes, it is possible to determine the distance the star is from us, since observed brightness is the inverse square of the distance away. When this calculation is done it shows the star and its galaxy are 21 million light years away. This figure agrees with other astronomical methods of measuring distance. We can also watch the chemical processes that take place within the star producing elements like iron and calcium. This discovery reminds me of Henry F. Schaefer’s comment when he made one of the many discoveries for which he is famous. He is reported to have said, “Oh, that’s how God did it.” Source: *Science News*, September 24, 2011, Page 5.

EUTHANASIA COMPLICATION. Some new studies of “brain dead” patients with sophisticated new machines has brought some new evidence into the question of who is brain dead and who is actually conscious but effectively buried alive inside an unresponsive body. Researchers at the University of Western Ontario using an EEG machine on vegetative patients have found that they can understand and react mentally to various commands. The implications for euthanasia advocates is obvious, but even questions about when to “pull the plug” may be impacted by new tools and understandings. Source: *The Week*, December 2, 2011, page 21.

DUTCH BATTLE ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. The Netherlands has been the scene of a number of liberal actions over the years raising moral and religious issues on abortion, euthanasia, and same-sex marriage. Wim Pijl, a 67-year-old civil servant, was fired because he refused on biblical grounds to perform same-sex marriages. Dutch

gay-rights groups maintain that there are 104 civil servants who refuse to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies. Pijl maintains that he is discriminated against because of his religious views and is planning legal action. No matter how this case turns out, it is obvious that the same battle will take place in the U.S. soon. We have tried to point out in this journal that once same-sex marriage is accepted, it would be difficult not to also allow group marriage, polygamy, polyandry, or even animal marriage which some have already advocated. Source: ReligionNewsBlog.com, November 16, 2011.

ANTIHELIUM CREATED. Researchers on Long Island have succeeded in creating antihelium-4 as they smashed gold nuclei into each other. When nuclei are shattered in such experiments, equal amounts of matter and antimatter are produced. The problem is that when antimatter collides with matter the two annihilate each other producing energy. Normally antimatter is contained by using magnetic fields to hold the antimatter so it makes no contact with the matter of our world. In the creation process, there should have been equal amounts of matter and antimatter produced, and the question of why we see very little antimatter in our region of space is still an area of speculation for cosmologists. Source: *Discover*, January 2, 2012, page 39.

MORALITY AND FAITH. One of the areas that suggest there is a God and the Bible is his word is the fact that religious people have higher moral standards in general than non-religious people. In the past atheists have denied that statement, and have referred to cases where big name preachers and teachers in religion have been caught in some compromise of their religious views. Recently there have been some studies that support the view that faith in God promotes a higher moral calling—and a number of editorials to explain the data away. In 2000 Michael McCullough and his colleagues at the University of Miami released three dozen studies showing strong correlation between religiosity and lower mortality rates. In 2009 McCullough and Brian Willoughby released studies showing that religious people are more likely to engage in healthy behaviors and are less likely to engage in risky sex, smoking, doing recreational drugs, and drinking. Atheists seem to have decided that these figures cannot be argued with, and now atheist writers are maintaining that there are psychological explanations that have to do with monitoring behavior and following healthy life-styles. Obviously atheists will not admit that God has anything to do with how we live and what we do, but for most of us choices in life are supported positively or negatively by our faith in something beyond what this world offers. Source: *Scientific American*, December 2011, page 102.

This journal is a part of a program of service titled **Does God Exist?** The purpose of the program is to provide thinking, seeking people with scientific evidence that God does exist and that the Bible is His Word. It is our conviction that all men can logically and rationally believe in God. In addition to this bimonthly journal, the **Does God Exist?** program offers DVDs and video tapes, CDs and audio tapes, courses, books, and other materials. These materials are offered on a loan basis or at our cost. We also are more than willing to correspond with you and answer any specific question(s) you might have. If you would like further information on borrowing or purchasing these materials, we would be glad to send it to you. Check the boxes below to describe what you would like and mail it to us. We will get it right out to you.

Send request to:
Does God Exist?
 PO Box 2704
 South Bend, IN 46680-2704

*It's scientists vs. preachers,
 not science vs. the Bible.*

Please put me on your mailing list for your free bimonthly publication.

Please enroll me in your free basic correspondence course.

Please enroll me in your free intermediate correspondence course.

Please send me a catalog of other opportunities available through the **Does God Exist?** program.

Name _____

Street or PO Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____