

DOES GOD EXIST?

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

Sept./Oct. 2014
Volume 41 Number 5

*A Journey
to Paradise*

Does God Exist? Lectureships

Lectures for 2014

- Oct. 4 Sundridge, Ont.
705-384-0597
- Oct. 5 North Bay, Ont.
705-384-0567
- Nov. 13–15 Great Lakes
Christian College
Lectures
905-228-8155

Lectures for 2015

- May 17–23 York College
Round Up
402-363-5621

Articles in this Issue:

A Journey to Paradise	3
Quiverfull: More Fuel for Atheists	9

Guest Article:

Colliding Worldviews: Socrates & Paul	14
---------------------------------------	----

Special Features:

Scientists and God	20
Cynthia's Corner	21
Book Reviews:	
Life After Suffering: A Memoir of Subversive Hope	22
A Vale of Soulmaking	23
Dandy Designs:	
The Design of Animal Skin	25
The Fiddler That "Dead Reckons"	25
News and Notes	26

Aug. 23–28, 2015 • 2015 DGE? Canyonlands Tour • See page 18

Check our website for an updated list of lectures and contact numbers for the lectureships listed above: www.doesgodexist.org.

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

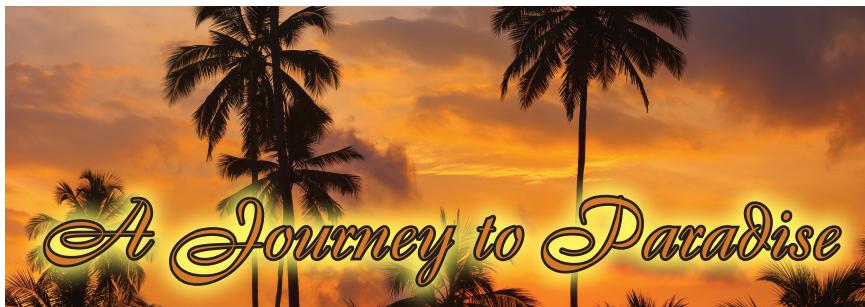
Home phone: 269-687-9426 FAX: 269-687-9431

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



If this life is all we will ever know, the problem of pain, suffering, tragedy, difficulties, and struggles is a huge issue. It may be that the reason atheists and skeptics focus so intensely on this issue is that, subconsciously at least, they know how hopeless their situation is. If this life is all I will ever know, and if things are not going well in this life, then the whole picture becomes incredibly bleak. All I can hope for is that when this life is over there is nothing. Ending this life ends all the frustrations life can bring. Suicide is frequently described as “putting him/her out of their misery.” One of the blessings of being a Christian is knowing that what we are experiencing in this life is the worst we will ever have to endure. No matter how bad it is right now, it will get better. In view of all of this, it is good to do some thinking about what the Bible says our existence will be like in heaven.

My wife and I were recently shopping for a “vacation package” from businesses which offer those super deals. We wanted a great bargain on a visit to a special place far from the distractions, bad weather, and frustrations of everything at home. One of the promotions was for “A Journey to Paradise.” The picture on the brochure looked like a child’s version of Adam and Eve complete with a smiling snake holding out a juicy looking apple. There were so many biblical errors in the brochure that I was motivated to find out where this paradise was and why it was portrayed as what Adam and Eve had in Eden. It turned out the promotion was for a trip to Hawaii.



In January, 2014, my wife and I were allowed to use some time-share points to have a free place to stay in Hawaii. While in Hawaii we saw the words “paradise” and “heaven” on numerous signs, advertisements, and promotions. We saw numerous biblical quotes, pictures of biblical events, and even references to Satan and the fall when the promotion was for something exciting and stimulating.

In my home state of Michigan, we have towns named “Paradise” and “Hell,” and I suspect there are many places around the world with those names. I have been to both Michigan towns, and neither of them is either paradise or hell, and I suspect other places are not either.

This conceptualization of heaven and hell is carried over into church discussions and skeptic literature. Dante’s *Inferno*, which had



Scene from Dante's
Inferno

more political relevance than biblical correctness, reflects the beliefs of Dante’s day. Those same beliefs are present today. I had a young atheist say he did not want to go to heaven because singing praises to God and playing a harp 24/7 for eternity sounded boring. How to avoid boredom in an eternal existence is an issue for many people. There is also the issue of whether misunderstanding God or failing to follow God’s teachings perfectly could possibly warrant being tortured for eternity. This is especially problematic in those situations where the person never had an opportunity to learn about

God and never saw a Bible. Our sense of justice might accept Hitler, Mao, or David Koresh receiving such punishment; but how can we accept our neighbor who is a good person, tries to follow God, and is misled by his family’s denominational tradition, receiving the same punishment?

Churches have had slick explanations to deal with this issue. One of the first explanations I heard was that if you are on U.S. Route 66 you will never get to Minneapolis no matter how strongly you believe you are on the right road, since Route 66 does not go through Minneapolis. That analogy breaks down in numerous ways. Even if it did not, it would not be much help in convincing the skeptic about the love, mercy, and justice of God. Saying that God’s justice is different from our justice is true. However, it does not remove God from what appears, on a practical level, to be insensitivity to the human dilemma of being acceptable to God.



The second thing I have heard ministers present, especially in recent years, is the notion that heaven exists but hell does not. There are so many versions of this idea that it is hard to know where to start. In general, the idea is that God saves all whose hearts are compatible with his will. All who are not saved are kept out of heaven, but do not suffer anything other than the agony of knowing that they missed heaven. For some belief systems, such a soul is reincarnated in a physical existence to try again for heaven. For others, the soul dies or is destroyed in some way.

The reality of all of these speculations is that they all have massive biblical problems. They contradict any acceptance of the Bible as an authority for what is being taught. They also demonstrate a profound ignorance of the nature of God and of human nature. That should not be interpreted as saying that this author has all the answers to these questions. There are, however, some points that we can all learn and profit by understanding. In the process we can come closer to understanding death and dealing with the loss of a loved one.

PARADISE ≠ HEAVEN

The symbol ≠ in scientific literature means it is not equal to. In the middle of one of the coldest Januaries I remember in Michigan, Kauai and Kona Hawaii might have been a paradise in a relativistic sense. In the middle of August, Paradise, Michigan, has a great attraction to a lot of people.

After being in Hawaii for a few days, you begin to see a lot of things that remind you of the problems you left at home—drug use, pollution, alcoholism, heavy traffic congestion, high prices, theft, etc.

As you get to know the native Hawaiian population you hear of their frustrations with high unemployment, high prices for basic goods, unfair labor practices, and the encroachment of big business on their traditional way of life. The distance between the “haves” and the “have nots” is larger in Hawaii than it is in Michigan.

Adam and Eve were not in heaven—they were in paradise. Their physical existence was plagued with pain and suffering. Eve was told in Genesis 3:16 that her pain would be increased in childbirth, not that it would be initiated as a result of her sin. Adam and Eve also worked tending the garden (Genesis 2:15). All of the ramifications of love were present with Adam and Eve. Eve was a “help meet” to Adam (Genesis 2:20). The Hebrew concept of the words *ezer knegdo* means “a helper corresponding to him.” Genesis 2:24 indicates that concept in its discussion of marriage and the relationship marriage entails.

In Matthew 22:23–30 Jesus was asked about a woman, married to a series of men in this life. The question was whom would she be married to in heaven. His response was “for in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage but are as the angels in heaven.” Assuming heaven is a sexual pleasure trip is a demonstration of ignorance. People have taken the Revelation 21:4 reference to “no



pain, no death, no tears,” to mean that we will have the best experience we have ever had on earth with none of the negatives. The language of man in describing heaven lacks the proper metaphors to describe it accurately, so we find terms like “streets of gold.” Heaven is so much better than any physical pleasure that words fail us to describe it, and our minds are unable to absorb it.

THE BODY THAT IS IN HEAVEN

First Corinthians 15:35–54 gives a vivid description of what our nature will be after death. Verse 44 tells us that our physical body, which can suffer all the corruption that this physical world can bring on, will be put away. “Sown in corruption” is the Greek word *speiro* meaning “to plant a seed.” After that it will “be raised a spiritual body” (verse 44). Paul speaks of a change (verses 51–54) and tells us that this will be the end of death—agreeing with Revelation 21:4.

Our ability to visualize this process is limited because of our experience which has been physical in nature. Many have used the resurrection of Christ as the basis for maintaining that our own resurrection will be of our physical body still showing whatever nail prints and spear wounds that we might have experienced in life. This would mean we are not free of all that happened to us in life and the aftereffects—cancer, gun shots, diabetes, etc., would still be visible in some way. Jesus’ resurrection was a singular miracle which fulfilled prophecy, but Jesus even warned his disciples in John 20:17 not to cling to his physical likeness. After his resurrection Jesus did many things not consistent with a totally physical body. In Luke 24:13–31 on the road to Emmaus and at the dinner afterwards Jesus controls what the disciples see and then he vanishes. In John 20:19 Jesus appears when the doors were shut and then shows his physical wounds to Thomas.

Second Peter 3:9–11; Matthew 25:46; Isaiah 34:4; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Revelation 21:4; and Revelation 22:12, 13 all suggest to us that at the judgment, time will end and “the elements will dissolve in fervent heat.” Other passages suggest that time ends for us when we die and that the cosmos will end in dissolution, with time ending as well. If that is the case, the change Paul refers to in 1 Corinthians happens at the end of time. No matter when we die, our next awareness is at the judgment when we all stand before God with our new bodies.

Those who reject this concept will frequently use Luke 16:19–31, the story of the rich man and Lazarus, as a means of suggesting the resurrection is purely physical. The problems with using this passage in this way are:



1. Much of the account is symbolic and not in accordance with the Old or New Testament. Abraham is judge, for example.
2. Lazarus means “without help” and frequently does not refer to an individual
3. Lazarus makes no response and does not seem to be aware of the dialogue.
4. This is most likely a parable, in a series of parables, with a common message.

A PICTURE OF DEATH

The Bible portrays Christians as those who have passed out of death and into life. First John 3:14 says, “we know that we have passed from death to life.” This is repeated by Jesus in John 5:24. James 5:20 tells us “Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death” Instead of saying that Christians and saved ones died, the Bible writers say that they have “fallen asleep” (see 1 Thessalonians 4:14; Acts 7:60; John 11:11). Romans 8:6, 7 tells us that “the mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God.” The passage goes on to say that “if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness” (verse 10).

Hebrews 9:27 tells us that “man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment.” First John 5:16 tells us that there are sins that can lead us to death. This all started with Adam when God told him in Genesis 2:17 that he would die “when you eat of it.” It is interesting that this is not mentioned in chapter one and up until humans had the capacity to choose to disobey God, real death was not a possibility for them. Romans 6:23 tells us that death is the wages of sin. Adam did not drop dead physically when he ate the forbidden fruit, but he did drop dead spiritually.

Putting all of this together, I would suggest that when our soul leaves the physical body behind, it enters the dimension of timelessness. That means that the next thing we know after we have separated from our body is the judgment. The judgment scene is described in the New Testament (see Matthew. 25:31–46; 1 Corinthians 4:5). We will arrive at that point at the same time that Paul and Peter do. No one wants to go back to the physical world with all of its limitations, pain, and frustration. When Samuel was taken out of timelessness in 1 Samuel 28:15 his response was “why have you disquieted me?” The word “disquiet” is from the Hebrew *raqaz* meaning to give trouble or to be brought into anger.

In the pictures of the judgment scene, we are told that those who have rejected God will be subjected to complete separation from God. In Revelation 2:11, it is referred to as the second death. Jesus warned us in Matthew 10:28, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the

body but cannot kill the soul. Rather be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” Those who have rejected God and refused his love and his grace will have the agony of knowing that they lost eternal life with God. They did not want a relationship with God in this life, so you might think they would rejoice in not having it after death.

The thing that will strike them is that with God comes all the good things we can imagine—love, peace, contentment, joy, satisfaction, etc. The descriptions of hell involve pain, darkness, foulness (brimstone, burning sulfur), and every negative we can imagine. Are these things literal or figurative?

We have seen numerous passages that speak of the soul dying. In our May/June 2013 issue of this journal, we reviewed a book by Douglas Jacoby titled *What Happens After We Die?* He elaborates on “the Terminal View.” The attempts of atheists to portray God as a mindless torturer of those who are ignorant are misguided.

You might disagree with my understandings or with Dr. Jacoby’s conclusions on this topic, but a careful study of the Bible’s teaching on life after death show that this is how it will be when the dead rise. When the body is sown, it decays. When it rises, it cannot decay. It is sown disfigured; it rises beautiful. It is sown as a weak, dying body; it is raised full of strength. It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. As surely as there is a human body there is a spiritual body. The Bible says that the first Adam was made a natural living being. The last Adam (Jesus) became a life-giving spirit. Observe that the spiritual does not come first, but the physical. Afterward comes that which is spiritual. The first man was made of earthly clay; the second man is from heaven. The nature of the man made of dust is repeated in all men, and those heaven-minded are like the one from heaven. So just as we have reflected the likeness of him who was made of dust, we shall some day have a body like Christ’s.

“I tell you this, brethren, it is utterly impossible for flesh and blood to take part in the kingdom of God. These perishable bodies of ours are not the right kind to live forever. Take notice: I am telling you a secret. Not all of us are going to die, but we will all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet call we will all come alive with new bodies that will never, never die and whoever is still alive will have new bodies too. For this decaying part of us must put on a body that can never decay, and this part capable of dying must put on the body that can never die” (1 Corinthians 15:42–53, *The New Testament from 26 Translations*).

—John N. Clayton



QUIVERFULL: MORE FUEL FOR ATHEISTS

It seems that whenever atheists have run out of new things to use to discredit the Christian faith, some “Christian” organization or church will come up with a new one for the atheists to use. Those groups will find a concept which is so distasteful to most modern Americans that atheism gains a new tool in attempting to deny God’s existence or the validity of Christianity. One of the newest examples of this is the emergence of “Quiverfull” or “QF Christians.” The thrust of Quiverfull is to say that God’s way has always been and continues to be a biblical patriarchy where women are to be under the control of their husbands or fathers in all aspects of life. Proponents of this movement refer to God’s commands in Genesis 1:28, 8:17, and 9:1 to multiply and fill the earth. They reference Psalm 127:3–5 in which children are portrayed as a reward from God, and the more a man has, the greater the blessing. They also refer to situations in Old Testament times when God “closes up the womb” as a punishment for wrongdoing or to promote his agenda (see Genesis 20:18, 29:31, 30:22; 1 Samuel 1:5–6; and Isaiah 66:9). In the New Testament, 1 Timothy 2:11–15 is cited when Timothy is told that women “will be saved in childbearing.” First Timothy 5:14 is used in which young widows are told to “marry, to have children, to manage their homes . . .”



In their book *A Full Quiver* Rick and Jan Hess wrote:

“Behold, children are a gift of the Lord” (Psalm 127:3). Do we really believe that? If children are a gift from God, let us for the sake of argument ask ourselves what other gift or blessing from God we would reject. Money? Would we reject great wealth if God gave it? Not likely! How about good health? Many would say that a man’s health is his most treasured possession. But children? Even children given by God? “That’s different!” some will plead. All right, is it different? God states right here in no-nonsense language that children are gifts. Do we believe His Word to be true?

Quiverfull believes that women are to be homemakers under the authority of their husbands (in subjection). Unmarried women are to be under the authority of their fathers. The dictionary says that this is “a movement which promotes procreation and sees chil-

dren as a blessing from God, eschewing all forms of birth control, including natural family planning and sterilization.” Quiverfull adherents believe in providentialism, which is the belief that God has complete control over all events in this world—that all events both good and bad are according to his will and beyond the control of humans. Their worship style calls for a “Family Integrated Church” in which the entire family is together for all services and programs. They believe that the church must grow by childbirth.

Quiverfull started in the 1930s and has grown since that time. Major books promoting the movement have included: *The Way Home: Beyond Feminism Back to Reality* by Mary Pride (1985), *The Bible and Birth Control* by Charles Provan (1989), *A Full Quiver: Family Planning and the Lordship of Jesus Christ* by Rick and Jan Hess (1990), *Be Fruitful and Multiply* by Nancy Campbell (2003), *Birthing God’s Mighty Warriors* by Rachel Scott (2004), and *FAMILY UNPLANNING* by Craig Houghton (2006). There are also several websites accessible through quiverfull.com.

It should be obvious that this view will be distasteful to the majority of people in our culture. In fact, Margaret Sanger began Planned Parenthood when Quiverfull was a growing movement in the 1930s. That is not a reason to discard the concept because much of Christianity is distasteful to the materialistic and selfish culture in which we live. There is also the issue of how such views affect children educationally. I have had several Christian colleges tell me that their enrollments of women and their graduation rates of women is negatively affected by the Quiverfull view. The bigger question is whether it is what God wills for women as he reveals his purposes in his word. Is God’s view of women in the 21st century that they should be “barefoot and pregnant” as atheists are now ascribing to Christianity? In the Restoration Movement and in Dispensationalism there are major apologetic ministries that are endorsing Quiverfull, at least in part. Understanding the problems of Quiverfull has become an important issue. We would like to raise the following points about Quiverfull and its interpretation of Scripture:

QUIVERFULL’S USE OF SCRIPTURE DOES NOT TAKE THE BIBLE LITERALLY.

One of the challenges that the **Does God Exist?** ministry has made to those who promote dispensational teachings about the Genesis account is that they are not taking the Bible literally. Taking the Bible literally means looking at who wrote the passage, to whom they wrote it, why they wrote it, and how the people it was written to would have understood it. Taking a particular translation of the Bible, applying a 20th or 21st century interpretation to it, ignoring these things is not taking the Bible literally. We have had numerous articles in this journal

showing how this affects everything from the “giants” in Genesis 6 to the time of Genesis 1. It is interesting that many of Quiverfull’s authors also promote aliens in Genesis 6 and young earth theology in Genesis 1. This happens because their understanding of the Bible is not based on taking the passages literally.

When God told Adam and Eve to “be fruitful, increase in number and fill the earth” (Genesis 1:28) what was the condition of the earth? Did he say to overfill it? What is the context of the passage? It is to subdue it and rule over it as caretakers. The passage is not calling for us to procreate an infinite number of humans, but to be responsible for managing the earth.

In the New Testament when Paul instructs younger widows to marry and to have children in 1 Timothy 5:14, notice who is being spoken to and what the situation was. Verses 11–13 tell us that these younger women had “sensual desires,” wanted to marry, and that they needed a commitment or a ministry that they could give themselves to. Being a wife and mother could answer all of their needs. In verse 9 these younger widows were told not to be welfare recipients but to be independent, and the permission to marry and have children was one option as to how to fulfill all of these needs. The earlier passage in which women are told to take on a supportive role in worship has a method of doing that, to be “kept safe” by (not to be saved by) the importance of their “faith, love, and holiness.” This passage is not addressing having babies, but how women could influence the worship and conduct of the church.



OLD TESTAMENT WOMEN ARE NOT PORTRAYED AS BABY MACHINES.

In Proverbs 31:10–31 we have a beautiful picture of the ideal woman of God. Nowhere in the passage is there a suggestion that the number of children she has produced is important. What is portrayed as important is her character, her spirituality, her business sense and management skills, her willingness to work, her charity, and her care for those who are a part of her household. The women who are portrayed as heroines in the Old Testament are not women who produced astronomical numbers of children, but women like Deborah who was a judge in Judges 4:4–5:7 and Esther in Esther 4:13–16 who was “called for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14).

THE EMPHASIS ON WOMEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT IS FOLLOWING JESUS, NOT HAVING CHILDREN.

The women we see in the New Testament who are held up as exceptional are not baby machines. Mary and Martha are shown as having a close friendship with Jesus, and the story in Luke 10 of Mary choosing the “better part” certainly had nothing to do with children. Mary of Magdala in Galilee is similarly shown as having a significant spiritual role in the life of Jesus. In 1 Corinthians 7:38–40 widows are told they will be better off if they can remain single and in Galatians 3:26–29 the early church is to not worry about the ethnic or sexual mores of the time. Paul wrote that “there is neither male nor female” as well as neither Gentile nor Jew. Children and childbearing are not the emphases of the teachings of Jesus or the apostles.

WOMEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES OTHER THAN HAVING AND RAISING CHILDREN.

In Acts 16:13–15 we read of a great Christian woman named Lydia. She not only was an early convert, but opened her home to



the work of the church and was instrumental in Paul’s work. She is identified as a seller of purple, not a bearer of children. Throughout Paul’s writings, we see women who were vital to his work—Euodia and Syntyche in Philippians 4:2–3; Priscilla in Acts 18:18,26; the daughters of Philip the evangelist

in Acts 21:8–9. There is a list of women in Romans 16 who served with Paul—Phoebe (said to be a servant of the church), Mary (verse 6), the mother of Rufus (verse 13) and Julia (verse 15). The praise given to these women is for their spirituality and dedication to the work, not to their capacity to have children.

HAVING A GIFT FROM GOD MEANS MANAGING IT WELL, NOT EXPLOITING IT.

Having a child is an incredible blessing. There is no role a woman can have that has more potential for good than being a mother. In no way should anyone feel that this discussion is in any way being negative about having children. The question is whether this is the only role a woman can have? Not all women are cut out to be mothers emotionally or mentally. Some women cannot have children for medical reasons, although they can still be mothers.

Whatever gift we have is ours to manage wisely and in a way that does the most good. In 1 Corinthians 14 Paul addresses this issue. In verses 28–33 Paul talks about a speaker who has a gift to speak in a language in which he has not been trained. He tells us that if there is no one to translate, the speaker should keep quiet. He also says that if someone has a special revelation, others should stop speaking. He concludes by saying “God is not a God of disorder but of peace” (verse 33). He further says that the purpose of all of this is “that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.” Gifts are to be managed. Jesus has unlimited power, but when he came to his hometown where there was a desire to reject him he withheld that power, knowing how to manage it.

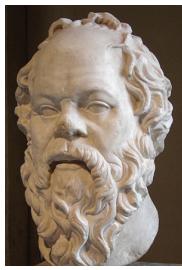
JESUS TAUGHT HIS FOLLOWERS TO “COUNT THE COST.”

In Luke 14:28–33 Jesus teaches the lesson of wisely managing what we have been given. He uses the example of building a tower and not being able to finish it, or going into war and not being in a position to win. I have heard older women say that the smallest pain that they were enduring in having a baby was the pain of birth. Having taught in an inner-city high school for 41 years, I had a great deal of contact with teenage girls who had babies, but were totally unequipped to raise a child.

Quiverfull maintains that “couples just need to trust God to provide them with the perfect number of children for their situation.” There are many situations in life where God provides the tools and resources for man to use. We may have the capacity to hunt or fish, but killing all the animals or catching all the fish is not a responsible use of what God has given us. We may have the capacity to make money, but not managing our time well to make that money can be catastrophic to our families and our marriages. We may have the ability to grow great crops or produce a product, but not over-producing is a part of managing the talent and blessing that we have been given. Women may have a great blessing in having children, but not being able to provide economically, emotionally, or spiritually is not a wise use of that blessing. It makes no sense for a young lady blessed with a great talent, to ignore that blessing from God so that she can produce many children that she may not be emotionally able to handle. This is a major misuse of one blessing of God and an overuse of the other.

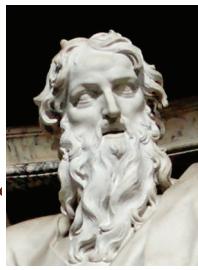
—JNC





COLLIDING WORLDVIEWS: SOCRATES & PAUL

by Dick DiTullio



Socrates, the ancient, Athenian philosopher, penned a simple but powerful phrase that remains the rallying cry of atheists even to this day. In a moment of quiet reflection, he moistened his quill and scribed the following words, “Follow the evidence wherever it leads.” I wonder. Could he ever have imagined that those words, his words, would continue to resonate thousands of years later and across such diversified cultures?

Are we to believe that prior to his word of advice people merely chose to ignore evidence and turn over the reigns of their lives to chance and fate? Actually it is worse than that. Many believe that people of old were guided solely by superstition and salient hucksters. Some were, yet many were not. Socrates’ phrase was popularized not so much as a new concept but rather as a profound thought couched in succinctness. It spoke straight to the point.

Four-hundred years later Paul, the Christian apostle, put forth a similar challenge to any who would seek to know Truth. Unlike Socrates, Paul attributed his insight to a higher Source—to the Source that claimed to be the Author of life itself. Paul would instruct his followers with these words, “Test everything; hold on to that which is good.”

Test everything? Really? Is that really what Paul would say to those who attended his lectures? Apparently so. When Paul entered the town of Berea, he immediately went to the synagogue to present some challenging information. The crowd was comprised of Jews, but also “a number of prominent Greek women as well as men.” It is interesting to watch this scene play out.

An inspired apostle, a man who in the eyes of his audience was speaking words received directly from God, or at the very least with God’s approval, was challenged. We are told that they, “... searched the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.”

This is nothing short of amazing! A respected apostle was presenting information to a partisan crowd, and yet the people listening engaged in critical thinking. They had the audacity to challenge Paul by consulting Scripture to see if his words were consistent with God’s written word! And how did Paul respond? He called them a name. It was a good name. “Noble!” Some translations say “open-minded.”

Paul then carried that thought further. He compared his present audience to his audience in Thessalonica saying the Bereans were more noble than they! Why? Because they took the time to confirm, to question, to challenge what they were being taught. “Blind faith” does not seem to be high on Paul’s list.

I have questioned church leaders and have had descriptive names applied to me as well. Never once “noble.” Yet those who questioned the apostle Paul, those who challenged the status quo, were called noble. That is a powerful object lesson for Christianity today. Some might charge that Paul was just playing to the crowd, but there is no indication of that. His response was exactly consistent with what he always taught.

“Follow the evidence wherever it leads.”

—Socrates

“Test everything; hold on to that which is good.”

—Paul

So we have Socrates admonishing his followers to “Follow the evidence wherever it leads” and Paul admonishing his followers to “Test everything; hold on to that which is good.” Both are giving good, consistent advice when it comes to things that matter. Were we to combine the statements of Socrates and Paul the result would not be an unnatural, incoherent phrase. Rather, it would be instructive and elegant. It might read: “Test everything and follow the evidence; hold on to that which is good wherever it may lead.”

We would like to think that both sides immediately rallied around these words of wisdom. Who could object to such a rational approach when dealing with evidence? The worldview divide notwithstanding, the main objective is the same—do not just accept things on faith alone!

Today atheists tend to quote Socrates while Christians quote the apostle Paul. If both sides are looking at the same evidence, and if both sides are testing their beliefs and are following the evidence to its logical conclusion, why the divide? Why are there two worldviews? Why are the worldviews so diametrically opposed?

The unfortunate truth is that neither Socrates’ nor Paul’s advice has been seriously entertained. “Lip service” is a phrase that comes to mind. Each side uses their quote to denigrate those who hold the opposing worldview. “They’re slanting the evidence!” “They aren’t willing to test anything!” “If only they were more like us!” Truth takes a back seat to emotion when there is no real effort to objectively internalize truth—to live it out—to respect it in any meaningful way.

Today we see a sharp divide between atheism and Christianity, which, of course, is nothing new. The question of God's existence is as old as history itself. It is an important topic. If God exists and if we are ultimately accountable to him, we will live our lives one way. If there is no God, we will live a different way.

“Test everything and follow the evidence; hold on to that which is good wherever it may lead.”

I attended a week-long seminar back in the 1980s called “Humanist Ethics—An Alternative to Religious Belief.” It was a forum with five of the leading secular humanists in the world. They were going to try to determine how to live as secular humanists in the next decade.

One gentleman suggested that atheists should be more aggressive and less passive. Well, that has certainly grown legs! The New Atheist movement today is a full-fledged, no-holds-barred attack on Christianity. But the New Atheism is not really an outcome of that forum. There are other reasons for that movement taking hold.

After five days of arguing among themselves about what a secular humanist society would look like, whether or not secular humanists should embrace altruism (that discussion got downright ugly), and what the basis of morality is, the time came to put it all together. The facilitator walked up to the board and started listing all the points of agreement that would represent the secular humanist position in the 1990s.

As I watched him list point after point, it suddenly occurred to me that he was outlining the gospel of Matthew, chapters 5, 6, and 7! I could not constrain an urge to point that out, but with the qualifier that there was no rational reason for an atheist to live that way. If this is the only life there is, and if we answer to nobody but ourselves, there is absolutely no reason (and I emphasize “reason”) to do anything for anyone else if it does not, at the very least, provide some kind of benefit to the “doer” as well. Since my popularity at that point could go no lower I further noted that the exact opposite would be true for Christians. Christians do have the motivation to sacrifice, to live altruistic lives, to put others ahead of themselves.

Now I am not at all saying that atheists are not moral people. Most are. Many can “out-moral” some Christians on any given day. I am just saying that there is no compelling “reason” for atheists to live sacrificial, moral lives. That is all. Like the French Enlightenment philosopher Voltaire said, “If there were no God it would be necessary to invent one.” He recognized that when people believe

they are accountable to God it tends to have a positive impact on society, whether that God is real or imagined.

So while the divide between Christianity and atheism is not new, what is new is the quality and quantity of evidence that is available through science whereby we might test our worldviews. Evidence is accumulating at an unprecedented rate and from all areas of science today, especially compared to when Socrates' and Paul's admonitions were first written.

Scientific evidence speaks directly to the whole notion of Truth. How so? I occasionally speak on apologetics at churches, and I sometimes start with a concept that puts the role of science into proper perspective. Most churches tend to hold an anti-science stance largely in response to Darwinism. But Darwinism, right or wrong, is not all of science. One does not have to reject all science just to question one, small faction within it. When Christians get sick they do not refuse medical care just because the doctor might have been exposed to Darwinism when studying biology. So why the knee-jerk, negative reaction to science in general?

In order to help Christians view science in a more positive light, I draw upon a concept that seemed reasonable to me even as an atheist. If you accept that God created the entire universe, which includes having established the "... fixed laws of heaven and earth" and the "laws of nature," that would essentially make God the Author of science. This also means that when you study science you are studying God's handiwork. Many Nobel laureate scientists, including Max Planck, Erwin Schrödinger, Albert Einstein, and Arno Penzias, to name just a few, accept Intelligence rather than rote, mechanistic, opportunistic chance as being the directive force pertaining to all things created.

Then if God truly inspired the writers of the Bible, that would make God the Author of Scripture. If both statements are true then God is the Author of both science (General Revelation) and Scripture (Special Revelation). That being the case, one would not expect to see contradictions between science and Scripture since both are sourced in the same Author.

Yet contradictions do exist. Why? This is not difficult to understand. John Clayton, the founder of the **Does God Exist?** program, puts it like this; "If you have a conflict between science and Scripture you either have bad science, bad theology, or both. And we've had a great deal of both." Albert Einstein recognized the symbiotic relationship between science and religion when he wrote, "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind."

Something is fundamentally wrong with our present situation. Both sides are missing a vital connection. Misinformation abounds. A good part of the problem lies with how we discern Truth through both science and theology.

DOES GOD EXIST? 2015 Canyonlands Tour

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! THE RETURN OF THE DOES GOD EXIST? CANYONLANDS TOUR!

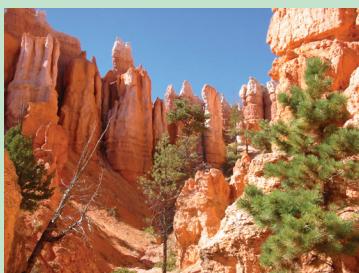
Since 1970, we have conducted educational tours of the Canyonlands. Our next tour is set for August 23–28, 2015. We will be visiting Sunset Crater, the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, Lake Powell, Meteor Crater, the Painted Desert, and the Petrified Forest. Lectures by John Clayton and Alan Doty will be conducted onboard the coach as we travel from one site to the next. Then in-the-field visits will be made to the places discussed. This is a trip for Christians that will feature devotional messages, singing/worship, and Bible study, as well as lessons in science.



Sunset Crater



Grand Canyon



Bryce Canyon



Zion Canyon

WHEN: August 23–28, 2015

WHERE: Leaving from and returning to Flagstaff, Arizona

PROVIDED & INCLUDED:

All transportation Monday through Friday from Flagstaff and return via air-conditioned motor coach.

All lodging at the motels includes breakfast beginning Monday at 6:00 a.m. through Friday at 6:00 p.m.

All park entry fees and all educational materials.

Tour Captain, from our travel partner QueensLander Worldwide Tours, who will provide logistics and on-site support.

NOT PROVIDED:

Lunches and dinners

Gratuities for Driver and Tour Captain.

Souvenirs and items of a personal nature.

COST: \$879.00 per person based on double occupancy.



Lake Powell



Petrified Forest

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit our website:
www.CanyonLands2015.com



Or contact QueensLander Tours:
Toll-free: 877-865-6711
or by e-mail at Go@QLTours.com.

Or contact John Clayton:
269-687-9426
or by e-mail at jncdge@aol.com.

GREAT SCIENTISTS AND GOD

Editor's Note: There are many writers who claimed that good scientists and intelligent, well-educated people do not believe in God. This simply is not true. Tihomir Dimitrov (<http://nobelists.net>) has been researching the statements of the greatest scientists of all time, and we are reproducing some of their statements in this column.

ROBERT MILLIKAN

1868-1953

1923 Nobel Prize winner for measuring the charge on an electron and verifying the photoelectric equation.



"Human well-being and all human progress rest at bottom upon two pillars, the collapse of either one of which will bring down the whole structure. These two pillars are the cultivation and dissemination throughout mankind of (1) the spirit of religion, and (2) the spirit of science (or knowledge)."

"The practical preaching of modern science—and it is the most insistent and effective preacher in the world today—is extraordinarily like the preaching of Jesus. Its keynote is service, the subordination of the individual to the good of the whole. Jesus preached it as a duty—for the sake of world salvation. Science preaches it as a duty—for the sake of world progress."

"Jesus also preached the joy and the satisfaction of service. 'He that findeth his life shall lose it and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.'"

"Thousands of years ago Job saw the futility of finite man's attempting to define God when he cried, 'Can man with searching find out God?' Similarly, wise men ever since have always looked in amazement at the wonderful orderliness of nature and then recognized their own ignorance and finiteness and have been content to stand in silence and reverence before the Being who is *immanent in Nature* repeating with the psalmist, 'The fool hath said in his heart there is no God.'"

"Religion and science, then, ... are the two great sister forces which have pulled, and are still pulling, mankind onward and upward."

"I have, in effect, fingerprinted God in the heavens. I found a Creator continually on the job. I bear witness that the teachings of science are extraordinarily like the preaching of Jesus in that nature is at bottom benevolent and good."

Cynthia's Corner

FACING DIFFICULTIES KNOWING THERE'S A GOD WHO CARES

What is the shortest verse in the Bible? “Jesus wept” (John 11:35). Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus. Why did Jesus cry when he knew he would bring Lazarus back to life. He cried because he was sharing our sorrows, showing his compassion for us. Even though Jesus was fully God, he became flesh (John 1:1, 14) and shared in our humanity (Hebrews 2:14). The writer of Hebrews tells us, “For we do not have a high priest [Jesus] who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Hebrews 4:15, 16).

So, when we face temptations, trials, or difficulties of any kind, we can know we have a God who cares, who sympathizes with us and understands our humanity. God, our Creator, reached out to us by becoming human and by giving us his inspired Word (Holy Bible) so we can know him and be reconciled to him through Jesus. We do not have a God who is far off, but One “in whom we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:27, 28). We are not alone! God loves us and communicates with us through his Word and his Son. To those who seek him and obey him, he has given us his Holy Spirit, along with his Word, to comfort us, strengthen us, help us, encourage us, and guide us.

In addition to this, God has put those who obey him into a body of believers, the family of God, and he commands us to love one another (1 John 3:23). We do this by helping one another, serving each other, sharing our burdens and temptations, praying for one another, and encouraging each other. God did this so we would never be alone. We are in his spiritual family here on earth. He gave us his Word to guide us and inspire us, and Jesus as our example to follow. God loves us, forgives us, and comforts us so that we can do likewise to one another (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4). The world is full of sorrows and difficulties, but if we have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, he promises that we can overcome the world and its troubles with his help (John 16:33). He helps us through his family, the church. We can be thankful that we have a God who really cares.



—Cynthia Clayton



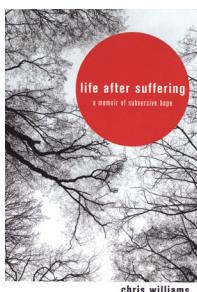
BOOK REVIEWS

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

Life After Suffering: A Memoir of Subversive Hope

by Chris Williams, Wipf & Stock (wipfandstock.com), © 2011

151 pages, \$19.00 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-1-60608-701-5



Many years ago we had a great tragedy in our church family when a domestic problem erupted in a shooting which left a wife and her unfaithful husband dead, and two college-age boys without immediate family. Chris Williams is the younger of those two boys, and he is the author of this book. The book is subtitled “A memoir of subversive hope.” Chris has earned a Master of Divinity degree and this training, and his own experience, enabled him to use Jeremiah’s writing of the exile of Israel as a study of suffering on a very personal level.

Williams begins the story by talking about mankind’s struggle with the pain of loss. He then traces the struggle of his family and how it affected him up to the point when both parents died in what authorities said was a murder-suicide. He explains what helped and what did not help him through the enormous pain which he felt after the death of his parents. He uses Israel’s loss of their culture and identity as revealed by Jeremiah as a vehicle to explain his own feelings and his personal recovery. Chris speaks of suffering through the reality of enduring and abiding hope, showing how we can help one another when our world caves in.

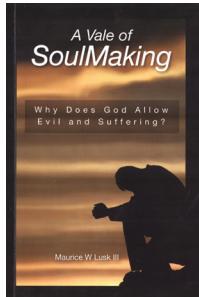
This book is very different from any other I have read on suffering. Not only does Chris write with great skill and expression, but he bares his own soul and his own feelings in a totally open and honest way. If you or someone you know is dealing with deep emotional and spiritual pain from a family struggle or loss, this book will be uniquely helpful. Theologians will find the deep discussions of God’s role in the struggles of life to be challenging and useful.

We recommend this book highly to any adult reader. It is a personal testimony of dealing with pain and offers helpful insights to those who are in the midst of struggling with a tragic loss of someone they love.

A Vale of SoulMaking

by Maurice W. Lusk III, ONDO Entertainment, © 2013

197 pages, \$16.00 (paperback), ISBN-13: 978-1479205998



We have had a number of books which deal with the problem of human suffering and with why bad things happen to good people. Much of our material deals with personal experience and is rooted in what we, from an apologetics standpoint, view as the nature of God. Maurice Lusk is a biblical scholar. While his approach is theological in nature, his material complements our efforts in a very positive way.

There is a one-sentence summary of the thesis of this book which explains Lusk's unique approach: "God has not forsaken man; the world has become for man a vale of soul making wherein he can use the evil, the pain, and the suffering to become what God created him to be—a being created in the image of God" (page 170). On the back cover, Lusk continues this summary: "God knows our experiences in this life, whether joyful or sorrowful, will mold us into how He wants us to be for all eternity."

Lusk points out that the old song "This Is My Father's World" is basically not true. Man has corrupted what God created, and it is through life's experiences in this flawed world that our soul's characteristics are developed and produced. Lusk develops this concept logically and biblically, with in-depth discussions of the Greek and practical advice on dealing with struggles in life. Lusk uses modern science with brief discussions of quantum mechanics, parallel universes, and a good discussion of dimensions. Those of you familiar with our discussion of *Flatland* in our presentations will find Lusk presenting and using the *Flatland* analogy to help understand heaven and our soul's salvation.

This book is well written, scholarly, current, and offers a new approach to the question of why a loving, all-powerful God does not put a stop to the horrible things that happen on this earth. We recommend this book highly.

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!



DANDY DESIGNS

THE DESIGN OF ANIMAL SKIN

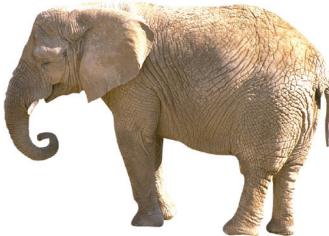
All animals have some kind of body covering, but only vertebrates have skin. Skin is made up of several layers, with each layer having a different function. The epidermis is the thin, waterproof top layer. Any other covering, like hair, feathers, or scales extends above this. Below the epidermis is the dermis which is a thicker layer full of blood vessels and nerves. Under the dermis is a fatty layer that keeps the body warm and acts as a layer of protection against shock.

Each animal is designed to survive in a particular environment, and the variations in skin that allow this are incredible. The hairy armadillo has its skin hardened into boney plates to protect it, and the skin between the plates is unusually flexible allowing the animal to bend. Elephant skin is wrinkly, allowing this large animal to live in hot places. When the elephant bathes and covers itself with mud, the moisture stays in the cracks and folds keeping the animal cooler for longer periods of time. The enormous ears of elephants have skin full of blood vessels which gives the animal the ability to cool itself by fanning its ears. Amphibians get part of their oxygen through their skin which also allows water to pass into the body so they never have to drink through their mouth. The glass frog has transparent skin which allows surrounding colors to camouflage it. The thorny devil from Australia has its skin pulled up into spikes which make it hard to eat and tiny grooves between its scales catch dew and raindrops and send the water straight into the animal's mouth.

Animals keep their skin in top shape by shedding the outer layer. Mammals do this in tiny skin flakes. A human will shed over 100 pounds of skin flakes in a 70-year lifetime. Lizards lose skin in patches, but a snake will shed all of its skin at once. Some animals attract mates by brilliant colors of skin, some discourage predators by skin color, and some animals such as the chameleon express their mood or temperature by their skin color.

Skin does amazing things for animals. We are reminded that God has designed and planned every aspect of our world so that we can know there is a God through the things he has made (Romans 1:20).

Source: *Ranger Rick*, December 2006, page 22.



THE FIDDLER THAT “DEAD RECKONS”



In ancient times, sailors on the ocean and far from land were in trouble if they could not see the sun, stars, or any landmark. The method they used was called “dead reckoning.” Today scientists call it “path integration.” The sailors determined how far they had traveled and in what direction to figure out where they were. The farther they traveled, and the more turns made, the less accurate the locating method was.

One of the most common animals along the shore of the ocean is the fiddler crab. The name comes from having one claw vastly oversized reminding you of someone carrying a fiddle. Being about an inch long, they are defenseless against birds and other predators. They survive by ducking into their burrows when they feel threatened.

To locate their burrows, fiddler crabs use “path integration” very successfully. Their burrows are on mud flats, and these small crustaceans feed on organic matter they sift from sediment. Their vision is poor, so once they are three or four body lengths from their burrow they cannot see it. At low tide they come out of the burrow to forage, and they will go as far as 25 body lengths or more away from their burrow. When they are frightened, they make a beeline straight for the burrow. There are no landmarks, no odor trails, and no evidence that they are using magnetism or light to survive in this flat and bland topography. Recent studies have shown they use path integration.

Researchers have found that the crabs measure how far their eight tiny legs have propelled them. The crabs keep a running measurement at all times of where they are in relation to their holes. The crabs avoid error-inducing turns as they forage by holding their bodies in a fixed orientation. Researchers rubbed baby oil on acetate sheets and placed them near the burrows. They filmed the fiddler crabs slipping and skating across the slippery plastic. When they were startled, the crabs ran the number of steps it should have taken to get to their burrows and stopped, but the burrow was not there.

Measuring their step length, counting the steps, and keeping the error-inducing movement to zero is the key to survival for these fascinating creatures. God’s design gives them the ability to survive in a featureless environment by building into their DNA a survival plan that fits the place where they live.

Source: *National Wildlife*, February/March 2014, page 33.

News and Notes

THE WAY OF WISDOM FOR DIABETES. Readers who are familiar with this ministry know that one of the books we offer is *Living Successfully With Diabetes* written by Phyllis Clayton. Phyllis lived with insulin-dependent diabetes for 60 years. When I learned that Ken Ellis has written a book on diabetes, I was very interested to see what he had done. Ken is a minister who has been a diabetic for over 50 years and has a website called wisdomfordiabetes.com. His book has massive practical information, and is full of humor and biblical, Christian values. Since we usually reserve our book review pages for books relating to apologetics, I want to review it here.

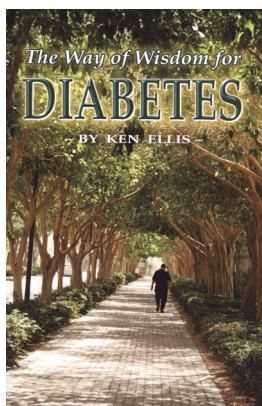


This book is divided into two sections. The first part is titled “*Staying Motivated To Do The Things We Need To Do*.” It is easy to get discouraged when battling diabetes. Ellis uses the biblical teachings about gratitude and uses the history of developing diabetes treatment to encourage diabetics to realize how far treatment has come. He builds a strong case for controlling one’s attitudes and thinking. This is well written and practical.

The second section of the book is titled “*Doing the Things We Need To Do*.” Diabetics hear a lot of advice from medical professionals about what they should and should not do. The problem is that the doctors are not the ones having to do the record-keeping, losing

weight, eating the right foods, and exercising. This book was written by a person who lives with diabetes every day—and has for over 50 years. The approach is realistic, practical, humorous, and medically sound. There are such practical things as using a pedometer, the effects of stress, practical values of glycemic index and glycemic load, and values for various foods.

This is a great book for college students, young professionals, or bright high school students who have just found out that they are diabetic. It would be useful for anyone



who is a diabetic or has a family member who is diabetic. It would be especially and uniquely useful to someone who thinks he cannot have a normal life because of diabetes. This book is available from amazon.com. *The Way of Wisdom for Diabetes* by Ken Ellis, ISBN-13: 978-1-4782-6230-5. *Living Successfully with Diabetes* by Phyllis Clayton is available from us for \$2.00 postpaid (address is on the back cover) or from PVPowerStore.com. If you want a book that is more thorough, more practical, and more motivational we recommend the one by Ken Ellis.

ALCOHOL DEATHS CLIMBING. The death of working-age people in the United States continues to climb. *The Week* (July 11, 2014, page 14) reports that roughly one in ten deaths can be attributed to alcohol, and 71% of those are male. The problem is not limited to the U.S. When we were traveling in Ireland, our guide showed us a hospital that only served alcohol-related illnesses. While we have seen no data on illnesses caused by alcohol use in the U.S., the number has to be huge. Cultures that reject belief in God and rely on substitutes universally find that substance abuse becomes an issue. As the United States moves more and more into a secular, materialistic mind-set the use of chemicals to replace God will have catastrophic results.

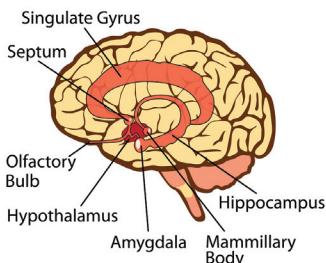
HIV THREAT CONTINUES. We do not see the alarming headlines in our daily news reports anymore about HIV infections and AIDS. The reason is that antiretroviral drugs have been able to reduce the number of cases where the HIV progresses to AIDS. The fact is however, that 6,000 people contract HIV every day and in poor countries access to the drugs is limited. As the virus changes, the potential for new epidemics increases, and we are once again reminded that the basic cause of HIV infection is not conducting ourselves as God has instructed. The need for churches to teach God's instructions for marriage and sexual conduct in all of life is as vital as it ever was. Source: *Scientific American*, July 2014, page 24.

TRANSGENDER FOLLOWS GAY MARRIAGE. Now that the Supreme Court has endorsed same-sex marriage, a new issue is being promoted in American culture—the endorsement of transvestites. In 1952 a woman named Christine Jorgensen revealed that she was born as George Jorgensen and that she/he had a surgery in Denmark to change him into her “correcting a mistake of nature.” In 1980 transsexualism was removed from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* by the American Psychiatric Association. The notion here is that sex and gender are two separate concepts with sex being biological and gender being cultural. The same arguments about cause will be involved in this question. We would once again

suggest that those struggling with their sexual identity need compassion, love, caring, and support—not bullying, discrimination, and harassment. The cause of these problems can be argued, but viewing one's identity as a mistake automatically casts a destructive stigma over the life of the person. Taking ownership and directing one's life into areas to serve and fulfill God's will in spreading Truth would be a more profitable way of using one's unique properties. Source: *Time*, June 9, 2014, page 38.

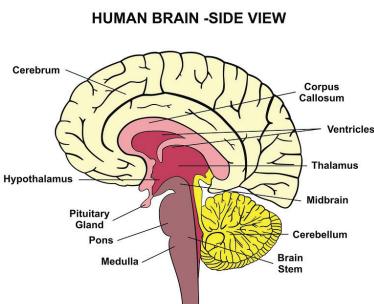
POT LEGALIZATION. One of the most dramatic changes in American social views is the new attitude towards marijuana. At the time I am writing this article 21 states and the District of Columbia sanction medical marijuana. Colorado and Washington have now legalized recreational marijuana. There are wild claims made by both the supporters and detractors of marijuana, but in the June 14, 2014, issue of *Science News* some basic facts are listed (page 17). Marijuana affects the amygdala of the brain causing altered emotional states. (The amygdala performs a primary role in processing memory, decision-making, and emotional reactions.)

LIMBIC SYSTEM STRUCTURES



Marijuana reduces motor activity in the basal ganglia, an area of the brain which is associated with voluntary motor movements, eye movements, procedural learning, and cognition. Marijuana also affects the brain's cerebellum causing impaired coordination. It alters cortex thinking, making it hard to pay attention or switch quickly between two tasks. Another part of the brain affected by marijuana is an area which is critical to short-term and long-term memory called the hippocampus. This makes memory less efficient, making it harder to learn and remember new information.

The hypothalamus, which controls hunger as well as other things, is stimulated by marijuana, increasing appetite and giving the "munchies" effect. It also targets the nucleus accumbens which plays an important role in pleasure, causing the pot user to want to use it again. In spite of claims to the contrary, marijuana can be addictive. Ten percent of users become dependent. We are reminded of the need to take care of the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16). Source: *Science News*, June 14, 2014, pages 17.



MORE CATHOLIC WOMEN PRIESTS. The Roman Catholic Womenpriests USA has just appointed a woman in Three Oaks, Michigan, as a priest, near where your reporter lives. This group has ordained 150 women priests around the country and is condemned by the Catholic Church hierarchy and has been excommunicated. In our age of “rights,” the idea of a guaranteed role for any gender is violated in the name of giving equal access to the same role to everyone and the courts are likely to support the women in this case. Obviously this has implications for all churches. Source: *South Bend Tribune*, May 31, 2014, page B1.

NYE-HAM DEBATE AFTERSHOCKS CONTINUE. On February 4, 2014, Bill Nye, “The Science Guy,” and Ken Ham of The Creation Museum and Answers in Genesis had a debate in Ham’s auditorium. It was broadcast on television and is on YouTube. Nye says he had all he needed “to overwhelm Ken Ham” provided and reported in the *Reports of the National Center for Science Education* (May 2014, page 4). There is also an extended review of the debate by Nye and his supporters in *Skeptical Inquirer* (May 2014, page 14). Ham defenders refer to Nye as “glibly scoffing” at evidence easy to see (see *Acts and Facts*, June 2014, page 21). Like most debates, this one generated more heat than light with Nye oversimplifying and generalizing and Ham quoting out-of-context biblical passages and repeating his denominational traditions without dealing with evidence.

NEW HEAVYWEIGHT DINO CHAMP. A new fossil of the species of dinosaurs called Titanosaur has been found in Argentina. This one is claimed to be 130 feet long, 65 feet high, and to have weighed 170,000 pounds (65 tons). The big mystery with a specimen of this size is how blood pressures and fluid movements would have worked. A 65-foot tall dino would have to generate 2 tons (4,056 pounds) per square foot of blood pressure to get blood to the brain. (A human needs roughly 375 pounds per square foot.) The vascular system would have to be radically different from any we see today to be able to do this. Source: *The Week*, June 6, 2014, page 22.

MORE BIG BANG SUPPORT. The media frequently reports on support for the big bang theory of cosmology. In the 1990s a satellite known as Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) measured the background temperature of the cosmos as 2.725 degrees Kelvin. Recently the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe and the Planck satellite confirmed this value. In short, these experiments show that a singularity like the big bang would produce exactly what we are seeing in space. We have pointed out many times that the big bang theory is not an issue for those who believe in God. It is simply an

observation and that observation fits the current models of what the early universe looked like. It does not tell you what banged or who caused the bang, and it has no direct connection to evolution. Source: *Astronomy*, June 2013, page 34.

THE BIBLE “CONTAINS” VS. THE BIBLE “IS.” The 2014 “State of the Bible” study by the Barna Group and the American Bible Society reports that 80% of practicing Protestants and 60% of practicing Catholics believe the Bible “contains everything a person needs to know to live a meaningful life.” Half of the respondents say that “the Bible is a valuable resource for living well.” The study also shows that with age, the numbers go up. Between the ages of 18 and 29, 35% believe the Bible is valuable, while 63% of ages 68 and older believe it. Saying the Bible contains is a lot different from saying the Bible is! If the Bible just “contains,” then some of it is not relevant and may even be in error. That turns a person’s faith into a form of situation ethics. If some is useful and some is in error, how do I know which is which? A huge change in morality has resulted at least in part from these beliefs. The study is summarized in *Christianity Today*, July/August 2014, page 23.

CHURCH TAX WARS CONTINUE. The government has several different sets of rules for groups who are excluded from certain kinds of taxes. Nonprofit organizations have to file paperwork known as Form 990 which is an exhaustive listing of all financial transactions. A nonprofit organization can be almost anything that does not produce revenue for a person or group. Churches do not have to do this form, and there is a 14-point test to determine whether or not a group is a church. The problem is that as churches go on the web and do television ministries the traditional view of what a “church” is gets stretched. In 2012 the Freedom From Religion Foundation sued the IRS claiming that churches should have to do the same paperwork as all nonprofit organizations. The challenge is control and the publicizing of how resources are distributed. Most observers believe the atheists will win their suit, and the question of religious liberty becomes an issue. It will be quite a battle in the near future, and all churches will be affected by its outcome. Source: *Christianity Today*, July/August 2014, page 21.

DINOSAURS NEITHER FOWL NOR LIZARD. We tend to classify life forms as either being ectotherms (cold blooded) or endotherms (warm blooded). The difference between these two is huge, controlling how much food the animals need to eat, what temperatures they can tolerate, and how they reproduce. There is another class of animals called mesotherms. They eat more than reptiles and their body

temperatures go through larger extremes. Dinosaurs are now thought to be mesotherms. Understanding how dinosaurs could be as large as some of them were, and how they could metabolize food as they did is quite a challenge. Realizing they were specially created animals with a biological structure very different from today's animals goes a long way toward understanding how they could exist. We have pointed out in previous articles that dinosaurs were the gardeners of the time in which they lived. They helped control an ecosystem that produced the resources man would eventually need. Coal, gas, oil, and some minerals require a very special environment, and the dinosaurs helped produce and control that environment. Source: *Science News*, July 12, 2014, page 6.

HUMAN FOOTPRINTS IN GLEN ROSE. One of the older hoaxes that continues to be circulated on the web is the claim that human tracks and dinosaur tracks are found in the same rock strata in



Glen Rose, Texas (near Waco). This is presented as proof that dinosaurs and humans lived at the same time. We have been to that area many times and are familiar with the claims of Carl Baugh, a former Baptist preacher, who runs a creation museum near Dinosaur State Park. The dinosaurs tracks in the area are real. The claimed human

tracks are not real. First of all, they sink the same depth into the mud that the dinosaur did. Since the dinosaur weighed several tons, that is not reasonable. The rocks are highly varied, and because there are so many shapes and formations almost anything you wish to find can be seen in the rocks. The photographs you may have seen were of painted shapes carefully drawn into the rock to make it look like what the author wanted people to see. *Reports of the National Center for Science Education* (volume 34, number 2, page 14) has an article on this study.

WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR LIFE? When I took biology many years ago, we were told that life is made up of four elements, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and hydrogen. Through the years other elements have been found to also be essential for life to exist. We now know that of the 92 naturally occurring elements, 28 are necessary for life to exist. The latest addition to the list is the element bromine. In the June 5, 2014, issue of *Cell* magazine, researchers at Vanderbilt University report that bromine is necessary for helping cells in multi-cellular animals stick together. New research is finding more and more about how complex life is. With that complexity comes the obvious need for planning and intelligence in forming life systems.

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

Periodicals

*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 _____