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CHRISTIAN ARRAY

RESTORING THE RESTORATION
IN OUR GENERATION

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION IN SUPPORT OF STRICT CONSTRUCTIONIST BIBLICAL TEACHINGS

NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1990

FIRST ANNUAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE DAY 1990 - HOUSTON AREA

November 18, 1990 will begin a new work in the Houston area. It will be to provide a forum for Christian colleges to efficiently present their programs to Houston area high school students. Surely we will all be blessed by the attendance and strengthening of our youth at one of our outstanding Christian colleges.

In 1990, Memorial Church of Christ will host the event at their facilities at 900 Echo Lane. In future years, the event will be moved around among the larger congregations in the area on a rotation basis.

The program will consist of two segments:

1. 2:00 to 4:00 - All will meet in the 1100 seat main auditorium. Each participating college will be given a 10-15 minute time segment to present their material to the audience. It will typically be done by a video presentation prepared specifically for this purpose.

Between the presentations of the collegiate programs and facilities, the attendees will participate in gospel singing and be entertained by gospel singing groups.

2. 4:00 to 5:30 - Refreshments will be served in the center of the Family Center Building adjacent. Each of the participating colleges will be provided a class room off the center of the Family Center Building so that the students can pick up literature about each college and have personal conversations.

At the present time, Abilene Christian University, Harding Christian University, David Lipscomb University, and Freed Hardeman University have committed to participate in this program. Other commitments are expected.

We request your assistance in the following:

1. Inform your youth of this event and encourage their attendance.
2. Put a notice of this event in your bulletins as frequently as practical.
3. Encourage the youth of your congregation to attend as a group.
4. Estimate the approximate attendance from your congregation and forward the estimates to the address on this newsletter, or directly to Memorial.

We pray that with your assistance, this event will be a great success in 1990.

WORSHIP REVIVAL WEEKEND NOVEMBER 2-4, 1990

This past spring Kenneth Helterbrand came to Houston to help the Heights congregation celebrate their 75th anniversary. Ken was their song leader in the early 60's and is now the Director of the Church Music Institute in Edmund, Oklahoma.

Ensuing discussions about how uplifting congregational singing has been in the past and can be now in every congregation resulted in the idea of a weekend meeting specifically for that purpose. There were ultimately 4 purposes established for having a WORSHIP REVIVAL WEEKEND:

1. All attendees would enjoy uplifting congregational gospel singing during the meeting,
2. Preaching would be centered around revival of spiritual uplifting in our services, specifically centered around congregational singing,
3. It would provide a good occasion for "non-threatening" personal evangelism as Friday and Saturday evenings would provide a showcase for acapella singing which was not a conventional worship service time, and
4. Encouraging area song leaders.

As the plans unfolded, it was learned that the minister at Ken's home congregation was Richard Jones. Richard Jones was the pulpit minister at Memorial during the 1975-1977 time period. This provided the ideal combination as Richard is an enthusiastic and uplifting speaker and intensely interested in the same subject.

The worship times for this meeting are:

Friday	7:30 p.m.	11-2
Saturday	7:30 p.m.	11-3
Sunday Class	9:00 a.m.	11-4
Sunday Service	10:00 a.m.	11-4

If you desire a non-threatening event to invite your personal evangelism prospects to see the church of Christ, bring them to this event. Help Memorial make this event the best that it can be.

SONG LEADER WORKSHOP

In addition to the services, Ken will also host a worship for song leading at 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 3. This will be to not only assist anyone in becoming the best song leader as possible, but also will educate all song leaders on the latest thinking and trends in how to get the most out of a song service.

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WORSHIP REVIVAL WEEKEND - CONTINUED.....

Every song leader or prospective song leader should consider attending this workshop as their portion of our worship services strongly impacts every member's and visitor's impression of the church. This key portion of every member's personal evangelism efforts needs to be as good as you can make it.

You do not need a reservation to attend this workshop, but if you know in advance that you will attend, please call the church office at 713-464-0271. An estimate of attendance will be of assistance in providing refreshments.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES (GIFTS)

CONCLUSION: The miraculous manifestations of the Holy Spirit thru the 9 gifts in the first century (i.e. speaking in tongues) were for a temporary purpose, which was fulfilled, and therefore the gifts no longer exist.

1. TWO TYPES OF GIFTS: primary and secondary measures*:

a. Primary Measure: A special measure of the Holy Spirit given on three occasions:

1. Acts 2:4: To the apostles on the day of Pentecost
2. Acts 10:44-47: To Cornelius's household ten years later upon taking the gospel to the gentiles.
3. Acts 9:17-Acts 13:9-11: To the apostle Paul in Damascus or at a later date, before Acts 13:9. The exact time is not clear.

b. Secondary Measure: Given out only by the laying on of the apostle's hands. Examples: First Deacons (Acts 6:3-8), Peter & John in Samaria (Acts 8:14-16)

*Note: Primary & secondary measures are not Biblical terms.

2. GIFTS TO BE DONE AWAY: The Bible specifies that the gifts would be done away with:

- a. I Cor. 13:8-10: "gifts of prophecy...done away...tongues...will cease...knowledge...done away...when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away."
- b. Eph. 4:11-13: "was given...measure of Christ's gift... some as prophets...some as apostles...for equipping of the saints...until we attain the unity of the faith..."

3. PURPOSE OF GIFTS: As can be seen from the previous point, the purpose of the gifts was to equip the saints until the unity came. It had a temporary purpose. Equip - confirm who had the truth.

4. WHAT WAS THE "PERFECT": The completed Bible was the "perfect" of I Cor 10:8-10 (James 1:25) and declares itself to be complete (Rev. 22:18-19)

5. LIST OF GIFTS: from I Cor. 12:8-10: Wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, various kinds of tongues, & interpretation of tongues. (9)

6. WHEN DID THE MIRACLES CEASE? No specific statement of when in the Bible. Surely they ceased when the apostles and anyone who they laid their hands on died, i.e. around the end of the first century. It is also interesting to note that Rev. 20:2 states that Satan will be bound for 1000 years. This may have occurred at the same time, terminating both sides of the supernatural era around the end of the first century.

7. WHAT OF SUPPOSED MIRACLES TODAY?

a. First century miracles were:

1. Verifiable, subject to personal perception (taste of wine, John 2:1-9)
2. Instantaneous & complete (Man near pool at Bethesda was unable to walk 38 years, instantly walked & carried his own bed John 5:5-9)
3. Not denied by contemporaries, in John 2:10-17 the Jews were not denying the cure, they were criticizing carrying the bed on the Sabbath.
4. 100% success rate, no record of any failures.
5. Stately, never bizarre, no showbiz.
6. Never accompanied with request for money.

b. What of "miracles" today?

1. Are repeatedly shown to be phoney.
2. Are typically psychosomatic in nature, not subject to verification. (Note: It is estimated that 55% of persons seeking for medical help are suffering from psychosomatic symptoms)
3. Supposed cures blessed by God to show that God was with them are duplicated by obviously erroneous religious groups, non-Christian groups, and atheists.
4. Characteristically accompanied by requests for money.

8. CONCLUSION: The miraculous manifestations of the Holy Spirit thru the 9 gifts in the first century (i.e. speaking in tongues) were for a temporary purpose, which was fulfilled, and therefore the gifts no longer exist.

The first century Christians needed miracles to tell who was telling the truth when two different people were claiming to have the truth. They had no written word to confirm what was being said. Today we have the two Bibles of God to read to know that we are right. The written Bible and the world which God created (Romans 1:20). We are specifically instructed to study to show ourselves approved. We do not need gifts today.

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WHAT DO ELDERS DO?

They check to see that the Truth is preached, counsel with those having spiritual problems, encourage new converts, decide on the policy the church will follow, propose a financial budget, listen to the complaints of members, teach Bible classes, praise those who do good works, spend time with children, pray, worry when someone quits attending worship, visit the sick, try to help people who don't want help, investigate sticky problems, cry with the brokenhearted, manage (difficult to handle) people, sit through long meetings, model Christianity, greet visitors, conduct home Bible studies, catch a lot of flack, hear the appeals of missionaries, look for new areas of service, wonder why they feel lonely, go and see the elderly, don't sleep well at night, are involved in community activities, work for a living, try to restore the unfaithful, counsel young couples, read and study their Bibles, face special temptations, know they will be judged severely, smile when their efforts pay off and go on to the next problem, train others to take their places, and 1001 other daily tasks.

Love them. Pray for them. Back them in their work. Defend them when you hear them criticized, and be thankful that God gave them to us.

Sent in via a Dresden Bulletin

NO ONE ELSE IS GROWING . .

As the most casual of readers will have noted, a primary purpose of this publication is to promote church growth. The attitude of many toward this discussion is that it was O.K. for them to not grow because "No one else is growing either". It would be hard to estimate how many times that reason/excuse has been used to justify non-growth.

The September 1990 issue of the Christian Chronicle has a front page article which adds a new light to this issue. The general conclusion is that the turn around from shrinking to growing occurred in 1985 and has remained positive since that time. In 1990 the growth rate is put at approximately 2.5% per year. Clearly someone else is growing.

A growth chart from page 4 of that issue is reproduced for your information.

We certainly do not want to face judgment day and tell Jesus that our congregation did not grow, but we were satisfied because everyone else was not being prosperous either. In spite of the preference for not doing that, we are no longer afforded the luxury of doing so. Other congregations are growing.

We must be prepared to pay whatever scriptural price is required to produce scriptural fruits.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!

Every effect must have an adequate cause. This is a basic premise in life. One of the grandest effects which can view in our lifetimes is the composite universe all around us. The creation of the universe is a majestic effect which requires a majestic cause for it to happen.

On this broad scale, the "big bang" theory and the theory of creation of species by evolution are simply not a sufficient cause for this effect.

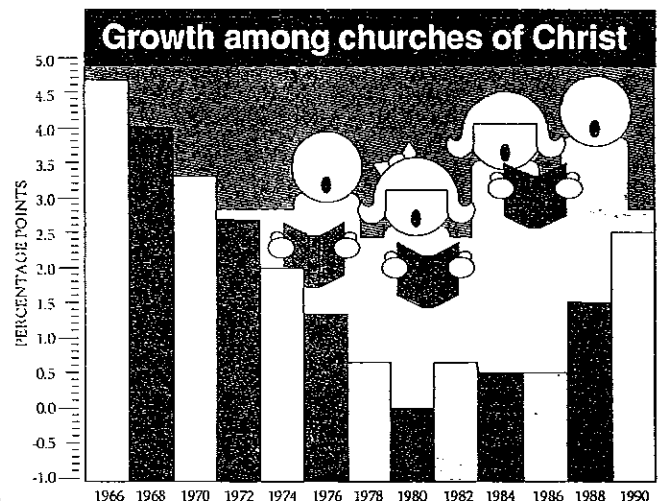
The "big bang" theory is the easiest to dispose of. It assumes no supernatural sponsoring agent, i.e. God. Either matter has always existed or it has not always existed.

If it has always existed, it is an inherent truth that it would now be run down. No matter how tightly a clock (i.e. the universe) is wound up, an infinite time later it will be run down. We are certainly an infinite time away from the beginning of "always".

If it has not always existed, it was created. There is no natural means to create energy and/or mass. That would clearly defy the laws of thermodynamics. Any means to create energy and/or mass would simply be supernatural (i.e. God).

Why do a majority of scientists believe in topics like the "big bang" theory and creation of species by evolution (macro-evolution)? Within my experiences the explanation goes something like this: "I know that God doesn't exist, so evolution is the only explanation." Numerous people have actually said that to me. Many people are not so frank as to admit that, but I perceive it to be the common understanding. They are right in that sense. If you refuse to consider God, flawed and illogical evolution then seems like the best alternative.

If future issues we will discuss the impossibilities of creation of life and creation of species by evolution.



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HARDING TO HOST BIBLE BOWL

Glenn Dillard

Harding University is please to announce that the Big Three Bible Bowl will be hosted on their Searcy, Arkansas campus on Saturday, April 27, 1991.

The subject of this year's match is the book of Revelation. As in previous years, the competition is not bells and buzzers but in the form of a written test. The competition is open to junior high students, senior high students, and adults.

The Bible Bowl will take place at the Ganus Athletic Center, a beautiful and spacious facility located on the south side of the Harding Campus. Activities will begin with registration at 7:00 a.m. and should end no later than 4:00 p.m. All participants are invited to enjoy the catered noon meal together.

The Bible Bowl is an excellent way to teach God's word, and students who participate always have a deeper appreciation for the book upon which they are tested. Of particular interest to high school students is that Harding is giving scholarships of \$500, \$300, and \$100 to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place individual winners in grades 10-12. These scholarships are to be used during a student's freshman year at Harding.

For enrollment forms or information concerning the Bowl itself, write: Big Three Bible Bowl, P.O. Box 38372, Dallas, Texas 75238, or write: Mr. Glenn Dillard, Assistant Director of Admissions, Box 762, Harding University, Searcy, Arkansas 72143.

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ADDRESS CORRECTIONS REQUESTED

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EVENTS CALENDAR:

AREA WIDE CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

WORSHIP REVIVAL WEEKEND: 11-2/4-90
W/ Ken Hilterbrand & Richard Jones
Memorial, 900 Echo Lane, 464-0271

AREA WIDE YOUTH EVENTS:

FIRST ANNUAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE DAY
Presentations by several colleges
11-18-90 @ 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Memorial, 900 Echo Lane, 464-0271

BIG THREE BIBLE BOWL AT HARDING
April 27, 1991

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED?

"If you are a nice person - if virtue comes easily to you - beware! Much is expected from those to whom much is given." C.S. Lewis

In August 1990 Duane Morgan, missionary to Jayapura, Irian Jaya, Indonesia began his reporting letter by repeating the truism "Where nothing is learned, nothing is taught."

In a recent Gallup poll, the conclusion was that less than 50% of U.S. adults can name the four gospels.