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CHRISTIAN ARRAY

RESTORING THE RESTORATION
IN OUR GENERATION

AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION IN SUPPORT OF STRICT CONSTRUCTIONIST BIBLICAL TEACHINGS

NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1990

CHRISTIAN COLLEGE DAY - HOUSTON

The First Annual Christian College Day - Houston is rapidly approaching. The program will occur from 2:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 18, 1990. It will be an exciting day for everyone. The support for this event has been beyond expectations.

A primary purpose of this event is to acquaint our youth of the outstanding resources which exist at Christian colleges. A second purpose is to help the colleges to get their message out to as many youth as possible.

The colleges participating in the First Annual Christian College Day - Houston program will be:

Abilene Christian University
Abilene, Texas

David Lipscomb University
Nashville, Tennessee

Faulkner University
Montgomery, Alabama

Freed-Hardeman University
Henderson, Tennessee

Harding Christian University
Searcy, Arkansas

Oklahoma Christian University
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Pepperdine University
Malibu, California

The program will consist of two segments:

- 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - 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.

- 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - 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 with the representatives of the colleges.

An outstanding crowd is expected for these college presentations. Some specific assistance in getting the message out to the Houston area youth has been:

- Our area youth ministers have designated this event as their monthly event for our youth and are planning to bring their youth groups.
- Several thousand personal invitations have been mailed out by the participating colleges encouraging attendance.

In 1990, Memorial Church of Christ will host the event at their facilities at 900 Echo Lane. To get to the facilities of the Memorial congregation, take the Blalock and/or Echo Lane exit off I-10. It is the sixth exit west of Loop 610 on the west side of Houston. Go south on Echo Lane approximately 1/2 mile to the building on the left. (Note: Blalock goes north from the intersection) The church facility is immediately across from the Memorial High School campus.

We request your assistance in the following ways:

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

November 18, 1990 will begin this new work in the Houston area. It will provide a forum for Christian colleges to efficiently present their programs to Houston area high school students. It will provide a forum for our youth to efficiently learn about the capabilities of the Christian colleges. Hopefully this will assist many of our youth in the decision to select a Christian education.

Surely we will all be blessed by the attendance and strengthening of our youth at one of our outstanding Christian colleges. If you ever wanted to influence your youth to attend a Christian college, this is your chance.

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

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HISTORICAL FACT OF THE RESURRECTION

CONCLUSIONS: Whereas we must accept the fact of Jesus' resurrection by faith, it is far more historically documented and reasonable to believe than many of the atheistic theories currently taught as "facts".

INTRODUCTION: From approximately 7:10 to 8:00 A.M. on Thursday, April 6, of 33 A.D. after being up all night Jesus Christ was tried for the second time by Pilate. He was accused of blaspheming, deceiving the nations, forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, and inciting the people to rebellion which He did not do. He was also accused of claiming to be King of the Jews which He acknowledged.

At approximately 8:00 A.M. He was condemned to die by crucifixion on a cross. He was nailed to the cross at approximately 9:00 A.M., and His spirit departed from His body at approximately 3:00 P.M. and He was dead. His death was surgically confirmed by a soldier piercing His side with a spear and observing blood and water flowing out separately (an accepted sign of death).

Sometime before 7:00 A.M. on Sunday morning of April 9, A.D. 33, His spirit reentered the body and He was resurrected.

WHAT MEN CONSIDER AS HISTORICAL FACTS: This lesson will discuss the historical fact of Jesus and His resurrection, however, as a basis for comparison we will first look at what some scientists who deny Jesus' resurrection consider as a requirement to be a fact.

On May 21, 1987 the Houston Chronicle presented the story that earliest true human remains were found in Tanzania's Olduvai Gorge in east Africa. The skeleton included an upper jaw, teeth, fragments of a skull and facial bones, a relatively complete arm, a partial thighbone, and a fragment of a shinbone.

From this, the scientists learned, believe, and/or have faith that a complete civilization:

1. Was more like apes than man,
 2. Still climbed in trees regularly, and
 3. Lived from 1.8 to 1.6 million years ago.
- Further, this confirmed their abiding belief that life created by an accidental spark in a primordial brew, as this was a step in the evolutionary process to life as we know it today.

Can you imagine that. They can't believe that the Son of God can be resurrected from the dead, but they believe that life can be created by accident. They can find some old bones and tell you that the person climbed trees frequently and lived 1.6-1.8 million years ago. They will calmly tell you that this is scientific fact.

Mind you, this is the same collective group of scientists that declared the fact of the Piltdown Man in 1911 as a prehistoric ancestor when it was a fake, the fact of the Nebraska Man when the only evidence turned out to be a pig's tooth, and the Neanderthal Man (Neander Valley, Germany) who was believed to be prehuman ancestor but was finally determined to be just a human. Same with the Big-Bang Theory.

In this age of declaring ancient races of people from finding a tooth and a part of a leg bone, let's look at the comparative historical proof about the resurrection of Christ.

SUMMARY OF PROOFS OF THE RESURRECTION FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT:

1. Acts 1:1-3: "The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God."

I Cor. 15:3-8: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than 500 brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all, as it were to one untimely born, He appeared to me also."

2. What do these verses and the remainder of the New Testament tell us the resurrection:
 - A. Quantity of witnesses: 500+
 - B. Quality of witnesses: All types from doctors, members of the Jewish Sanhedrin, fishermen, & tax collectors
 - C. Written Documentation by:
 - Matthew, a tax collector
 - Mark
 - Luke, a physician
 - John, a fisherman
 - Paul, a lawyer and former member of the Jewish Sanhedrin
 - Peter, a fisherman
 - James, brother of the Lord
 - Jude, brother to John (Did not believe until after the resurrection)
 This is no less than 8 independent witnesses who wrote to document the facts about the resurrection.
3. Special Proofs: Some believers were endowed with miraculous powers to perform miracles to confirm that was they were saying was the truth.

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4. Consistency of proof: To the best of our knowledge, none of the witnesses ever recanted the story, but rather many died because they believed it.
5. Could it have been just another fanatical religion? Not likely as many of the 500+ witnesses who saw Jesus after the resurrection, died for that belief. If there was an earthly instigation of this plot, the witnesses would have been the instigators. You might expect a trusting convert to a religion to die for the religion, but not an instigator. The instigators would have known that it was not true, and would not have died individual deaths of crucifixion for it. Many of the 500+ witnesses died individually horrible deaths for this belief.

SUMMARY OF PROOFS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. Psalms 22:16-18 predicts the method of death as by crucifixion by the piercing of Jesus' hands and feet.
2. Psalms 16:10, 30:3, 41:10, & 118:17 predicts the resurrection of Jesus 1000 years before Jesus was born.
3. This is clearly an extra ordinary proof for an extra ordinary event.

RESPONSE BY ATHEIST TO BIBLICAL PROOFS

The typical answer by an atheist for this is that the Bible is a single book by insiders and so it is therefore no proof at all. Responses to this are:

1. That many of the witnesses were insiders would tend to make witnesses suspect, but would not necessarily invalidate the reports. Most historical facts on many subjects have been recorded by "insiders". Mind you, all of the believers in creation of life by accident are believers in the religion of atheism.
2. It was not a single book. The New Testament is a collection of 27 independent letters by several different authors at different times. The books of the New Testament were not collected into a standard form (the Canon) during the lifetime of the authors. Historical reference is made to the fact that approximately A.D. 140-150 a collections of the writings existed in Rome existed which were virtually identical to our New Testament.
3. Old testament writers prophesying about the life and resurrection of Christ were clearly of a different group of people.
4. Paul was probably the most learned of the witnesses to Christ after the resurrection and was clearly an enemy and unbeliever before he saw Jesus after the resurrection. He was having the believers thrown in prison and killed. He clearly was not an insider.

NON-BIBLICAL PROOFS OF THE RESURRECTION

To the best of my knowledge, no nonbeliever historians observed and wrote about the resurrection of Jesus. Actually, non-believer documentation of the resurrection is unlikely, as anyone who saw it and recognized it to write about it would become a believer.

We shall instead discuss non-Biblical historical documentation of the existence of Christ to provide insight to the actual existence of Christ.

1. Flavius Josephus: Eminent non-Jewish historian of the first century, born A.D. 37, was with Titus at the destruction of Jerusalem and said: "Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man...."

2. The following 8 men wrote of Christ or gave proof of Christ in discussing Christians during the first century:
 1. Flavius Josephus
 2. Cornelius Tacitus
 3. Suetonius
 4. Pliny Secundus (Pliny the Younger)
 5. Thallus
 6. Letter of Mara Bar-Serapion
 7. Polycarp
 8. Ignatius

For detailed description of the writings of these men and others in the second and third centuries, see CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS AND CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES, by Bert Thompson, pp. 142-153. (I have a copy.)

THEREFORE: The documentation that Jesus actually lived on the earth and was resurrected from the dead greatly exceeds the things which demonstrate the theory of atheistic creation of life, creation of species by evolution, and a lot of our other things as presented in our accepted history. Whereas we must still accept the fact of Jesus' resurrection by faith, it is far more historically documented and reasonable to believe than many of the atheistic theories currently taught as "scientific facts".

It is our hope that you will believe in Jesus not only from the negative side because it is more logical than other things such as atheistic evolution, but also from the positive side because you can look all around you and see the wonderful proofs God has put all around us that could not possibly have happened without a guiding hand.

If this lesson has helped you to see the truth of Jesus' coming to earth to die for your sins and being resurrected so that we might have a home in heaven throughout eternity, we invite you to commit your life to Christ in baptism, to confess your public sins and commit your life to Christ.

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WORSHIP REVIVAL WEEKEND AN INSPIRATIONAL SUCCESS

Kenneth Helterbrand, Director of the Church Music Institute in Edmond, Oklahoma combined with Richard Jones, pulpit minister from Edmond Church of Christ, Edmond, Oklahoma to host an inspirational weekend revival at the Memorial congregation in Houston from November 2 to November 4.

Richard had been the pulpit minister at Memorial in the mid 70's and is presently doing outstanding work as a pulpit minister. His lessons were clear and and uplifting, and an inspirational to all present.

Ken had been the song leader at Central and Heights in Houston during the 50's and 60's. For many years he directed the chorus which backed up A. Chester Grimes on his Houston area radio program. The many friendships of these Christian brothers which were renewed added immeasurably to the enjoyment of the weekend.

Ken's pleasant manner brought out enthusiastic singing from the congregation. Truly a joyful noise was made to the Lord.

Ken's goal with the Church Music Institute is to help restimulate the singing of the church to the outstanding levels which existed 20-30 years ago. He is committed to the idea that we can be known as a great singing church, and enjoy it while we are doing it.

His work with the Memorial congregation certainly demonstrated that he can achieve his goals. Greater participation and song quality was enjoyed by everyone.

We heartily recommend that specialists such as Ken be utilized by congregations to restimulate the quality of your worship services. His program of acquainting the song leaders with the latest thinking, methods, and trends in effective song leading is combined with inspirational congregation song services. The combination gives a positive uplift to the congregation.

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ADDRESS CORRECTIONS REQUESTED

Information within this news letter may be freely copied by anyone at any time.

Subscriptions: \$5.00/year

Surely, the quality of your song services has an effect on membership retention and on personal evangelism. Possibly, an enthusiastic song service can have more influence on a visitor returning to your services than any other factor.

Ken can be contacted thru the Church Music Institute, Box 964, Edmond, Oklahoma 73083-0964, (405) 341-1444.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!

If you cut your finger, platelets rush to patch the cut so you will stop bleeding. Then the blood gets busy repairing the wound with a substance called fibrin. Fibrin does not float in the bloodstream all of the time, because it would plug it up; so it is made only as needed.

If you were to believe that bloodstreams could have been developed by an evolutionary process, the ability to produce platelets and fibrin would surely not have been in the first accidental bloodstream. When this "living thing" was scratched, it would have simply bled to death.

It is impossible for an evolutionary process to account for the many wonders such as this which exist in living beings.

EVENTS CALENDAR:

AREA WIDE YOUTH EVENTS:

FIRST ANNUAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE DAY
Presentations by seven Christian 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