

ARE WE ENTITLED TO OUR OWN VERSION OF THE TRUTH?

NUMBER 130

LARNELL NOLAN, MEMORIAL, HOUSTON

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Conclusion

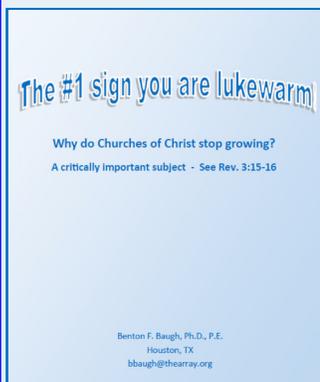
When we share the Word of God by letting people read and see for themselves what God has said regarding His will for mankind, with love, humility and grace, we can help those who are seeking, find the truth of God's Word and the power of His will. This will help those who are seeking the truth to see it is God's will being revealed to them as opposed to a belief derived from the will or mind of man.

Present Day Religious Confusion:

- People take what resonates with them about religion and their criterion for picking and choosing elements is based on what works.
- Some people don't believe in absolute right or wrong. If it feels like something they should do, they just do it.
- People are increasingly placing more importance on a search for spirituality instead of loyalty to a church or a religion.

Continued on page 2

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ETERNAL WORDS

"You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68)

Words come effortlessly. Some with great care, but many just tossed out in the air. We read, talk and listen. Our minds reel with words. So many words, yet there are precious few that speak of eternal life.

Jesus words are eternal, they will never pass away. His words have authority, because he has all authority in heaven and earth. Are you reading words of life and eternity? We want to keep up, be in the know about all that is going on in the world, but it leads nowhere. It's a dead end. Only Jesus speaks the eternal words of life.

Jesus explains that he did not speak his own words, but words commanded by the Father. *"I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say."* (John 12:50) It's not what others say about his words, it's what Jesus says. How many times does Jesus say, "Listen to me, I speak the truth." But listening to Jesus is not enough.

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ARE WE ENTITLED... , P. 2

Flavors of Relativism

- Objective relativism - the beliefs of a person are true for him but not necessarily for anyone else.
- Religious relativism - one religion can be true for one person or culture but not for another.
- Moral relativism - there are no moral absolutes, no objective ethical right and wrong.
- Cultural relativism - what is immoral in our culture is not necessarily immoral in another culture or country.

Relativism is a symptom of people who are either ignorant of God, unaware of God's character, authority or will, or have rejected Him. Relativism results from a lack of authority or superiority amongst equals.

Antidote to Relativism:

Question to ask a Relativist: Is relativism absolutely true for everyone?

If they say yes, then he contradicts his own belief of everyone's entitled to their own beliefs by suggesting that relativism must be believed by everyone.

If they say no, they are inferring that relativism is not a sound view that should be espoused by all.

Relativists views are self-refuting. It's like saying, "I can't speak a word of English." Or "All generalizations are false."

What is truth?

The Facts on Truth:

1. Humans are not omniscient, but it is possible for us to discern truth by acquired knowledge. There are degrees of knowledge: highly plausible, the probable, and reasonable. The quest for absolute certainty in every area is impossible but it's also unnecessary in understanding and

discovering truth. (Jn. 8:32; 1 Co. 13:9, 1 Ti. 2:4)

2. Something is true even if people don't believe it. Truth is true even if no one knows it, agrees with it or fully grasps it.
3. Truth is coherent. If something is incoherent, it can't be true. However, coherence by itself isn't enough to determine truth. Ex. Buddhism and Christianity have internal coherence but they both can't be true. Buddhist reject the existence of God. Christians embrace the existence of God.
4. Truth is singular. Falsehoods are infinite.
5. There are absolute truths regarding right and wrong. We all attribute a certain level of "yuck" to sin. Ex. The most heinous crimes are generally seen as wrong across cultures and amongst religious and non-religious.

The Burden of Truth:

- * Truth exposes falsehoods that we have garnered forcing us to choose to accept the truth or continue to hold on to the falsehood.
 - If you believe God exists, you're rejecting Buddhism.
 - If you believe Matthew 16:18, you're rejecting the idea that you can be saved outside of the one church.
- * When people are so certain that they've got the truth and believe their system explains everything, then the potential exists to make people who disagree with them feel like they are on the outside.

Continued on page 3

ARE WE ENTITLED... , P. 3

The Truth as Defined by God

Is there the possibility of a special revelation in which God speaks authoritatively for all times and cultures? Does God offer a way to know the truth with confidence?

Truth as defined and revealed in the Word of God

1. God's Word is truth. John 17:17
2. Jesus was truth manifested in the flesh. Jn. 14:6; Jn. 1:14,17
3. Spirit provided "all truth" John 16:13; 2 Pe. 1:3

Are we entitled to our own version of truth regarding the identity of Jesus?

Jn, 8:24 KJV] 24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins. (see also 1 Jn. 2:23)

Are there multiple ways of being saved?

[Jn. 14:6 KJV] 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (see also Mk 16:16; Ga. 1:6-9; 2 Th. 1:7-9)

Can we be saved in the church of our choice?

[Mt. 16:18 KJV] 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (see also 2 Ti. 2:10; Ac. 2:47)

ETERNAL WORDS, CONT.

Just listening would make us like the foolish man who built his house on the sand. We are to hear his words and put them into practice. "As for the man who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day." (John 12:47-48)

Jesus words are perfect for guiding, teaching wisdom, insight and understanding. They are the words that lead to eternal life. Do you know the eternal words spoken by Jesus?

Elizabeth Brown



BIBLE CLASSES, THE NEXT STEP

Last month we discussed making Bible Classes more efficient by using internet based topical lessons. This would allow them to gain a known and useful knowledge level and then graduate the members on to do the Great Commission.

Once this level of knowledge is achieved, members will for the most part still be in Bible Classes. If they are better educated now, some might be teaching Bible Classes, but all will not.

SMALL GROUP: A logical next step is to transform the classroom group into a Small Group. A Small Group is generally a subset of congregational members who work together to accomplish something. Small Groups typically require a new organization and a new meeting time for the members.

A group of Bible class members is already a subset of congregational members typically with something in common. They are already meeting at a time. Taking advantage of this with Small Group activities is a very logical step.

CLASS HOST: A good first step after identifying that you are going to try to do some Small Group activities is to get a person or couple performing the function of Class Host. The Class Host is the persons who coordinate the Small Group activities, and are a permanent member of the class.

In many cases the class teacher has been the leader of the class and spends his time preparing for the class lesson each week. Any Small Group or class social activities are usually secondary considerations for the teacher.

With a Class Host, it is the primary activity, even though class time for organization is limited. Some Small Group activities which can be promoted are:

- **SHEPHERDING GROUP:** The first activity can be to request that the class be half the

shepherding group of a Shepherd who attends the class. The Shepherd instantly becomes in frequent contact with his Shepherdees through a natural process.

- **SHEPHERDING GROUP, THE OTHER HALF:** Request that the other half of your Shepherds group be of members of a similar age grouping who do not attend any Bible class. Make it a class responsibility to contact each of these members, invite them to class, and get to know them. Report what you learn to your Shepherd. *The class can in effect do the bulk of the shepherding for the Shepherd, who can focus his limited time on difficult situations.*
- **NON-ATTENDING MEMBERS:** Get a listing of all congregational members who are not signed attending a class and invite them to your class.
- **CLASS PARTY:** Have a class party to help members get to know one another better. Invite the non-class attending members to the party to encourage them.
- **CLASS PARTY EVANGELISM:** Invite prospects to the class party to get them to meet members on a less stressful basis.
- **SIDE DOOR EVENT:** Have the class focus on a side door event. A side door event gets prospects into your facility to meet and greet members at a time other than a conventional worship service. Inviting prospects to a class party is functional a side door event. See the occgthinktank.org, project papers tab, organizational papers, **SIDE DOOR EVENTS** for more ideas.
- **SATELLITE SERVICES:** Participate in a Satellite Service in a local nursing home during Bible Class time.

This method uses the already established time and location to promote the Great Commission. A win-win.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION – THE ALBATROSS

Light and dark patches on the ground reflect or absorb the Sun's rays and have different temperatures. The warm air above dark patches tends to rise and the cooler (and therefore heavier) air above lighter patches tends to fall downward. These are updrafts and downdrafts. That a Pelican or other birds can recognize updrafts and downdrafts to glide for an extended period of time would not be surprising.

Over the oceans there are no light and dark areas, no hot and cool spots, and therefore no updrafts and downdrafts. In spite of this an Albatross can glide for an extended period of time without flapping its wings.

Before reading further, you might want to take a moment and think of a way an Albatross could do this. It is claimed to be an accident of evolution and a zero I.Q. bird does it.

Turns out the Albatross takes advantage of wind shear near the surface of the ocean. Ocean surface friction with the wind slows the wind down near the surface and provides a differential wind speed relative to higher winds.

The Albatross can only do this when the wind is greater than 16 knots (18.4 miles per hour) to get enough wind shear speed difference for gliding flight.

The Albatross works around a shear zone which is 30 to 60 feet up in the air. Its flight cycle is to face into the wind and gain altitude as it slows down going up through the shear zone. Then to turn, glide down through the shear zone with the wind pushing it faster until he achieves maximum energy near the surface of the ocean. Then it turns into the wind and climbs again to repeat the process.

Extremely sensitive Pitot tubes in its beak measures the wind pressure and therefore its relative speed for decisions on when to reverse course. Doing this repeatedly allows it to stay in flight for hours.

Similar Pitot tubes are used in aircraft to estimate speed. Pitot tubes are man's "invention" in the 20th century.

Whereas the Albatross can stay in flight for hours on a windy day, on a calm wind they must land. They are not good flapping flyers.

In addition to the intelligence to learn about wind shear in the middle of an ocean and the design and implementation of the Pitot tubes, they have also been provided with shoulder locks which allows the Albatross to keep its wings extended with no muscle expenditure. Its only muscle expenditure is in controlling the turns.

It is important to understand that:

- 1 A bird must have a very large wing area to do this. A regular bird could not have discovered it by accident.
- 2 A large wing area for a regular bird is a liability. The Albatross is not a good flapping flyer.
- 3 Evolution would say that a bird must evolve the liability of a large wing until it gets large enough to function. Survival of the fittest is not supposed to work that way.

Just one more example of the intelligent design God provides so that you will know He is true.

Information taken from the Vol. 40, No. 3 2018 Creation Magazine.

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.



Photo by birdlife.org

WHAT IS A CREED?

We normally associate a creed as a book containing the beliefs and/or practices of a group.

Wikipedia defines creed as “A **creed** (also known as a confession, symbol, or statement of faith) is a statement of the shared beliefs of a **religious** community in the form of a fixed formula summarizing core tenets. One of the most widely used **creeds** in Christianity is the Nicene **Creed**, first formulated in AD 325 at the First Council of Nicaea.” What it teaches is reasonable as long as you understand catholic to mean universal, which Jesus’ church is.

An interesting point about the definition is that it does not mention a book or even written down, until it gives the example of the Nicene Creed.

If it doesn’t have to be written down, how many “core tenets” of your religious belief does it have to involve for it to be a creed. Does it have to be all of the “core tenets” or can it just be one of them?

In many cases the “core tenets” of a religious group have been hammered out by religious authorities at a specific time, perhaps with a vote of 5/4 in favor of the position. That “core tenet” is then passed on to subsequent generations as a fact, functionally not to be questioned. (In the words of the preacher Buster Dobbs “I thought we settled this 30 years ago.”)

We want to suggest herein that if a single doctrine is discussed, decided upon, and then passed onto the next generation without them knowing the discussion or having the discussion again for themselves, it is a creed.

At the very least, the information on the subject (pro and con) need to be documented and the next generation needs to know how and why the decision was made.

Maybe more to the point, a religious decision made in a private meeting by Elders and then only the conclusion given, would be a creed.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver
of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped
and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the for-
giveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

From [Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer](#)

THE CHRISTIAN ARRAY

AN E-MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED SCRIPTURAL CHURCH GROWTH IN OUR GENERATION

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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION

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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION!

IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION

We will give you \$100 if you can give us a single reason why atheistic evolution is a better explanation for our existence than Jehovah.

We will give you \$100 if we cannot give you 12 reasons why atheistic evolution is impossible as an explanation for our existence.

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www.TheArray.org

THE ARRAY

Benton F. Baugh, PhD, P.E.

Email: bbaugh@thearray.org

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IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION is a 97 page 8 1/2" x 11" full color book by Benton Baugh which includes many of the "impossible" articles in this newsletter plus discussions on what impossible means, definition of terms, what evolutionists are going to teach your kids, and answers for evolutionists. Price: \$30.

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On the occgthingtank.org website, Project Papers tab is a paper titled: **MYSTERY GUEST PROGRAM**

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PREACHING SPECIALISTS

Congregations sometimes need fill-in preachers and speakers with special subjects which are difficult for the local minister to become proficient in. Following are a list of speakers with topics which may be of interest to you. Each of the speakers are known to us and reliably present the Word.

If any of the topics are interesting to you, contact information is provided. Some speakers may require expenses and/or stipends.

- **CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IMPACT ON CHURCH FAITHFULNESS**
- **CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IMPACT ON MARRIAGE**

Kent Allen, Oklahoma Christian University
405-315-3008

- **CROSSING THE LINE IN ADDICTION**
Philip Bailey, Memorial Church of Christ,
Houston, TX, 713-304-0011
Pbailey@gpbaileyconsulting.com

- **GOD IS SCIENTIFIC**
- **IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVOLUTION [1]**
- **WHAT ATHEIST ARE GOING TO TELL YOUR CHILDREN, WITH ANSWERS**

Benton F. Baugh, Ph.D., P.E.
Memorial church of Christ Houston, TX
713-419-8683
bbaugh@thearray.org

[1] Impossible for Evolution is a good topic for a youth event. If you arrange an event, we will provide the refreshments, wherever you are.

THE BIBLE AND HISTORIES

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BIBLICAL SCIENTIFIC STATEMENTS

The Bible is the best documented writing in history and is far better documented than other books whose facts are accepted as “gospel”. However, the Bible does lay claim to some unusual supernatural happenings, and so should be expected to offer some unusual proofs. As it happens, it does.

We do not expect old books to be up to date. A science book 10 years old is out of date, at 100 years old it is a curiosity. The idea that scientific statement could be written and still valid 3500 years later is a substantial proof of a supernatural guidance. The Bible makes substantial scientific prophecies which are still valid 3000 years later. Conventional “scientific facts” generated by man probably have a correctness percentage of less than 10%. The fact that relatively uneducated men over a period of 1400 years could collaborate on a scientifically correct book is beyond belief of an occurrence without supernatural assistance.

SCIENTIFIC PROOFS

1. NO MYTHS:

The most outstanding proof of the divine inspiration of the Bible is that there are no myths in the Bible which would have been contemporary with the writers of the Bible. The Bible was not written in a single generation nor by a group of scholars who were capable of constructing a time enduring writing. A commonly held belief was that the world was supported on Atlas’ back and Atlas was standing on a turtle. The Bible doesn’t make such mistakes. In even more contemporary terms, we get conflicting “scientific facts” regarding what is good or bad for you to eat on a daily basis.

2. “PATHS OF THE SEA”, Psalm 8:8, II Samuel 22:16

The idea of currents in great oceans was not “discovered” by man until the nineteenth century, after God told us about it. Matthew Fontaine Maury (1806-1873) was called the “Pathfinder of the Seas” after determining that the pathways of the seas existed and documenting them in a book called **Wind and Current Charts**.

3. “SPRINGS OF THE SEA”, Job 38:16

In our generation we have learned that there are geysers and springs in the ocean at great depth. Some of them are hot and give support to a strange variety of deepwater life. Job couldn’t have known this of his own accord.

4. RAIN WATER CYCLES, Ecclesiastes 1:7

“All the rivers flow in to the sea, Yet the sea is not full. To the place where the rivers flow, there they flow again.” Demonstrates an understanding of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation you would not expect 3000 years ago.

THE BIBLE AND HISTORIES

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BIBLICAL SCIENTIFIC STATEMENTS

5. **“HANGS THE EARTH ON NOTHING”**, Job 26:7
A clear understanding of the placement of the world in space that you would not expect someone to know 3000 years ago.
6. **CIRCLE OF THE EARTH** Isaiah 42:22
“It is He who sits above the circle of the earth”. The sphere of the earth would look like a circle to someone on the Moon as the Moon does to us. How did Isaiah know in 700 BC.
7. **“SINGING OF THE STARS”**, Job 38:7
In our lifetime scientists have aimed radio telescopes at the stars and commented that the sound of the stars is as if they were singing. Job could not have know this. In 1948 British astronomers discovered invisible radio stars that emitted strong radio waves. In 1960, astronomers discovered quasars, a small distant galaxy of stars that emit strong radio waves. In 1967 scientists discovered pulsars, stars that send out pulsating radio waves. In 1969 scientists discovered flashing lights and X-rays from a pulsar.
8. **“ATOMS”**, Hebrews 11:3
“What is seen was not made our of things which are visible” We understand that all things are made out of atoms which are too small to be seen even by our microscopes today. The diameter of atoms is shorter than the wavelength of visible light, so to the best of our understanding they will never be seen by man.
9. **POWER IN A MUSTARD SEED** **Matthew 17:20**
“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there and it will move”. Turns out a mustard seed contains the atomic power to move a mountain (atomic bomb), how did Jesus know this to make the parable?
10. **ENDS OF THE EARTH?**, Psalms 65: 5
Certain poetic and/or phenomenal language is used with reference to some Biblical subjects. This can be brought up as being non-scientific in discussions. It needs to be understood that the Bible is not a science book, it is merely scientifically correct. Probably many of the scientific statements made in the Bible simply seemed like poetic or phenomenal statements to many who heard them.
11. **OTHER SCIENTIFIC PROPHECIES?**
The real question is how many other scientific statements are in the Bible for future generations to discover which we simply do not yet understand? It should be a real temptation to us to read the Bible to try to see what it is saying to us that we haven't yet figured out.

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AREA WIDE ACTIVITIES

- 8/18 Missions Conference, Chattanooga, Tennessee, eastbrainerdchurch.org/missionconference
- 8-31-9/3 National Singles Retreat, Sugarland, Tx, nationalchristiansingles.com, 832-687-0366
- 9/13-14 New Day Conference, Murfreesboro, TN, northboulevard.com/newdayconference 615-893-1520
- 9/30-10-3 Harding University Bible Lectureship, Searcy, Ark., 501-279-4449 www.harding.edu/events/lectureship
- 10/1 Ministry Equipping Day, Oklahoma Christian, Edmond, OK, 405-425-5141 or Gradyking@oc.edu
- 11/5-11 53rd Pan American Lectureship, Havana, Cuba, www.lectureship.org 800-533-7660
- Each Wed. Northeast Houston Preacher's Meeting, Darien Loop CofC, 7014 Darien St., Houston, 11:00—1:00, Contact Cecil Herndon, aj10@ridemetro.com for more details
- 2nd Tues. Northwest Houston Preacher's Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Rancho King Buffet, 5900 N. Frwy., Houston, confirm with Gerald Fruzia fruzia70@sbcglobal.net for info.

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