

Introduction

We read the following in I Peter 3:15-16:

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.”

The verses are saying that we, as Christians, should know God’s word well enough to answer the questions that people have about our God and his plans, and it says that this can keep our consciences good. In other words, we don’t have to feel guilty and ashamed of ourselves for not having answers for people. We can be ready “always” to give an answer, whether in a tense moment of potential persecution, as Peter is addressing, or in day-to-day situations. Proverbs offers a very special passage that says much the same thing:

“Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge. For *it is* a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips. That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee. Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?” (Pro. 22:17-21)

Most people today are not hungry for God’s truth, but some are, and God knows who they are. He also knows who has answers for them, and he knows who doesn’t. This passage is telling us that God wants his people to know his word so that he can send hungry souls to us for answers.

You work with people or live next door to people who will never ask a preacher for answers, but they might ask

you, if they know you and you have given them reason to trust you. Most people (about 80%) who are in church faithfully today are there not because a preacher or church worker knocked on their door, but rather because they were invited by a friend or family member whom they trusted. This works much the same way. Strangers are not likely to approach you with Bible questions, but family members, friends and acquaintances might, if they trust you as being a sincere and knowledgeable believer.

Most people today, especially in America, make some profession of being saved, but most do not make a profession of having a good knowledge of God's word, so if you DO have a good knowledge of God's word, then you have something that they do NOT have. This can give you the edge by establishing you as somewhat of a Bible authority in their eyes, IF you have earned their trust as a sincere Christian. God said that he wants to send such people to you for answers, if only you will apply yourself and be ready to give good answers when called upon.

Considering the above, it's fair to say that good Bible study is an investment of faith, faith to believe that your learning will not be in vain, but that you and others will benefit spiritually as a result of your diligent studies. You will benefit immediately as you grow closer to God through his words, and others will benefit over time as God sends them to you for help. This truly is an agreement between you and God where he does his part and you do yours. Add prayer and spiritual discernment to the mix and you'll have more godly influence than can be measured this side of heaven.

People are chock-full with traditions of men and worldly philosophies, but they are tragically short on real Bible truth. As seen in the scripture above, we bear the responsibility to change that, and this can only be done by learning God's answers and learning them well. This booklet has been published for that very purpose. My prayer is that you will make the most of it. May the Spirit of Truth be your guide.

How Do We Know God Exists?

While it's true that an atheist is a fool (Psa. 14:1), it's not usually best to tell him that when trying to be a witness. The last ten Christians that he spoke with probably had no real answers and probably gave him no food for thought. You can make him think with the following:

(1) *Proof from Nature.* Romans 1:20 says, "**For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made . . .**" If there's a creation, then there must be a Creator, and if there's a design, then there must be a Designer. The universe is filled, not with disorder and chaos, but rather with incredible design and intricate detail, and this would not be the case, if there were no intelligent mind behind it all. "**The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.**" (Psa. 19:1)

(2) *Proof from Conscience.* There is a natural law written upon the heart of man that tells him that certain things are evil. Even an atheist believes that murder and rape are wrong, as do the most primitive tribes of humanity. The consciousness of basic morality is universally written on the hearts of men. Who wrote it? Obviously, God wrote it (Rom. 2:15-16).

(3) *Proof from Life.* All existing life today came from previous existing life. No new life forms are developing, and if scientists were to create a new life form, they would only prove that it couldn't have happened without an existing life to do the creating! Life comes from life, so all life forms in existence today had to come from an original life source, that being God himself. As Psalms 36:9 says, "**For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.**"

(4) *Proof from Congruity.* Congruity is the relation of agreement between things, the connecting of all the dots, or the puzzle with all the pieces in place. Congruity is when things make sense. God makes sense. He explains why people suffer, why there's no world peace, why men cannot provide for their own eternal joy, why people die, why evil triumphs, and when it will end. No theory of man makes

more sense than a holy and almighty God who will settle all accounts and make all things righteous and new in the end (Ecc. 12:13-14). Everything else falls short.

(5) *Proof from Scripture.* Whether a man believes the scripture or not, the record of history is that it has brought immeasurable peace and blessing to millions of people for thousands of years. Its promises and prophecies have proven true time and time again, and no honest and intelligent man would cast the Bible aside as being the mere fables and legends of men. One scientist has calculated that the probability of the First Coming prophecies being fulfilled was 1 change out of 10 to the 157th power. That's the number 1 followed by 157 zeros, yet all the prophecies came to pass. That's proof from scripture, and wise people do not ignore it.

How Can One God be Three?

I John 5:7 says, **“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”** For his own reasons, in revealing himself to us, God chooses to speak of himself as a triune being, or a three part being. This should come as no surprise, since we too are triune beings. Man was originally made in God's image, so we are told in I Thessalonians 5:23 that we are a spirit, a soul, and a body: **"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."** Just like God, we are three in one. We are not $1 + 1 + 1$, for that would make 3. Instead, like God, we are $1 \times 1 \times 1$, which is still 1.

God the Father is the soul of God, God the Son is the body, and God the Holy Spirit is the Spirit. This is like understanding that matter can be a solid, a liquid or a gas, or that water can be a liquid, a vapor or even frozen ice. There's one sun, yet it has light, heat and chemical rays. There's one universe, yet it consists of time, space and matter. Time itself consists of past, present and future. Fingerprints of the Holy Trinity exist in all of God's creation, and it doesn't have to be confusing as long as we stick with

simple Bible terminology. God is three, but only as three in one, like us, not three separate deities.

Is Jesus Christ God, the Son of God, or the Son of Man?

He's all three, since the Bible uses all three terms in describing him. Reaching a full understanding of the complete person of Jesus Christ is not possible, else there would be no room left for faith. This means that our understanding must be limited, at least while in this life.

But we can understand some things. He's the Son of Man in the sense that he was born as a man in the flesh, yet he's the Son of God also, since he had no earthly father. He is also God, because he's Emmanuel (Mat. 1:23), which means "God with us," or as Paul wrote to Timothy, "**God . . . manifest in the flesh**" (I Tim. 3:16). Because of this, he's the only man in all of history who was truly God in the flesh and could be worshipped as God, as he often was and is (John 20:28; Tit. 2:13; 3:4). This is rightfully called a "mystery" in I Timothy 3:16, but we can believe it by faith and we should.

Just as a man can be a grandfather, a father, a son, a brother and husband, Jesus can be God, the Son of God and the Son of Man. Yes, that's a simple explanation, but it's the truth, and we, as finite humans, should not expect to comprehend everything about the greatest mystery in all of human history.

Why Is Jesus the Only Way to Heaven?

Someone has said that religion is man reaching up to God but that Christianity is God reaching down to man. That pretty much says it all, and it summarizes why Jesus is the only way. All other religions involve man attempting to please God with various kinds of good works and rituals. Christianity is God himself completing the work, paying the way, and then offering sinners a free ticket that he

purchased with his own blood. The reason that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven is the simple fact that everyone else is a sinner. Our sin debt was purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ, called GOD'S blood in Acts 20:28. It was the perfect payment and the only payment that could meet the demands of a holy God.

Salvation is not about man doing more good than bad; salvation is a matter of man being washed totally from sin and becoming sinless in God's eyes. II Corinthians 5:21 says, "**For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**" When a man truly receives Christ as Saviour, he receives the righteousness of Jesus Christ in exchange for his sins. Christ bears our sins on his cross, and we are declared righteous by God. No other man or plan can accomplish that for us, because no other man or plan qualifies by being righteous, or totally sinless.

In Romans 4, Paul calls this *imputed righteousness*: "**But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.**" (Rom. 4:5) Verse eight says, "**Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.**" A Christian is not merely a man who lives better than before; a Christian is a man who has been declared sinless by God as a result of his faith in Jesus' redemptive work. If he still sins sometimes in the old unsaved flesh, it is not imputed, or accounted, to his righteous soul. Only Jesus Christ could provide this way of salvation, because only Jesus Christ could provide a sinless payment for our sins, his on shed blood and death on the cross. He died for our sins, buried them in his grave, and then rose again for our justification (I Cor. 15:1-4); therefore, only Jesus can save.

How Can I Know Jesus as My Saviour?

John 1:12 says, "**But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.**" Believing is

receiving. Since salvation is a free gift, one simply has to RECEIVE Jesus Christ. The sinner repents (turns from) his own self efforts and trusts the finished work of Christ for salvation. He views his own works as "filthy rags" (Isa. 64:6) and receives God's "robe of righteousness" in Jesus Christ (Isa. 61:10). Paul said in Romans 10:9, **"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."** Then in verse 13 he said, **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

It's just that simple. Salvation is a gift (Rom. 6:23), so you must receive the gift. All other religious works, such as baptism, church attendance, worship and prayer are necessary things that *follow* salvation, but salvation itself is simply a matter of receiving Christ by believing on him from the heart. Head knowledge is when one *knows about* Christ, and even the devils have head knowledge (James 2:19), but salvation is when a sinner receives Christ as Saviour instead of trusting himself or anyone or anything else.

How Can "Once Saved Always Saved" be True?

The term "Once Saved Always Saved" is probably not the best word choice as it tends to challenge one's common sense and logic, thus creating a mental stumbling block before a scriptural explanation can even be given. The term Eternal Security is more appropriate, since salvation is a matter of one possessing eternal life as a gift from God (John 10:28-29).

A man will never understand eternal security, if he doesn't have a good understanding of salvation itself. Salvation is not earned; therefore, salvation cannot be UN-earned. Salvation is a gift that one receives, thus becoming a "son of God" (John 1:12; I John 3:2). As sons, we are sometimes disobedient and must be chastened, or disciplined, but we do not lose our sonship. Hebrews 12:6-7 says, **"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye**

endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" Verse 8 even says, **"But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."**

In God's eyes, there are two kinds of people: bastards and sons. Bastards are those who have not received Jesus Christ, and sons are the Christians who have received Christ. When God's sons are disobedient, they are disciplined in various ways, but they never lose their relationship to God, their salvation.

Paul addresses this in I Corinthians 11:31-32, by saying, **"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world."** That's eternal security. We are chastened, but we are not condemned with the world. God doesn't ignore the sins of the believer, but he doesn't treat his own children like the devil's bastards either. Once a man is in Christ, he stays in Christ forever: **"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."** (John 6:37)

Just remember: Salvation is neither earned nor un-earned, because salvation is a gift that one receives.

Isn't the Bible Really the Words of Men?

No, the Bible is the word of God. Men did reduce these words to writing, but the words are still God's words. II Peter 1:21 says that **"holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."** This is similar to a secretary taking dictation from her boss; the words are his, but she has the responsibility of writing them down. In Bible times, designated men known as scribes would insure that the spoken words of God through the prophets were correctly written and preserved. A good example of this is Jeremiah 36:17-18: **"And they asked Baruch, saying, Tell us now, How didst thou write all these words at his mouth? Then Baruch answered them, He**

pronounced all these words unto me with his mouth, and I wrote them with ink in the book." So, the Bible is, indeed, the word of God. Men were only instruments that God used to make the scriptures available to us. The inspiration is from God, so the Bible is the inspired word of God.

What Should I Do, Since I have trouble understanding the King James Bible?

Keep reading and studying, and you will find yourself becoming more comfortable with the King's English. Millions of people have read and understood the King James Bible for over four hundred years. The notion that *you* are somehow inferior to them is just a lie from Satan. If you are saved through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and you want to live for God, then you have already met two of the most important requirements for understanding God's word. The past four centuries are filled with people from all walks of life who grew to understand and love the King James Bible, and many of them had very little education. Like anything else, practice makes perfect. If you will read the King James Bible every day with an honest and seeking heart, you will grow to love it and understand it. You will eventually reach the point to where you will not want to read other translations at all, because you will have grown to love the uniqueness and beauty of the King James Bible. The term "the King's English" will take on a whole new meaning as you become grounded in the fundamental fact that God's word *should* read differently than the words of men, and that's one of the reasons for God giving us the King James Bible.

Friend, despite the countless evils of this present world, imagine, if you will, a world that never saw a King James Bible, a world that was never graced with a Livingstone, a William Carey, a Hudson Taylor, an Amy Carmichael or a Mary Slessor. Imagine a world that never knew George Whitfield, the Wesley brothers, John Newton, Isaac Watts, John Bunyan, Matthew Henry, William Booth or Charles Spurgeon. Imagine a world that never enjoyed the

sixty-four year reign of the Bible-believing queen Victoria. Imagine a world with an idolatrous, Roman Catholic America with no Great Awakenings, no First Amendment rights, no Bible belt, and no preachers like Moody, Sunday, Edwards, Norris, Talmadge, Ham, Fuller, Ruckman or Bob Jones, Sr. If not for the King James Bible, we might very well have inherited such a world.

The King James Bible is king, and it will *not* be dethroned. It is here to stay, and it is here to *rule*. If you are wise, you will trust God and allow the King of books to do the work in you that it has done in the hearts and lives of millions of people.

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” (I Ths. 2:13)

Aren't There Mistakes in the Bible?

No, there are only *apparent* mistakes in the Bible, things that appear to be mistakes only because we sometimes lack the ability to explain them.

For example, Numbers 25:9 says that 24,000 people died in a plague, but I Corinthians 10:8 says that only 23,000 died. That appears to be a clear mistake until you read I Corinthians 10:8 again and notice that 23,000 fell "in one day." The 24,000 died altogether in a few days. There is no mistake, only a need for more careful reading, prayer and study.

Another example is the apparent contradiction between Exodus 24:10 and John 1:18. Exodus says the Israelites saw God, yet Jesus said in John that "**no man hath seen God at any time.**" This is no contradiction, just a matter of rightly dividing the word of truth. God is a Trinity, just like you. You have a spirit, a soul, and a body (I Ths. 5:23). The Israelites saw a visible manifestation of God, but not the *soul* of God, just as no one has ever seen your soul.

These are the kinds of "errors" that we find in the Bible. The best policy is to always give God the benefit of a doubt by exercising faith in his words. Let all doubt be aimed at the critics of God's words, never at the Bible itself.

What's wrong with the modern Bible translations?

Entire books have been written on this very subject, but the bottom line is that the modern translations are based on corrupt manuscripts, and this leads to corrupt readings in the translations.

The modern translations are based on the work of two nineteenth century Greek scholars from England, B. F. Westcott and F. J. A. Hort. Westcott and Hort were deeply involved in the occult and hated the received text from which the King James Bible was translated. So they conjured up their own Greek text, one that was based primarily on two very corrupt manuscripts: Codex Vaticanus (discovered in the Pope's library in 1481) and Sinaiticus (discovered in 1859 in a trash can on the traditional Mt. Sinai). These are usually the "older" and "better" manuscripts that we keep hearing so much about, and these manuscripts support most of the attacks in the new versions.

Therefore, when you hear or read of someone "correcting" the King James Bible with "older" or "more authoritative" manuscripts, you are simply hearing someone trying to use corrupt texts to overthrow God's true words. God has never honored this text, and there's no reason why he ever will.

After all, why would God honor a text that throws "God" out of I Timothy 3:16?

Why would God honor a text that changes "the Son of God" to "a son of the gods" in Daniel 3:25?

Why would God honor a text that omits the word "study" from II Timothy 2:15, one of the greatest Bible study admonitions in all of God's word?

Why would God honor a text that says that Mary was only a "young woman" in Isaiah 7:14 and not a "virgin"?

Why would God honor a text that robs Him of His own "kingdom," "power" and "glory" in Matthew 6:13?

Why would God honor a text that removes the word "Lord" from the lips of the repentant thief in Luke 23:42?

Why would God honor a text that completely erases Acts 8:37 from the Bible and helps to promote the damnable doctrine of baptismal regeneration?

Why would God honor a text that removes the "blood" of Christ from Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14, Revelation 1:5 and Revelation 5:9?

Why would God honor a text that destroys the Holy Spirit's warning against "science" falsely so called in I Timothy 6:20?

Why would God honor a text that attacks the Holy Trinity by suggesting that I John 5:7 be removed from the Bible?

There are many other cases that could be presented, but surely you see the real damage that is being done in the various new translations. No single translation does all the damage, but a certain degree of damage is found in each new version so that Satan's broad attack plan is fulfilled. This is the result of relying on corrupt manuscripts rather than relying on the God-honored text of our spiritual forefathers. While claiming to help readers understand God's word, the devil is using the new translations to attack, weaken, and corrupt the holy scriptures.

For additional study on the authority of the King James Bible, please read *The Word of a King* at www.biblebaptistpublications.org.

Why Is the Bible So Confusing?

The Bible is not confusing. While it's true that many are confused about the Bible, this doesn't mean that the Bible itself is confusing, only that its readers are confused. A child might claim that the multiplication table is confusing, yet in a few years he won't find it confusing at all, even though the table will be the same as before. That's because HE was confused, but after applying himself in study, he began to see things more clearly.

God said, **“All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.”** (Pro. 8:8-9) Any confusion rests with the reader, not with God’s Book.

The Bible is a spiritual Book, so only a spiritual mind can understand it. I Corinthians 2:14 says, **“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”** The problem is not that God’s Book is confusing, but rather that its readers are often carnal, not spiritual. That is, they read God’s words as they would read a newspaper or a novel, without understanding the spiritual content and message.

Look at I Corinthians 14:33: **“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”** How can one say that the Bible is confusing when it says that God is not the author of confusion? That makes no sense. WE might be confused, but the Bible is not confusing.

Take that very chapter, I Corinthians 14. Those people were a confused mess. In fact, verse 33 is the only time that Paul used the word “confusion” in any of his epistles. Those people, just like the charismatics today, had taken a simple judgment sign that had connections all the way back to the tower of Babel and then turned it inside out to make it appear that God wanted them to speak in confused languages today! Yet, the very chapter that Paul writes to CORRECT these people is cherry-picked to pieces by modern charismatics in order to teach the very thing that Paul was trying to correct. It’s not that hard to understand the chapter, if you’ll just read entire verses. Note our capitalization for emphasis as Paul provides a contrast between the edification that comes with prophesying (preaching/teaching) versus the confusion that comes with unknown tongues:

Verse 1: “Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, BUT RATHER THAT YE MAY PROPHECY.”

Verse 2: “For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for NO MAN UNDERSTANDETH HIM; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”

Verse 3: “BUT HE THAT PROPHESEIETH speaketh unto men *to* edification, and exhortation, and comfort.”

Verse 4: “He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; BUT HE THAT PROPHESEIETH edifieth the church.”

Verse 5: “I would that ye all spake with tongues, BUT RATHER THAT YE PROPHESED: FOR GREATER IS HE THAT PROPHESEIETH THAN HE THAT SPEAKETH WITH TONGUES, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.”

Verse 8: “For if the trumpet give an UNCERTAIN SOUND, WHO SHALL PREPARE HIMSELF TO THE BATTLE?”

Verse 11: “Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh A BARBARIAN, and he that speaketh *shall* be A BARBARIAN unto me.”

Verse 12: “Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, SEEK THAT YE MAY EXCEL TO THE EDIFYING OF THE CHURCH.”

Verse 19: “Yet in the church I HAD RATHER SPEAK FIVE WORDS WITH MY UNDERSTANDING, that *by my voice* I might teach others also, THAN TEN THOUSAND WITH AN UNKNOWN TONGUE.”

There is no way that any sound-thinking reader could conclude that Paul is encouraging Christians to speak with unknown tongues. Verse 1 set the tone by making it clear that Paul was trying to get these people to see the need to PROPHECY (preach the word) instead of boasting in their gifts. He’s clearly telling them to NOT speak in unknown tongues, because of the confusion that it creates, and that’s why he used the word “confusion” in verse 33. Due to the presence of unbelieving Jews in their area (Acts 18), this church was given the apostolic gift of OTHER tongues (not UNKNOWN tongues), yet they had completely abused this

gift and had created total confusion in their church by turning OTHER tongues into UNKNOWN tongues that no one could understand. Speaking in TONGUES (not UNKNOWN tongues) rightfully with an interpreter was fine, but they weren't doing this, so Paul rebuked them for creating confusion. The only confusion in the entire chapter is the confusion that people create when they fail to respect the full context and intent of the words given. So, the text itself is not confusing. People confuse themselves by abusing the text.

In spite of what the above text plainly says, a typical charismatic preacher would confuse everyone by using only parts of verses 2, 4 and 5, as follows:

“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God . . . in the spirit he speaketh mysteries . . . He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself . . . I would that ye all spake with tongues . . .”

No, I'm not exaggerating. I've heard them doing it exactly like that and confuse hundreds of people, maybe thousands. Because of this, people will read or hear the differing views and then claim that the Bible is confusing. No, the Bible is clear and understandable. PEOPLE are confusing.

For instance, many people are trusting water baptism to save them, because of their confusion about a few verses that mention baptism. However, there would be much less confusion, if they had given due attention to the first mention of baptism in the Bible. This is found in Matthew chapter three, where John the Baptist is baptizing people in the Jordan river when he says, **“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire.”** (Mat. 3:11) Clearly, this means that there are different kinds of baptism. So, assuming that every New Testament baptism is a WATER baptism is a huge mistake that will only lead to confusion. In fact, John stated that Jesus' baptism was a MORE IMPORTANT baptism that wasn't water at all. Then, later in Matthew's

gospel, Jesus reiterated this great truth: **“Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”** (Mat. 20:22) He had already been baptized in water, but this was a totally different baptism. In Luke 12:50, he said, **“But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!”** Jesus’ water baptism had long passed, but here he spoke of yet another baptism, one that ties into the greater Holy Ghost baptism that John mentioned in Matthew 3:11. Those who have received Christ have been spiritually baptized into the very baptism of his death and resurrection (I Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3), which is only PICTURED by water baptism. Therefore, anyone who misses the great SPIRITUAL truth of Matthew 3:11 will be confused about baptism all through the New Testament. Yet, it cannot be said that baptism is confusing, because God gave us Matthew 3 before he gave us any other texts regarding baptism. We confuse ourselves by ignoring it. The Bible is not confusing.

Another good example is the confusion that prevails among many regarding Israel’s conquest of the land of Canaan. God told the Israelites to drive out the inhabitants of the land: **“Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan; Then ye shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and quite pluck down all their high places: And ye shall dispossess *the inhabitants of the land*, and dwell therein: for I have given you the land to possess it.”** (Num. 33:51-53) This, to the natural mind, seems to contradict other Bible passages that say God is love, God is holy, God is good and God is compassionate. Why would a good, loving, compassionate and holy God drive people from their land?

Anyone who had seriously read the books preceding Numbers would know the answer. Clear back in Genesis chapter three, God promised a holy seed to redeem man (Gen. 3:15), and throughout Genesis and Exodus he took special measures to preserve that seed, which would eventually be the Lord Jesus Christ. As a final Old Testament reminder, even the book of Malachi says, **“That**

he might seek a godly seed.” (Mal. 2:15) Israel had to be a holy people in their own holy land so that the promised seed of Genesis 3:15 could be preserved and eventually born. God kept a laser focus on this throughout the Old Testament, even if no one else did. Satan fought endlessly to destroy the seed all through the Old Testament, yet God fulfilled his words and Christ was born. This would never have happened had God not taken measures at times to preserve the seed (Abel replaced by Seth; drowning the world while saving Noah’s family; Cainan cursed while Shem is blessed; Abraham called out of Ur; Isaac preferred over Ishmael; Jacob preferred over Esau; Leah preferred over the prettier Rachel; Joseph sent to Egypt to preserve life; baby Moses spared to become Israel’s leader; Baalam forbidden to curse Israel; Solomon born to replace David’s dead son; Jeconiah cursed, thus insuring a virgin birth; Joseph and Mary sent with Jesus into Egypt until the death of Herod, etc.) The casual reader might have forgotten about the promised seed, but God didn’t. EVERYTHING in God’s Book has a purpose, and there is “nothing froward or perverse” in it. God knows exactly what he’s doing, even when we are scratching our heads in confusion. History is HIS STORY. God is always busy bringing his word and his will to pass, and the closer we are to him the more clearly we understand his words and his ways. WE are often confused, but God’s word is never confusing. We only have to read it carefully instead of casually.

How Do We Know Whose Bible Interpretation Is Correct?

The correct interpretation is the one that allows God’s word to interpret itself with clear, indisputable scripture witnesses. What I say about it and what you say about it is irrelevant. Paul said, **“For what saith the scripture?”** (Rom. 4:3). God’s system of learning and growing requires each believer to do his own study and “prove all things” (I Ths. 5:21), much like the Bereans who **“received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”** (Acts 17:11) The lazy man who refuses to study

and confirm truth for himself is a man who will never be rooted and growing in the word of God.

You don't allow others to tell you which car to buy, which clothes to wear, or which food to eat, so why allow anyone to tell you what to believe? If you really care about truth, you won't. You will study and know for yourself.

As for interpretations, the Bible's very first mention of the word informs us that God, not man, is the one who must interpret: **"Do not interpretations belong to God?"** (Gen. 40:8) God has never told anyone to rely on their own interpretations and their own understanding. In fact, he said, **"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."** (Pro. 3:5) II Peter 1:20 assures us that, **". . . no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."** God has given us over 700,000 words in his Book, and these words are capable of interpreting anything that God wants us to know. Private interpretation is unscriptural and totally unnecessary, because only God's interpretation is the correct one.

Why Must I Attend Church to Worship God?

We assemble with other believers to worship God because God commanded us to do so. Hebrews 10:25 says, **"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."** God wants his people to pull away from the world at the appointed times and worship with other believers. The early church came together on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2), commemorating the day of Jesus' resurrection (Mat. 28:1), so this became the established day of Christian worship.

As for the claim that a man can worship God anywhere and does not need the church, this just isn't true, since God has clearly commanded church worship. Besides, in addition to being a violation of scripture, the argument is flawed logically and borders on resentment toward God and

outright hypocrisy. No rational person believes he can be a good company employee without showing up for work. No rational person believes he can be a good soldier without joining the armed services. No rational person believes he can play in a bowling league or a golf tournament without meeting together with other players. Such a man might play make-believe all he wants, but no one will take him seriously until he becomes a productive member of a group of like-minded people. The words "church" and "churches" are found over one hundred times in twenty different New Testament books. Frankly, ignoring the importance of a good church is one of the biggest mistakes a man can make in life.

What Is the Unpardonable Sin?

During His physical life on earth, Jesus often exercised His Deity by performing miracles through the Divine power of the Holy Ghost. In Matthew 12:22-32 the Pharisees witness one of the Lord's many miracles. Then, instead of believing on Jesus, they accused Him of performing miracles through the power of the Devil. He then told them that men could be forgiven for blasphemy (evil and hurtful speaking) against men and against Him, but that blasphemy against the Holy Ghost could *never* be forgiven. A companion reference for this is found in Mark 3:30, where we are told why Jesus said this to them: **"Because they said, he hath an unclean spirit."**

It is important to note that nothing is said about this particular sin after Calvary. It is only mentioned during the life of Christ on earth, while He was working genuine miracles by the power of the Holy Ghost. It is also needful to understand that blasphemy is a sin of the *tongue*. A person could not commit blasphemy with thoughts or actions. It was strictly a sin of the tongue, and it could only be committed by openly accusing Jesus Christ of working through Satanic power.

Some teach that this sin may still be committed today, but there is no scriptural support for this. In fact, when Jesus later speaks of the coming of the Holy Ghost to indwell believers, He said that the Holy Ghost would convict

the world of three things: sin, righteousness, and judgment. He then said that the Holy Ghost would convict the world of *sin* for *one reason*: "**because they believe not on me.**" (John. 16:7-11) Surely, if blasphemy against the Holy Ghost was to be the greatest sin of this age, Jesus would have used this opportunity to warn us about it, but He warned us about *unbelief* instead.

Some Charismatic groups, who profess to be led by the Holy Ghost, are in the habit of accusing anyone who opposes them of blaspheming the Holy Ghost, since they are supposedly the Holy Ghost champions. That's not true. Even if they *were* filled with and working through Holy Ghost power, (which they are not), it still would not be unpardonable to speak against them. Many people have spoken against great Christian works and then gotten saved later. The Apostle Paul is a good example (Acts 8-9). The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin (I John 1:7).

The only way to commit the unpardonable sin in this age is to reject Jesus Christ as Saviour. It's true that a person can reject Christ for so long that God the Holy Ghost pulls away and stops convicting that individual, in which case the individual never receives Christ, never receives forgiveness of sin, and goes to Hell (Pro. 1:23-33; Isa. 55:6-7; John. 12:37-43), but only God knows when a person crosses that line. No man on this planet has any scriptural authority for telling someone that God will never forgive them for their sins.

Can a Christian Be Demon Possessed?

While there's no scripture that actually says that a Christian cannot be possessed with a devil, verses like I John 4:4 and II Corinthians 6:16 do seem to imply it, and there are no recorded cases in the New Testament of a blood-bought child of God being possessed with a devil. That being the case, it's probably correct to say that no true believer can be devil possessed in the sense of the devil doing the possessing, such as with Mary Magdalene or with the maniac of Gadara.

But that doesn't settle much. The Christian can be hindered by Satan (I Ths. 2:18), buffeted by Satan (II Cor. 12:7), can give place to the devil (Eph. 4:27), can be tempted by the devil (I Cor. 7:5), can be taken captive by the devil (II Tim 2:26), can be reproached and snared by the devil (I Tim. 3:7) and even delivered to Satan for the destruction of the flesh (I Cor. 5:5). Maybe that's not devil possession, but it's not far from it, at least not for all practical purposes. Satan still wins with far too many believers, even without outright possession, so the possession question is really irrelevant.

The question of demon possession for Christians is really a trick question of the devil designed to give us a false superiority complex that accomplishes very little in our day-to-day lives, if we neglect our spiritual duties. Satan doesn't have to possess you, if he can defeat you a dozen other ways.

What does the Bible Say about Homosexuality, Transgenderism and Bestiality?

Sexual identity was established by God in Genesis chapter one as being male and female, and sexual activity is authorized only in the context of marriage between a man and his wife. Jesus voiced his support for this in Matthew 19:4-5: **"Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?"**

A man is not permitted to cleave to a man, a woman is not permitted to cleave to a woman, and no human is permitted to cleave to an animal. Sexual activity is allowed only between a biological man and a biological woman who are scripturally married. The scriptures are very clear about this:

"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination" (Lev. 18:22)

"Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand

before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion." (Lev. 18:23)

"If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." (Lev. 20:13)

"And if a woman approach unto any beast, and lie down thereto, thou shalt kill the woman, and the beast: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." (Lev. 20:16)

"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." (Rom. 1:24-27)

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (I Cor. 6:9-10)

Those who engage in sexual perversion have failed to exercise personal discipline and have given themselves over to what the scriptures call "vile affections." It is their responsibility to repent of this sin and to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ (I Cor. 6:11; I John 1:7).

Where Did Cain Get His Wife?

Cain and Abel were not Adam and Eve's only children. We read in Genesis 5:4 that Adam begat sons and daughters for eight hundred years, so there was no shortage of women. Cain married one of his sisters, since the gene pool was less corrupt at that time than now and God had not yet forbidden inner-family marriage as he does later in Leviticus. Remember, even Adam and Eve were related: they had the same Father, and Eve was made from Adam's own rib. Genetic disorder wasn't a problem in the beginning, so Cain married one of his sisters.

Do Animals Go to Heaven?

No, there is no indication in the Bible that animals can go to heaven or enjoy any kind of life after death. Ecclesiastes 3:21 says, **“Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?”**

This is because animals do not have an eternal soul. They were created to be temporal creatures whose existence ends upon death. There are animals in the coming millennial kingdom of Christ on earth (Isa. 11:6-9), but there is no scripture that says animals have life after death.

Isn't it Wrong to Judge?

No, God's word never says that it's wrong to judge. What it says is that it's wrong to judge unrighteously. Jesus said in John 7:24, **“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”** I Corinthians 2:15 says, **“But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.”** Judging is good and necessary, but unfair and unjust judging is not good. It is wrongful judging that God's word condemns, not judging altogether.

For example, Jesus preached against hypocritical judging in Matthew 7:1-5, and Proverbs 24:23 says, **“ . . . It**

is not good to have respect of persons in judgment."

So, it's unjust judgment that the Bible condemns, not all judgment. One must exercise judgment in order to make wise day-to-day decisions, but this should always be good judgment rooted in facts, not foolish judgment rooted in fallacies or partiality.

Does Suicide Send One to Hell?

No, salvation and eternal security are determined by one's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, not by any good or evil deed that he might commit. If a person is a true believer in Christ, then he goes to heaven when he dies. If he's not, then he goes to hell. How he dies is irrelevant.

A good Bible example is Samson. This man willingly took his own life by bringing a building down on himself (Jgs. 16:30), yet his name is listed among the faithful saints of God in Hebrews 11:32. Much the same could be said of many martyrs and soldiers who could have saved their own lives by using different words or taking different actions, yet they chose death instead of life. Even Jesus gave up his own life (John 10:18), yet no one believes that this sent him to hell.

So, the real issue becomes the *reason* for one ending his own life rather than the ending of the life itself, but even then it becomes a non-issue as far as salvation is concerned, since there is no scripture that says a person receives eternal damnation for taking his own life for *any* reason. If a Christian does so for selfish and sinful reasons, then he will suffer loss of rewards at the judgment seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10; I Cor. 3:11-15; II John 8), but his salvation is secure in Christ, since his sins were judged at Calvary. In fact, Romans 8:38 assures us that not even death itself can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ: **"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."** (Rom. 8:39-39)

The main issue is not whether a person commits this or that sin, but rather whether or not he has had *all* of his sins forgiven by exercising faith the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1; Rev. 1:5). The reasoning that a person dies in his sins when he commits suicide (since he has no time left to repent) does not apply to Christians, because our sin record become spotless when we received Christ (Rom. 4:8; II Cor. 5:21). The “old account was settled” in our past, so any future sins affect only our fellowship with God (I John 1:3-9), not our relationship. No Christian ever dies with any sin on his record, because God does not impute sin to those who are in Christ. This is sound doctrine 101, and it's truly sad that so many Christians are so ignorant of it.

How Could a Loving God Send a Person to Hell?

The statement that “God is love,” from I John 4:8, is a true statement, but it is also true that the rest of the Bible is true. God has many attributes, not just love, and he never intended for us to define him as love only. God is just as much a God of *justice* as he is a God of love. Deuteronomy 32:4 says, “**He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.**”

God's love is directed to those who meet his conditions; his wrath goes to those who do not. Here are three very definite ways in which we can know that God will send people to hell, even though he be a God of love.

(1) One reason, and the most important reason, is the fact that *His Word Declares It*. God isn't what men *think* he is; God is what he *says* he is, and he will do what he says he will do. Over and over again the Scriptures state that God will damn the wicked to Hell. The same apostle who wrote “God is love” also wrote “**And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**” (Rev. 20:15) David, “the sweet psalmist of Israel” (II Sam. 23:1), also wrote “**The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. Upon the wicked he shall**

rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.” (Psa. 11:5-6) Moses knew the God of love “face to face” (Deu. 34:10), yet that didn’t stop him from writing Deuteronomy 32:22: **“For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.”** Peter walked side by side with Jesus for over three years, but that didn’t keep him from sounding the warning of II Peter 3:7: **“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”**

Then Jesus himself said, **“And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.” (Mark 9:43-48)** Yes, God is love. He loved the world so much that he paid the ultimate price by sending his Son to pay the sin debt of all men. But that love is only accessible to those who receive it. Those who refuse it will receive God’s wrath. We know this because the Bible declares it.

(2) We also know it because *Justice Demands It*. Psalm 89:14 says, **“Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.”** Notice in the verse how God’s mercy is coupled and balanced with his *justice*. Just as any good human judge knows he must show mercy at times, God too knows this, but his mercy doesn’t come at the expense of his justice. He maintains a perfect balance at all times. Job 8:3 says, **“Doth God pervert judgment? or doth the Almighty pervert justice?”** The implied answer is

obviously "No." God is a balanced God, not only a loving and merciful God, so his justice demands eternal judgment on those who sin against an eternal and holy God.

(3) The third reason is that *Nature Displays It*. Nature clearly displays the fact that God allows suffering (Rom. 8:18-22). Suffering is continuing all around us daily, and anyone can observe this, if only they'll open their eyes. If you had meat for dinner over the past few days, it is only because an animal died first. If you wear leather shoes or have a leather wallet or purse, it is only because an innocent animal died, and possibly suffered, and God allowed it to happen.

Suffering is also very real among men. Some people are born with various diseases, while others are often born blind, crippled, or with some other handicap. Others suffer in great natural disasters, in war, in accidents, and in other unfortunate events. God allowed 6,000,000 of his own covenant people to suffer in Hitler's death camps, and only God knows how many true Christians were murdered by the Roman Catholic Church throughout Europe during the Dark Ages. Haralan Popov was a devoted preacher whom God allowed to suffer terrible persecution in communist Bulgaria, and Richard Wurmbrand suffered similarly in Romania. The "God of love" allowed all of this, and He allows suffering to this very day. The whole creation groans in pain, the Bible says, and God allows it all. To think that he will not allow people to suffer in hell is really to not think at all. Nature testifies that he does and will allow suffering.

God's word declares that he will send people to hell, his justice demands it, and nature displays it.

Do the Heathen Go to Hell?

Yes. Jesus was very clear when he said, ". . . **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**" (John 14:6) There is no reason for telling us to take the gospel into all the world (Mat. 28:18-20), if God has plans to save people without the gospel.

The heathen are commonly spoken of as "the heathen who've never heard," but this is usually a mistake.

They might not have heard a clear presentation of the gospel of Christ, but the notion that they are like innocent little children with no concept of right and wrong is false. People everywhere have a conscience that develops and matures with age, and usually before adulthood they have a basic knowledge of good and evil. That's why they have their own laws about theft, murder and other evils, even without the influence of Christian missionaries and Bibles. Paul said this is due to their God-given conscience: **"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another."** (Rom. 2:14-15)

This means that the unreached masses have heard more than people realize, because they've heard the still small voice of God speaking through their conscience. They have also heard the voice of nature telling them of God's existence as Creator. Psalms 19 says, **"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world . . ."** (Psa. 19:1-4)

All of this means that man is without excuse and cannot plead total innocence. Not having heard the gospel doesn't mean that man hasn't heard anything. He's heard enough truth through conscience and nature to develop a response to that truth, and God holds him accountable for it. Paul addresses this in Romans 2:6-11: **"Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man**

that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God."

As we know, "eternal life" is only available through Jesus Christ (John 10:28-29; 14:6); so Paul is saying that God delivers truth to those who with a good conscience seek for it. Jesus said, "**seek, and ye shall find**" (Mat. 7:7), and he said, "**Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.**" (Mat. 5:6) People everywhere receive at least some light from God (John 1:9), and if they follow that light and seek additional light, then God gives more light and eventually the gospel, if their seeking continues. If not, he eventually sends wrath (Rom. 2:8-9).

The truth of God is a path that everyone chooses or rejects, and it leads to Jesus Christ, even when it doesn't start with Christ. To reject this path is, in essence, to reject the way to Christ, and this is what most people do. Every heart has heard the words "**This is the way, walk ye in it**" (Isa. 30:21), so everyone is without excuse. There are no heathen who have "never heard."

What about Hypocrites in the Church?

All hypocrites, in church or not, are sinning and will give account to God. But *you* will also give account to God (Rom. 14:12), and it will not be a pleasant day, if you failed to do your best because of your choice to focus on hypocrites. Nowhere does the Bible suggest that any of us are exempt from service because of the presence of hypocrites.

Besides, you work with hypocrites, shop the same stores as hypocrites, and you sometimes live in the same neighborhood as hypocrites without any significant problem, so why is church a problem? The truth is that Satan will provide you with every excuse imaginable to keep you away from a good church and serving God. When your eyes are on God, where they should be, then you will obey God. When your eyes are on man, hypocrites or otherwise, then you will

make excuses to not serve God. The key is for each one of us to keep our eyes on God. Read Psalms 73 and see how Asaph had to learn to focus on God instead of man. After all, it is God, not man, that we will stand before in the day of judgment.

As for the hypocrites, their day of reckoning is coming and damnation awaits them (Job 27:8; Mat. 23:14). But you're no better than them, if you allow their hypocrisy to hinder your walk with God. You can't hide behind a hypocrite, unless you are smaller than a hypocrite.

Why Is There So Much Religious Division?

Another way in which this is often worded is, "*Why can't all Christians just get along and agree?*" This is actually a very hypocritical question when you think about it. One could also ask why football fans can't all agree that the Cowboys are the best football team ever, why everyone can't agree that medium rare is the best steak, why everyone can't vote Democrat, why everyone can't get their clothes at Wal-Mart, and so forth. There are over eight billion people on our planet, and each one reserves the right to decide what is right and wrong for his own life. Expecting everyone to agree is foolish. People ask the above question only about things that do not interest them, never about the things that are important to them. So, in reality, when a man asks the above question, he's not seeking answers; he's making foolish accusations and excuses. But, in the spirit of I Peter 3:15 and Proverbs 22:21, here are five quick answers:

(1) *The Application of Bible Doctrine*. II Timothy 3:16 says, "**All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine . . .**" God is very interested in his people knowing and applying sound Bible doctrine. When this is practiced, an automatic separation is made between people, and that's a good thing that God desires. If everyone would learn and apply sound doctrine, then everyone could enjoy good religious unity based on the Bible. They choose not to do so, so we have division.

(2) *The Love of Sin.* Romans 12:1-2 commands all Christians to be not conformed to the world. If all professing Christians were to obey that command, then there would be a lot less division within Christianity. But a great many professing Christians are having a love affair with sin and are refusing to join up with Bible-believing churches that love righteousness. This naturally causes division.

(3) *Family Traditions.* As Jesus stated in Luke 12:51-53, large numbers of people are unwilling to side with God against their own family members. Only God knows how many millions of families have been divided simply because some members chose to follow Christ while others chose to continue their family traditions.

(4) *The Fear of Man.* Proverbs 29:25 says, **“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.”** Some people know very well that they need to stop causing religious division and join a Bible-believing church, but they are scared of the reproach associated with doing so. That is, they fear what people will say or think about them if they break ranks with their lukewarm social club and join ranks with a group of real soldiers for Christ. They can’t handle the criticism and possible persecution that could come as a result of their decision. So, as the Bible says, they are snared, or trapped, into causing division by spending their lives in the wrong church with the wrong people.

(5) *So God’s True Stars Can Shine the Brightest.* I Corinthians 11:19 says, **“For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.”** A church that teaches sound doctrine, street preaches properly, witnesses, and keeps the town saturated with gospel tracts and revival flyers shines far brighter in God’s eyes and glorifies him more than the churches that don’t. Many people take note of this and discern in their minds which churches are serious and which ones are not. This is why Jesus said that he came to send division (Luke 12:51), so that God could be glorified in the lives of serious believers.

Why Won't God Answer My Prayers?

Many have little faith in God because they have prayed at times without seeing an answer to their prayers. They feel that God let them down, so praying to him and serving him is useless in their minds. The truth is that they let themselves down by developing conclusions about God and prayer that are not supported with scripture. God has never promised that he will answer our prayers unconditionally, if only we will ask him, nor has he promised to answer our prayers, if we meet the single condition of having faith, as some teach. There are numerous conditions to having our prayers answered, and usually when prayers go unanswered, it's because one or more of these conditions are not being met.

Having faith is a prayer condition, according to Matthew 21:22 and Hebrews 11:6, but it's not the only condition. One can have faith, but if he's not abiding in Christ and in the word of God, then his prayers can be hindered: **“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”** (John 15:7)

Praying with iniquity in the heart can hinder prayer, according to Psalms 66:18.

One's prayers can be hindered by any element of falsehood in the prayer or a lack of godly fear, according to Psalms 145:18-19.

Psalms 50:14-15 says that praying without a thankful spirit can hinder one's prayers.

According to James 4:3, a wrong motive can hinder prayer: **“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”**

Failure to keep God's commandments can hinder prayer, according to I John 3:22.

Sometimes praying casually instead of fervently can cause God to withhold answers. James 5:16 says, **“. . . The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”** Paul actually used the words “without ceasing” five times in connection with prayer.

Sometimes fasting must be added to our prayers, according to the words of Jesus in Matthew 17:18-21. Paul said "in fastings often" (II Cor. 11:27)

Also, we must remember that our prayers cannot go against God's will. I John 5:14-15 says, **"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."** The spiritual heartbeat of the believer should be **"not my will, but thine, be done"** (Luke 22:42), so selfish prayers that have little to do with God's will and God's kingdom often go unanswered.

Getting this all together, it's easy to see what kind of prayers that God is most interested in answering. He is interested in answering the sincere prayers of his faithful children as they consult him for various needs along the path of his will for their lives. So, rather than God letting people down, most have let him down by failing to meet the clear conditions of prayer given in his word.

Can a Woman be a Preacher?

No, God clearly forbids women preachers. I Timothy 2:11-12 says, **"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."** I Timothy 3:2 states that a bishop (a pastor) must be the HUSBAND of one wife, which is not possible for a woman. So it is unscriptural for a woman to be a preacher or a pastor. Women are not forbidden to teach children or younger women in appropriate settings, because this doesn't constitute the usurping of authority over men, but women serving as actual preachers is wholly unscriptural.

The preacher position is a position of "rule" (Heb. 13:7, 17, 24; I Tim. 3:5; 5:17), and from Genesis to Revelation God's rulers are men, not women. In fact, when God speaks of a nation in apostasy, having women in positions of authority is spoken of as a great error, not as a good thing: **"As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they**

which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths." (Isa. 3:12) Satan calls women to preach; God does not.

Of course, this brings up the subject of women's conferences where women preachers preach to and teach women only. Is this acceptable? No, it is unscriptural, since women preachers are unscriptural. The aged women are permitted to teach younger women (Titus 2:3-5), but not in any official capacity as God-called preachers and teachers. In fact, they are commanded to be "keepers at home," so most of the teaching is done there, not from a pulpit, and certainly not at a Joyce Meyer or Beth Moore "conference tour." All women "preachers" are living in rebellion against the word of God and they need to repent. Jesus' twelve disciples were all men, all sixty-six books of the Bible were written by men, and as the above scripture makes clear, women are expressly forbidden to serve as official teachers and preachers. Women who ignore these clear instructions from God are causing irreparable damage to the cause of Christ and will stand bitterly ashamed in the day of judgment.

The first woman to walk the earth was a deceived woman (I Tim. 2:14), and *you'll* likely be deceived, if you sit under one's preaching or teaching. That's Paul's point in referencing Eve in I Timothy 2:14. Women can be greatly used of God, but not in a pulpit or other setting where they are presented as being God-called teachers and preachers.

It might be the way of the world to place women on an equal plain with men, but the Bible record is that they are not equal to men (I Cor. 11:3; I Pet. 3:7), and God is against any effort or movement that suggests otherwise.

Are TV Preachers True Men of God?

Some of the preachers on local stations from local churches are men of God, but most of the nationally known preachers are multi-millionaire showmen who use their so-called "ministries" for the purpose of enriching themselves. While writing this paragraph, I looked up the estimated net worth of the first five TV preachers that came to mind. It's over 400 million dollars, and most of it was squeezed out of

people who make less than \$50,000 per year. So, no, those aren't men of God and they should not be followed.

But the truth is that many people watch TV preachers instead of attending a good local church as God commanded (Heb. 10:25). A man who dedicates himself and his family to the ministries of a good, Bible-believing church will have no time to waste on TV preachers. As for shut-ins who are unable to attend a local church, many good local churches livestream their services, and, as mentioned above, some of them televise their services on local stations, while others have weekly radio broadcasts. There's no need for anyone to be following the rich and famous, nationally known, TV showmen. They often teach false doctrines, and you'll be putting the spiritual wellbeing of yourself and your loved ones at risk by following them. God ordained the local church. Find a good one and be an active part of it.

Is Tithing Required?

Look out for people who delight in telling you that "tithing is not for today." If they have their way, you will be encouraged to do almost nothing for God and you will stand in tears at the judgment seat of Christ. Your devout service puts them to shame, so they want to discourage you. It's just that simple.

While it's true that tithing was part of the Old Testament law, it was also practiced BEFORE the law in Genesis 14, so viewing a tenth as a basic guiding principle is not a bad idea. Though tithing is not technically a requirement under grace, cheerful giving is a requirement (II Cor. 9:7), and you probably don't want to explain to God one day why you think that giving less than an Old Testament Jew amounts to cheerful giving.

Modern Christianity is filled with lukewarm Laodiceans trying to feel comfortable in their lukewarmness and getting under conviction when they see zealous believers actually doing something for God. God's instructions are for them to "be zealous therefore, and repent" (Rev. 3:19), not for you to do less than your best. Those people are useless, and you'll be useless, if you listen to them. In everything, stick with basic Bible principles, and go the extra mile as

often as possible. In the long run, you will grow spiritually rich and accomplish much for the glory of God, and you'll never regret it.

Why Did God Create the Devil?

God did not create the devil, anyone evil, or anything evil. Genesis 1:31 says that everything God created in the beginning was "very good." In fact, the word "good" is found a perfect seven times in Genesis chapter one (vss. 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31). There was no devil and no evil until the garden of Eden in Genesis chapter three when iniquity was found in Lucifer, the anointed cherub who deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit. Notice carefully the wording of Ezekiel 28:13-15:

"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."

This spirit being is called Lucifer in Isaiah 14:12. He wanted to be "like the most high" (Isa. 14:14), so he led mankind into sin and became what Paul called "the god of this world" (II Cor. 4:4). Lucifer could never rule over God righteous kingdom, so he created his own kingdom of darkness and sin by leading man to sin against God. His dream of being "like the most high" was echoed in his words to Eve in the garden: "ye shall be as gods." Lucifer has always worked through mankind. Even his "son of perdition," the Antichrist, will be a man (II Ths. 2:3; Rev. 13:18) So, there was never a moment of any kind of sin or rebellion before the garden of Eden. That's why the above

text from Ezekiel 28 says that Lucifer's sin was "in Eden," not before Eden. He became Satan, meaning "the adversary," when he led man into sin. So, in reality, instead of being created, Satan created himself by choosing to become God's enemy.

Why Did God Allow Sin into the World?

One Bible word probably sums up the best answer: FREEWILL. This word is found seventeen times in the Bible, and other similar terms, such as "whosoever will" and "whosoever shall" are found many times. God is a good God who allows man the freedom to choose. He didn't exactly "let sin into the world." He allowed man the freedom to choose, and man chose to sin. So, it was man, not God, who directly allowed sin into the world.

Think of the alternative. Had God not allowed man to sin, then man would be little more than a robot with no free will. If that were the case, it could be argued that God is a control freak dictator, scared that man will not freely love him, so he must oversee a super-controlled environment where man cannot be tempted and cannot be trusted to excel to his highest potential. This would limit man to being a bondsman, much like an animal in a cage, and it would fall very short of the holy character that we know God possesses. In light of God's holiness, the only sensible plan is to allow man to choose and to learn from the consequences of his choices. Sure, God allowed sin to enter the world, but he also provided the cure for sin, the Lord Jesus Christ, thus giving all men the freedom to choose.

Is this not exactly what every parent does with their children? Little by little, as the years roll by, we allow our children to make mistakes and to learn from them, and by the time they are eighteen to twenty-five years of age, we allow them to make most all of their own decisions, knowing full well that some will not be good ones. We are not bad parents for allowing this, and God is not a bad God for giving man a free will.

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

Human suffering is the result of man's sin, so by allowing sin into the world, God allowed suffering, and, as we just saw, God had to allow sin into the world, unless he wanted to rob man of a freewill.

Man sinned against God in Genesis 3:6-7, and God revealed to Adam and Eve the consequences of sin in Genesis 3:16-19. He told Adam and Eve that they would now experience sorrow and death. Before man's sin, there was no sickness, no pain, no sorrow of any kind. It was God's plan for man to live in peace and harmony, never having to experience sorrow and death. According to Genesis chapter three, it wasn't until man chose the way of Satan, rather than the way of God, that sorrow and death entered the world. Therefore, the suffering and sorrow that we see and experience today is not the work of an unjust God; it's the consequence of sin. The world is filled with sin, so the world is filled with suffering and death.

Paul writes in Romans 6:23, **"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."** Then two chapters later he writes, **"the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain"** (Rom. 8:22) That's because of sin that man brought into the world. Once God's redemption plan is complete with Satan condemned to the lake of fire and the Lord Jesus Christ ruling over all, we are promised **that ". . . God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."** (Rev. 21:4)

Meanwhile, God allows suffering in the world and even uses it to teach valuable lessons, such as the law of sowing and reaping, humility, patience, and personal experience that allows us to help others who suffer. Wise people learn and grow from suffering, while others grow bitter with God, so it's also fair to say that even though sin is the primary *cause* of suffering, God does use suffering to test our character and faith in him and in his words.

Are Tattoos Sinful?

While it's probably not correct to say that tattoos are sinful due to the command of Leviticus 19:28 (since we are under grace, not the Mosaic law), they can still constitute sin due to verses like I Thessalonians 5:22 and Romans 14:21. The Christian should care about his appearance and the effect that it can have on others.

But as the mark of the beast creeps closer, heathenistic tattoos are only going to become more commonplace. Satan will see to that. As this happens, more and more Christians are going to mark their bodies for life by caring more about pleasing the world than about being holy and pleasing God. Some of these Christians will eventually have a "what was I thinking?" moment and wish they had never gotten their tattoo(s). If that's the case with you, I have one simple piece of advice: **KEEP IT COVERED!**

Any Christian who publicly and purposely displays tattoos is not sorry for their actions. They need to feel guilt instead of feeling like everything is fine while setting bad examples. They are sending the message that such things are acceptable, even to young people, and they should know better. They just don't care, else they would keep the despicable things covered. If they can't completely cover a tattoo, then they should at least try to do so to the best of their ability, even if this requires some make-up or some sort of light bandage. Purposely displaying tattoos is not the example that anyone needs to be setting. If there's nothing you can do about one, then there's nothing you can do, but do what you can, and don't ever accept the ways of the heathen as normal behavior. God's people are to be holy, not heathen.

As for the argument that one can use his tattoos to better connect with gang members, bikers and such, he is also setting a BAD example for far more people, including children. If God wanted us to reach people in such a manner, he would have told us, but he told us to be holy and separate instead (I Pet. 1:16; 2 Cor. 6:17). We don't reach drunks with a can of beer in our hand, we don't reach druggies by smoking a joint, and we don't reach gang members by sporting tattoos. God wants people to see a new life in Christ, not leftovers from the old life.

Is Moderate Drinking a Sin for Christians?

Yes, it's a sin because it scars the testimony of the believer. While it's true that moderate drinking doesn't usually constitute the sin of drunkenness, which often includes flawed judgment and compromised morals, it does place a negative stigma on the believer's testimony which grieves the Holy Spirit and fails to glorify Christ.

Serious Christians want a clean testimony, and this is not possible when they are known to drink. We should abstain from all "appearance" of evil (I Ths. 5:22), and we should not engage in any activity that might cause other Christians to stumble (Rom. 14:21). No serious believer honestly thinks that Jesus or the Apostle Paul would engage in the social/moderate drinking of alcohol, so following their example requires abstinence.

As for the common argument that Paul told Timothy to "drink a little wine," this is not true. Timothy suffered from stomach ailments, so Paul told him to "use" a little wine: **"Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities."** (I Tim. 5:23) Moderate drinking is not being recommended. Paul only gave Timothy medical advice.

Should Christians Keep the Sabbath?

No, the Jews under the law of Moses were commanded to keep the Sabbath day (Saturday) as a *sign* of their relationship to God (Exo. 20:8-11; Ezk. 20:12, 20; Neh. 9:14). Since Jesus "finished" the Old Testament law, the Sabbath is no longer in effect as a sign between God and His people. Colossians 2:16-17 says, **"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."**

The "first day of the week" is the appointed day of worship for New Testament Christians. The disciples and New Testament Christians met and worshiped on the first day of the week (Acts 20:6-7; I Cor. 16:2). Jesus rose and completed our redemption on the first day of the week (Mark 16:9). Jesus met with His disciples after His resurrection, more than once, on the first day of the week (Mark 16:9-12; Mat 28:8-10; Luke 24:36). Jesus blessed His disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit on the first day of the week (John 20:19), and the Gospel of a risen Saviour was first preached on the first day of the week (Luke 24:34). Christians do not keep the Sabbath. We keep the first day of the week.

Some like to argue that Paul observed the Sabbath by going into the synagogues on the Sabbath (Acts 13:14, 17:2, 18:4), but this was done only as an effort to reach lost Jews with the gospel, not as any New Testament requirement.

That being said, there's nothing wrong with observing the Sabbath *principle* by setting aside one day per week for needed rest, not as a strict requirement, but rather as a benefit for body and mind.

Does God Have Guardian Angels Assigned to People?

Some of the brethren might disagree with this, but I believe God definitely assigns guardian angels to some people. Please note the wording of Psalms 91:9-12: **"Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.***"

That's pretty clear. But notice how the passage begins: **"Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation . . .*"** Today, that is done when a sinner places his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, so it's scriptural to say that Christians, to

some degree, have guardian angels. Psalms 34:7 says, **“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”** Again, the protection is not for every individual, but for those who fear God.

In II Kings 6, Elisha told his servant not to worry about the opposing army, because God had provided **“horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”** (II Kgs. 6:17), indicating an angelic host. Then in II Kings 19:35, **“. . . the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand . . .”** While it might not be correct to call these personal guardian angels, they are certainly angels of protection for God’s people.

Hebrews 1:14 says that angels are **“ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.”**

Peter was imprisoned in Acts 12 while the believers prayed for him. Then God sent an angel to release him (Acts 12:7). When Peter then came to the house where they were praying, they mistook him for **“his angel,”** whatever that means.

According to Jesus, children have angels: **“. . . in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father . . .”** (Mat. 18:10)

Then, we read that upon death believers are carried away by angels: **“. . . the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom . . .”** (Luke 16:22) No angels are mentioned in connection with the lost rich man, only with Lazarus.

There’s just too much scripture that stands in favor of some degree of guardian angels for us to discard the notion. So, yes, guardian angels are real, and when it’s his will, God often assigns them for our protection.

What Does the Bible Say about the Life of the Unborn?

All human life belongs to God, including unborn human life, and God has never authorized man (or woman)

to end that life. God has authorized us to end life in such cases as war, self defense, and capital punishment, but in over 31,000 verses of scripture, God never once granted us permission to kill an unborn baby. "My body, my choice" is from the deepest pits of hell, not from the inspired pages of scripture.

We are given a specific case in Exodus 21 which shows how God values the life of the unborn:

"If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life, Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe." (Exo. 21:22-25)

The pro-abortion crowd privately interprets the passage as follows:

"If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her (the baby dies), and yet no mischief follow: (but the woman lives) he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. (he pays for damages only; medical expenses, etc.) And if any mischief follow (the woman dies), then thou shalt give life for life, Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, Burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe."

That is, the pro-abortion view is that God places no life-value on the child, only on the mother, so capital punishment is only enforced when the mother dies. It's okay to kill an unborn child, but not its mother. That's the leftist view.

That, of course, is NOT what the passage said at all. Verse 22 does not say that the fruit departing from the mother means the baby died. It only says that the fruit departs from her, implying that the baby is born prematurely, but very much alive. The clause "yet no mischief follow" comes immediately after the statement about the fruit departing from her, so the clause refers

primarily to the newly-born baby. If mischief DOES follow, meaning the baby dies, then it's capital punishment: life for life, thus defining the "mischief" as the loss of life. The use of the words "if ANY mischief follow" would include the mother's life as well as the child's. So the passage is saying that a man who injures a mother and causes her to give birth must pay for damages, and if she or her child dies, then the man must be put to death. The fruit departing from the mother is only a premature birth, not a death. The mischief that follows indicates death, so capital punishment comes into play.

The Bible's first use of the word "mischief" concerns death (Gen. 42:4, 38), but there is no Bible precedent for believing that a woman's departed fruit has to be DEAD fruit. That's a private interpretation. There is no death in the passage until the "mischief" shows up, so the word of God does NOT undervalue the life of the unborn. No one has a right to kill a baby, born or unborn.

Could the Antichrist be an American President?

It is doubtful that the Antichrist will be an American, since every type of the Antichrist in the Bible is from the Mideast. Scriptures from Daniel and other prophets seem to indicate he will be a Syria-Jew, and II Thessalonians 2:4 says that the Antichrist will sit "in the temple of God," and that will be in Jerusalem. Since his reign will last "forty and two months" (Rev. 13:5), it doesn't seem likely that an American President would abandon the White House for three and one half years to rule from Jerusalem.

If the reader will look on a Mideast map and draw a large triangle with the three points being Haran, Egypt and the Persian Gulf, he will likely be looking at the home of the Antichrist. Every type of Antichrist in the Bible lived in this area, so it is unlikely that the Beast himself will be any exception. Perhaps it's possible, but not likely.

When Is It Okay to Disobey Government?

It's only acceptable to disobey **“the powers that be”** when they command us to disobey God. Peter and the other apostles said in Acts 5:29, **“. . . We ought to obey God rather than men.”** Only when government commands us to disobey God are we permitted to break the law.

Some like to reason that we aren't expected to obey bad governments, only good ones, but that won't work, since there are no good ones in the sense of government officials being saved and fearing God. The Roman government killed Jesus and Paul and thousands of other Christians, including some of the other apostles, yet Paul wrote to the Romans that their rulers were **“not a terror to good works”** (Rom. 13:3), and Peter said to **“honor the king”** (I Pet. 2:17), who at that time was Nero, most definitely not a saved or good man. The point is that, as a general rule, governments usually have good laws that punish evil doers, not the righteous, so we should be thankful and obey.

Human government has been an ordinance of God since Genesis 9, well over 4,300 years ago, so leaders are to be respected and obeyed as **“ministers of God”** (Rom. 13:1-4), unless they require us to violate scripture.

How Do We Explain Discrepancies between the Bible and Science?

There are none. Jesus said in John 17:17, **“thy word is truth.”** God's word uses the words “truth” and “true” nearly three-hundred times, the Holy Spirit is called the **“Spirit of Truth,”** and John 4:24 says that God wants to be worshiped **“in spirit and in truth.”** God's word is God's truth, and, being a true and holy God, he never says anything contrary to true science.

The problem is that not all “science” is true science. We are warned about this in I Timothy 6:20, where Paul says to avoid **“oppositions of science falsely so called.”** That is, people will oppose God's word by

appealing to the accepted views of those who call themselves “scientists.” We must remember that Satan is still the “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4), so lies are far more popular than truth.

The unsaved man wants to escape accountability to God, so he sits ready to believe most anything contrary to God’s word that unsaved professionals tell him. The professional “*has been to school and has been trained,*” he says, without having the discernment to understand that such training came from other unsaved people in a world mostly led by Satan. Revelation 12:9 tells us that Satan deceives the whole world, and “**science falsely so called**” is one of his methods.

For instance, we were told during the first year of the Covid pandemic that vaccines are safe and that most everyone should receive a vaccine and periodic booster shots. “*Follow the science,*” we were told. Yet, at the writing of this booklet five years later, there are thousands of cases where the vaccines proved to not be safe at all, and many professionals and true scientists are opposed to them altogether. The phrase “scientific consensus” was used a great deal during the first couple years of Covid, yet a consensus has nothing to do with science. Fifty criminals in a prison might unanimously consent to the notion that they all deserve to be set free, but they deserve only to remain behind bars until they have proved their innocence with evidence. Evidence is science. Consensus without proven evidence is only opinion or preference, and that’s what a great deal of “science” is today.

Children in grade school are taught that the earth is billions of years old and that their ancestors were monkeys. There is no scientific evidence for this, only unproven views of professed “scientists” who have been deceived by the books and lectures of other professed “scientists.” This is why they have divided human history into the two categories of recorded history and “pre historic” history. They can’t find any records of human existence before about 3,500 to 4,000 BC (since there was no life at all before then), so they call everything that they *think* existed before this time “pre historic.” There was NOTHING before this time, which is why they can’t document it! That’s fact; that’s science! Yet, that agrees with God’s word, which makes them accountable

to God, and they refuse to face that reality. So, a “prehistoric” fantasy world was created with unlimited time and unlimited possibilities for explaining away God and God’s holy law for man. After all, if there’s no God, then there’s no accountability for sin, and everyone can live as he pleases. Make no mistake about it: THAT is the number one objective of modern “science,” and that’s why God warned us about it nearly 2,000 years ago.

God’s word does not contradict science; it contradicts science falsely so called.

Why Doesn’t the Bible Mention Dinosaurs?

The question is usually rooted in a bit of skepticism about God’s word, since it is commonly believed that dinosaurs DID live on earth millions of years ago, yet the Bible doesn’t seem to mention them. Well, “doesn’t mention” and “doesn’t SEEM to mention” are two different things altogether. The Bible most likely does mention dinosaurs; it just uses words like “dragon,” “beheemoth,” and “leviathan” instead of “dinosaur,” “tyrannosaurus” and “brontosaurus.” This is like asking, “Why doesn’t the Bible mention Iran and Iraq?” It does every time it mentions Persia and Babylon. The word “dinosaur” (meaning “terrible lizard”) wasn’t invented until 1842 by English paleontologist Sir Richard Owen. Before then the most common term, in the Bible and in secular history was “dragons.”

But the question really digs at something a bit deeper than semantics. The question often suggests that the Bible is in error for being silent about a time period in which these creatures lived, known as “the prehistoric world.” THAT is a huge mistake.

The word “prehistoric” is very misleading. Just like the word “dinosaur,” this word cannot be found in Webster’s 1828 American Dictionary to the English Language, because the word wasn’t needed before the theory of evolution was invented. The New Webster’s Dictionary and Thesarus, 1992 edition, (which Noah Webster DIDN’T write) defines “prehistoric” with these words: “of or related to the period

before recorded history.” Most historians agree that recorded history begins between 4,000 and 3,500 B.C. As a brief example, consider these words from the World Almanac:

“If history began with writing, the first chapter opened in Mesopotamia, the Tigris-Euphrates river valley. The Sumerians used clay tablets with pictographs to keep records after 4000 B.C.”

So, “prehistoric” would have reference to a time period before 4,000 B.C. There is no real evidence that such a time period ever existed, so there is no real proof that “prehistoric” animals ever lived. The Bible record (part of recorded history) is that all animals were created around 4,000 B.C., so all “prehistoric” findings are actually the remains of animals which died between 4,000 B.C. and our present day. Yes, this includes dinosaurs.

Also notice that in the World Almanac quote above recorded history begins exactly where Adam and Eve began — “the Tigris-Euphrates river valley.” (Gen. 2:10-15)

So, the Bible does mention dinosaurs and it does include them as part of God’s Genesis creation. They lived on earth with man (which is why human footprints have been found in dinosaur footprints), and this was less than 6,000 years ago. Most of them died in Noah’s flood, and the rest either could not survive in the post-flood climate or they were eventually killed.

Couldn’t God Have Brought Life into Existence Through Evolutionary Processes?

No, this is not possible, because the record of scripture plainly states that God created the earth and all that is therein in six literal days. Life forms were ordained to reproduce after their own “kinds,” and no new life was created after the sixth day (Gen. 1-2). This contradicts evolution theory which has life continuously evolving with

new species being produced by natural processes over millions of years. There is no way to reconcile natural, gradual evolution with supernatural, spontaneous creation. The former requires millions of years and no God, while the latter requires God working within a literal six day period. Nowhere in scripture are we told to compromise this doctrine by merging it with the theories of man. Jesus believed in creation, not evolution (Mark 10:6; 13:19), and God's word never speaks of such Darwinian ideas as evolution, natural selection, adaptation, speciation, genetics or mutation, although it does speak frequently of the Creator and his creation.

Answering Every Man

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“Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, that I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?” (Pro. 22:20-21)

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