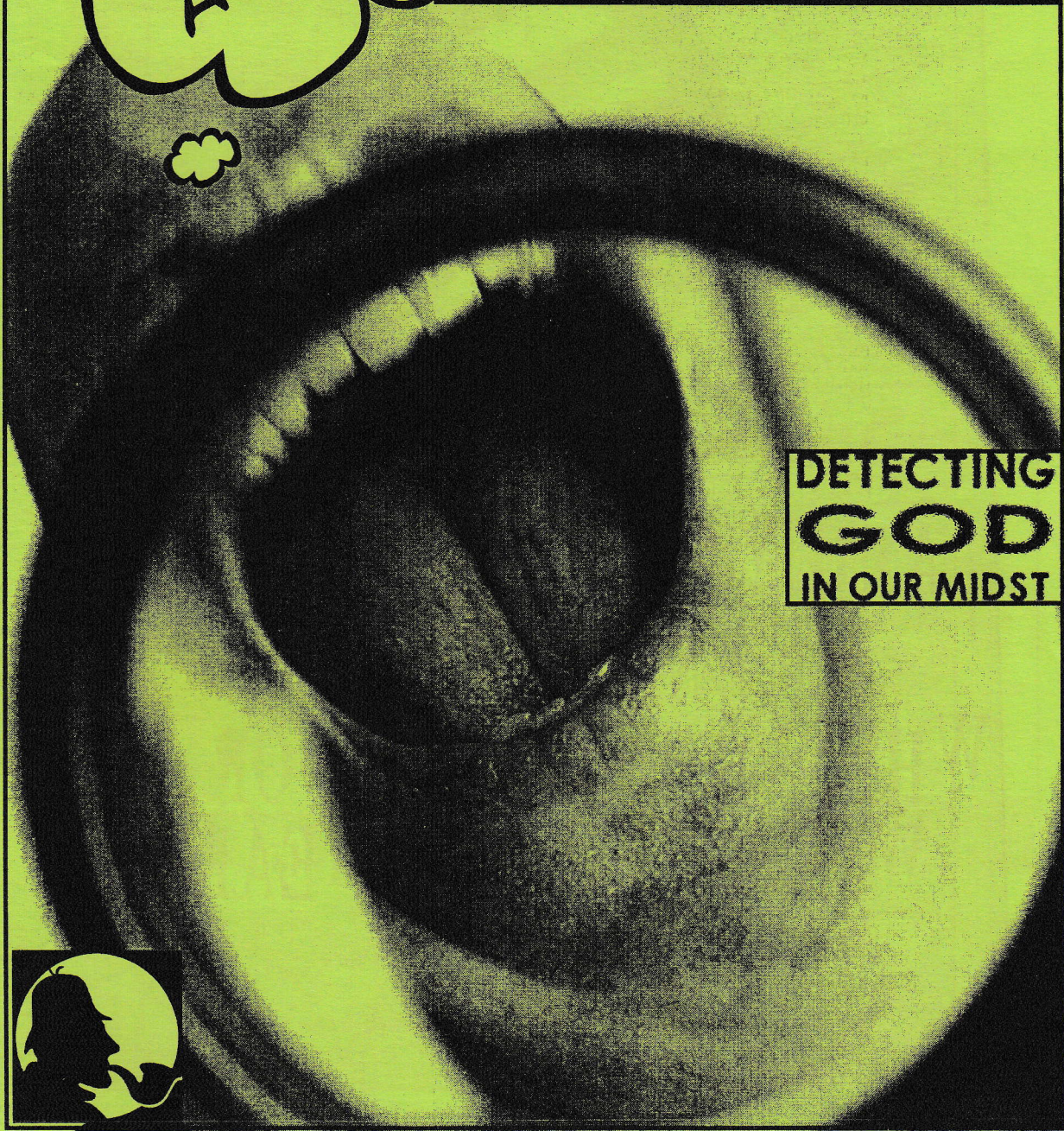




ISSUE
14

Word on the street
magazine

A Street Level Ministries Publication • SPRING 2003



**DETECTING
GOD
IN OUR MIDST**



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WORD *on the street*
magazine

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In The NEWS

WORLD PEACE

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:9.

The elusive peace. President Woodrow Wilson called World War I the war to end all wars - and yet, a steady stream of battles and skirmishes has followed since. The great Cold War ended, only to see Iraq invade Kuwait. Albanians are still blowing up the homes of Serbians in the middle of the night and rebel groups still worry the Philippines. There are constant bombings in Israel. Pakistan and India are eyeing each other over the border, precariously balanced on their teetering fence. People are dying; real people with names and childhoods and families.

A faith movement growing around the world hopes to change all this and to usher in a new era of world peace. The founder of the Bahai faith, Baha'u'llah, a hundred years ago taught that the age of maturity for the entire human race had come. The human race would unite in compassion and understanding as the foundation for the highest stage in human spiritual and social evolution, as promised by the scriptures of the world. All of human history has been merely the childhood and adolescence of our civilization. The struggles between people groups are growing pains. Soon, humankind will grow up, and after a few last struggles, will finally embrace one another in true unity and peace.

Bahais believe that major religious leaders through time - Buddha, Krishna, Zoroaster, Jesus, Mohammed, Baha'u'llah - have all been spiritual luminaries, agents of one civilizing process. The followers of these religions, Bahais tell us, must stop clinging to the idea that their religions are superior, and stop the fighting between themselves. We must get beyond all that, they tell us, or we hinder the way to that great peace we all desire. We must get beyond the idea that humanity is inherently selfish, the cynicism and distrust of one another. Great peace is inevitable, but we must embrace it.

These views of the world, in varying degrees, are fairly popular, among not only the Bahai community but among many eastern and New

nature. They argue that aggressive behavior is caused by religious misconceptions, family life, and cultural upbringing. A growing number of people in both western and eastern nations believe that there is no real difference between the religions of the world, that peace is possible if we are all willing to set aside our differences. You're okay. I'm okay. Let's have tea.

Those who hold the opposing views, however, are not appreciated for the diversity they bring to the discussion. They argue that wars are not a part of humanity's adolescence, but a part of its fallen nature. They see the opportunists, the power-hungry, the greedy waiting to take advantage of both war and "peace". As long as siblings fight over who gets to sit in the front seat, there will be conflict in the world. If we're honest with ourselves, we'll admit that same pride and selfishness exists in all of us.

The Bible takes the latter position regarding human nature. Humanity has a severe sin problem. While God has sent the Way, the only Way, for us to be free from the bondage of sin, the majority of the world has rejected him. And unless the sin problem within each person is dealt with, then there is no human hope for the great peace that the Bahais seek. But, through Jesus, we each have hope for peace and confidence - even in troubled times.

The Bible also tells us that there will come a time of true peace, but it will not come through the efforts of human government. When the King of kings, the Son of David, comes and sits on his throne - then the most righteous government on earth will be instituted.

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Isaiah 2:4

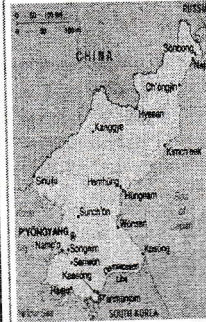
"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." Isaiah 11:6

Even so, Come Lord Jesus.

www.khouse.org

Age religions. A large portion of the world believes that humanity is actually good by

North Korea Remains Atop Persecution 'World Watch List'



Santa Ana, CA
The isolated communist nation of North Korea remains atop the Open Doors "World Watch List" of countries where Christians are persecuted. The annual list ranks countries according to the

intensity of persecution Christians face actively pursuing their faith.

Saudi Arabia holds the second spot on the list followed by Vietnam. North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam are noted as countries where "severe persecution" is taking place. Other countries listed in the WWL's Top Ten include: Laos, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Somalia and Iran. China is listed 11th.

For years, very little information about the church emerged from Kim Il Sung's harsh North Korea regime, which is now ruled by his son, Kim Jong Il. Some even wondered if the church had survived the decades of severe oppression. Recent years, however, have seen a relative "flood" of information coming from North Korean refugees fleeing China to escape famine. They report that the church has not only survived, but even grown, perhaps to 400,000 Christians who worship in secret. But to visibly practice the Christian faith in North Korea today can still result in imprisonment and death.

www.worthynews.com

Evolution: A Guess, Not a Fact?



The latest news stories about evolution may show the theory is just that....a guess...not a fact.

This story sounds familiar. A new fossil discovery is raising questions over the origin of human beings. The BBC reports scientists have been able to piece together

missing pieces of a 3.5 million-year-old skeleton. And, the bone structure has led them to believe the human ancestor did not walk on its hands like modern-day chimpanzees. Dr. Ron Clarke says, "It walked on two legs and spent most of its time climbing trees, which could mean there's a bigger gap between humans and chimps than previously believed. Other scientists don't share the view and the posture of both gorillas and chimps may have evolved after the species diverged from humans, explaining the differences."

—Carl Ramsey

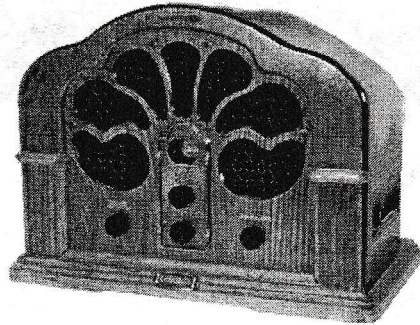
Another View of the News
uninews.com

Scum of the Earth

They're not really the "scum of the earth," but attendees of a church by that name in Denver don't mind being called its members. With their tattoos, body piercings and alternative hairstyles, Charisma News Service says those who attend the Scum of the Earth Church say they are finding acceptance in a setting that's meant to make outcasts feel welcome so they can hear the Gospel. Scum of the Earth began two and a half years ago as a Bible study led by the Christian band Five Iron Frenzy. According to the pastor, the church's name is based on a verse in the New Testament book of First Corinthians that mentions the phrase in the New International Version.

—Carl Ramsey

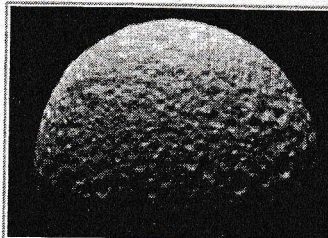
Another View of the News
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Radio Changed Their Lives

An entire family in Asia was determined to commit suicide. The date was even set. Little did they know God would use their radio to stop them. The father, Kuttappan, was very sick. The doctors said there was nothing they could do. He prayed to the gods he had carved out of stone, but they did not answer. Finally his wife said, "If you are going to die, then I will die with you. Let us take poison, together with our children, and end our family." They then prepared to die. On the morning of the planned suicide, Kuttappan turned on his radio as he lay in bed. He heard these amazing words: "Whatever your need is, Jesus is the answer! He can forgive your sins. He can heal your sickness. All you need to do is invite Him into your life." At the end of the broadcast, Kuttappan received Christ as his Savior. At that moment, something incredible happened. His heart was filled with peace, and strength returned to his body. When he told his wife and children what happened, they were touched and also gave their lives to Christ. The day set aside for their death became the first day of their new life in Christ.

www.gfa.org



MARS

The red planet will grow increasingly bright in the night sky as its orbit comes the closest to Earth it has been for thousands of years. At 5:51 a.m. EDT on Aug. 27, 2003, Mars will be

within 34,646,418 miles (55,758,006 kilometers) of Earth and will shine brighter than any other object in the night's sky besides Venus and the moon.

webmaster@khouse.org for December 31, 2002

GOD REVEALED: Through Creation

No one can deny that our complex universe is an astounding, majestic marvel. The mere contemplation of its vastness and grandeur causes our heads to spin. Yet how did it get here? Can it be, as so many scientists contend, that this all happened because of an enormous explosion? Or did it come about as the result of the careful design of an infinite God?

God, yet his riches and his children had been taken away, and he was afflicted with boils.

After a long period of seeking answers to his questions about God, Job finally heard directly from Him. Speaking to him out of a whirlwind, God told Job that to see Him he should look beyond his immediate difficulties and observe nature and the world around him (Job 38). Let's look at some of the specifics

- The wonder of a new dawn (v.12).
- The wonder of the ocean depths (v.16).
- The wonder of the life-death cycle (v.17).
- The wonder of the origin of light (v.19).

- The wonder of an electrical storm (v.24).


- The wonder of the wind (v.24).

- The wonder of the hydrological cycle (vv.25-30).

- The wonder of animals nurturing their young (vv.39-41).

In essence, God was saying, "In your anguish, you are asking where I am while you suffer. Look again at the world around you, and you will see Me there and be reminded of My wisdom and power." Bruce Demarest, author of *General Revelation*, wrote, "Through the medium of a

magnificent creation, Job perceived the reality of God. Awestruck, abased, and filled with reverence at the contemplation of God in His works, Job opened his mouth and said, 'I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes'" (Job 42:5,6).



**If a watch proves the existence of a watchmaker but the universe does not prove the existence of a great Architect, then I consent to be called a fool.
—Voltaire**

Let's look briefly at two Bible passages that speak of God's revelation of Himself through nature. First, let's turn to the Old Testament book of Job. As you may recall, Job was severely tested by the devil. Like people today, he had great difficulty finding an acceptable answer to the question: How could a good God allow injustices such as pain and suffering? Here was a man who had been identified as one who truly loved

of nature in this passage and see what conclusion they lead us to make.

- The wonder of the world's formation (vv.4-6).
- The wonder of the heavens (v.7).
- The wonder of the ocean-land balance (v.8).

Many of the Psalms also testify that nature gives us evidence of the existence of God. Psalm 19:1-4, for example, says that the eloquent voice of God can be heard throughout all creation. The psalmist wrote:

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun.

Day and night, the psalmist said, the glory of God is made known through "the heavens" and "the firmament." And their message is available to all who will hear, for their voice goes out to all the earth and will be heard "to the end of the world."

To provide a case in point to support the psalmist's contention, we could go in many different directions. We could address the logical improbability that life began without an outside stimulus, no matter how much time scientists postulate for such an occurrence. We could speak of the intricate pattern of the movement of the bodies in the universe—including amazing pinpoint timing of their courses in relation to one another. We could talk about the precise tilt of the earth, its exact distance from the sun, and its accurate journey through our solar system—all prerequisites for the temperate climate we enjoy.

For the sake of brevity, let's examine only one tiny, vital part of our existence—the eye. Let's see how its complexity implies the involvement of an intelligent designer and defies the idea of random development.

According to most people who don't believe in God, we have achieved our present physical condition on the basis of evolution. They tell us that what started as a single-celled something-or-other a few hundred million years ago has finally worked its way to humanhood. But let's consider this small organ of the body and see if it could have logically taken that evolutionary route. If it didn't, then could we reasonably deduce that it came from the hands of a Grand Designer?

Here's the case. If you were to take away any part of the eye—the retina, for example—the eye does not work. Or subtract just the lens. No sight. The cornea? Blindness. For the eye to function, all parts must be present and functional. That in itself is a strong argument for design.

But let's go in another direction. Let's take that concept back into the evolutionary chain. Somewhere along the way, a creature making its way to humanity would have had to begin having an eye. But how did it start? The eye couldn't have evolved, because there was nothing that would have caused a creature to begin forming a sightless eye. Since the evolutionary theory says changes come about because of adaptation, what would have caused an eyeless thing to will a useless eye into its head? How would it know it would ever need an eye that could see?

An eye can either see or it can't, and there is no reason for a creature to develop a partial eye just so it could become a seeing eye later. So where did the eye begin? Randomly or by design? The mind-staggering intricacy of the eye and the interrelatedness of all necessary parts attests to a Designer and Creator who knew what He was doing.*

The Bible claims that God is the source of it all. The writer of Hebrews made such an assertion when he said:

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible (11:3).

That is an amazing statement. It claims that God spoke into existence the worlds of our universe—using nothing we can see for His raw materials.

While that seems hard to believe, it makes great sense when compared with the alternative. If indeed the worlds were not made by God out of nothing, then the next-best solution is that the worlds were made by no one out of nothing. Compare the two ideas for reasonableness and see which conclusion you come to.

*This illustration was taken from the book, *The Truth: God or Evolution?* by Marshall and Sandra Hall, Baker Book House, 1975.

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<http://www.gospelcom.net/rbc/ds/q0101/point1.html>

¿SAY WHAT?

For Children Only

(by Rich Mullins)

The woman on the television had that smug-uppity look on her face and that grimly condescending tone in her voice when she looked dead on into the camera and at point blank range announced with ridiculous earnest something that was hysterically, ironically true:

"Miracles are for children," she said with her educated, wilted monotone - a delivery you might call deadpan if she was trying to be funny. The funny thing is, she was not.

But she was right - miracles are for children. And the truth that popped out from between those lips that sophistication had soured, seemed to stop short of the heart of its intended target, look back in wonder, and scratch its head at the unflattering set of jaws whose bite it had accidentally escaped. That truth could have been no sweeter or more true if it had been spoken by Christ Himself.

And Christ Himself did say much the same in so many words, especially if we take the idea of miracle at its most exact sense: "the suspension of the laws of nature by divine intervention." Christ preached what He Himself called the "Good News" of the kingdom of God - a kingdom full of miracles. He Himself said that in this Kingdom the poor would know comfort - and even the most debauched hedonists among us know that if comfort is found by anyone, it is a miracle. In this kingdom of miraculous comfort, Christ said that the meek would inherit the earth (quite contrary to the law of survival of the fittest), the hungry would be satisfied (not a popular notion in a consumerist society), the pure would have vision (a threat to a world that thrives on sensationalism) and the peacemakers (not the most heavily armed aggressors) would be esteemed.

The TV lady and Jesus were in complete agreement about miracles being for children. But then the TV woman said that grown-up people, grown up societies, do not need miracles. She said that the grown-up meanings that Jesus meant did not need the theatrical trappings that He dressed them in - those circus costume miracles (those funny, childish gags like the calming of storms, the cleansing of lepers, the raising from the dead). She said we did not need miracles to find Christ or to be part of His kingdom.

Therein is the rub. Christ said that His kingdom - the world where He Himself reigns - is for children. He Himself said that if we don't need a miracle we will most likely have little interest in Him. If we are able to get along joyfully in the grown-up world of supply, demand, survival, aggression, sensations and consumerism, then we'd probably have too low to stoop and too much trimming to do to slip through that needle's eye gateway to Him. If we aren't sick, we don't need a doctor. If we aren't lost, we don't need a leader.

If we aren't sick, we
don't need a doctor.
If we aren't lost, we
don't need a
leader.

But, if we can admit a need, if we aren't as altogether as we sometimes secretly fear we're not, if we can shed our thick-skinned self-reliance and peel off that thin veneer of satisfaction - then there is a place for us in His kingdom and a fairly fat chance that we can loosen our load and slip on through. If we can find that courage... or that honesty... if we can be needy, helpless, blessed as a child...

O Lord, this is me calling - an adult in an adult world, needing to be a child again in a kingdom for children. O Lord - can you make me that? It will take a miracle.





News from David Pierce
of Steiger International:

OCHO RIOS, JAMAICA (ANS) – The cities of Jamaica can be dangerous places to be in especially if you are white. It was the first time I had experienced what appeared to be hatred for my race. I guess it was understandable, as white people had abused the Jamaicans, using them as slaves in the past. This gave rise to the Rastafarian movement, which has been known to be anti-white.

It is not safe in most cities during the day. Only countries in civil war have a more violent crime rate than Jamaica. "Rude boy" gangs and other gangs were everywhere. During our evangelistic concert with No Longer Music, we showed the brokenness of a girl who has been abused. We do this to show how Jesus weeps for broken people. But we had to cut this scene out of our set because the first time we did it people laughed and cheered. It was also the first place I ever played where the crowd wanted MORE blood! They applauded when I portrayed Jesus being crucified.

After a hellish drive (our driver drove like a lunatic) we arrived at night in the city of Ocho Rios. We expected to see a stage. Instead we saw only people milling around a square where we were supposed to play. Our band stood there lost between speakers that were loaded out of a truck onto the ground. Nothing was arranged. No power, nothing. So an extension cord was laid over a busy road. While cars drove over the electrical cord in the middle of the road, we started to set up.

My band was wonderful. Out of nothing they made something. Torn plastic serving as a backdrop, an old P.A. was put together. Hundreds gathered in the city square waiting for us to begin. I felt really discouraged. We had put so much effort into being there and the local church had put zero effort into the arrangements.

Everything was going wrong. The sound system slowly stopped working. First the guitar stopped going through the sound system. Then the bass guitar stopped working. When I tried to speak at the end, the sound system went completely out and was making horrible distorting sounds whenever I tried to speak.

A lot of people have the idea that a sign of God's will is that things go easy. The way that we can know that we are doing what God wants us to do is that the path before us is open and easy to walk on. But that's not what Jesus said. Jesus said in

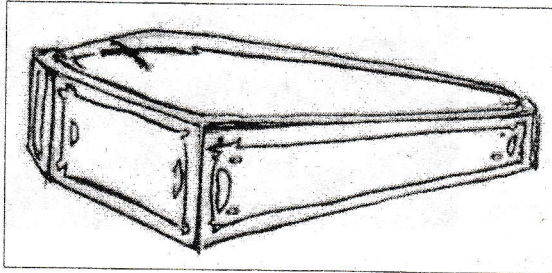
John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Jesus said that if we follow Him we would have trouble. If everything in my life is smooth and easy it is probably a sign of a wasted life, because to follow Jesus means to go against the world's system. And that means I'm going to face opposition sometimes.

That night we were facing just about every kind of opposition I could think of. The church that was supposed to support us deserted us, our equipment was broken down, I was tired and discouraged and the crowd was hostile.

But even though everything was going against us that night I needed to keep my eyes on Jesus. Because Jesus also said don't be afraid, I have overcome the world. Even in the midst of the most difficult situation God promises that he will be there with me.

So I told the guy working the P.A. to just turn it off. I climbed onto the coffin that we have with us as a prop, which was on a table in the middle of the square. I decided to just preach on top of the coffin without a microphone.



The whole situation was crazy but in spite of this I have NEVER felt such a strong sense of the Holy Spirit as I spoke. While I was explaining who Jesus was, people were captivated. A Rasta guy with a

big machete in his bag who was chanting during our concert listened quietly. I felt an overwhelming sense of God's love for these tough young men. I told them they had to humble themselves.

"Get on your knees if you want to know Jesus!" I said. Some of the most cynical mockers were the first to fall on their knees. Suddenly all over the town square there were tough gangster kids kneeling, crying, and praying.

As our band prayed for those who were kneeling we could feel the Holy Spirit's power surging through us. One tough 20-year-old guy knelt with me while tears were rolling down his face. He told me that he wanted to surrender his life to Jesus!

With every kind of problem and opposition it was one of the most powerful evenings I have ever experienced.

David Pierce can be contacted by email at steiger@ihug.co.nz
For more info about Steiger International, check out: www.steiger.org

CROSSING THE BRIDGE

Each of us has a choice. We can look at the evidence for God's existence and believe that He is there, or we can set aside the evidence and decide that there is no God. Either way, we must cross a bridge of faith, because neither argument can present laboratory verification. The key question is this: In a matter that is so basic to our well-being and in a question that demands an answer, which position can we most honestly choose? Let's look once again at the options that can guide us as we cross the bridge.

OPTION 1: God does exist.

- The natural world reflects a designer and maker as much as a wristwatch or a dictionary.
- Human conscience exists as an inner voice that allows the person who believes in God to follow his best judgment and highest instincts.
- The Old and New Testament Scriptures claim to speak in behalf of God in a manner that is consistent with the evidence of God in both creation and conscience.
- Christ is the ultimate evidence of God in that He is claimed to be the Creator (John 1:3), the source of our conscience (John 1:9), and the focus of Scripture (John 5:39).



OPTION 2: God does not exist.

- Our world, with all its resources, complexities, and orderliness came about with no personal impetus, cause, or source. Everything just happened.
- The laws that govern our universe have developed without guidance or direction.
- Great and almost magical leaps were taken along the evolutionary way, allowing nonplants to cross the chasm to become plants, and nonanimals to become animals. Without guidance,

these beings developed brains where nonbrains had been and sensory organs where nothing like them had been.

- Randomness accounts for the delicate, unique composition of our planet that makes possible our existence on this oasis of life in the desert of a hostile universe.
- Man is without a spirit. His existence ends at death, just as it does for dogs and cats.
- Any morality that man possesses is contrived and societal in origin. Therefore, no one can be expected to make value judgments for others,

• The Bible--a Book that was written by 40 diverse men who lived over a span of 1,500 years, kept separate records, recorded events independently, and told a remarkably singular story--is an incredible coincidence.

• There is no master plan for mankind. Our existence is an accident, our work on earth is fruitless, and our relationships with one another are ultimately meaningless. Like a pack of wild animals, we have no other purpose on earth but survival.

• Christ was not telling the truth when He said He was the Son of God who came from heaven to rescue us from eternal death and bring us to God.

Upon which option are you willing to stake your eternal destiny? Which bridge will you cross?

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<http://www.gospelcom.net/rbc/ds/q0101/page4.html>



Beatnik's Corner

"COME OUT, COME OUT...."

I've looked in my closet,
and under the stairs.
I checked in the toilet,
and under my chair.

But nowhere is God to be found,
and I'm weary of searching, and
running around.

I've looked under rocks,
and I've checked under
stones,
I've dug through the
garbage,
and piles of bones.

It's hard to find out
where He's hiding.
I'm starting to think
that my pastor is
lying.

I've watched on the
TV,
and listened to news.
I've gone to the library,
searching for clues.

But where is the guy they call
"LORD"?
I'm tired of looking, and frankly I'm
bored.

I've gone through my hamper,
and buckets of grease.
I've walked through the prairies,
and thickets, and trees.
But where is the LORD when
you need him?
And what does he look like,
and when will I meet him?

I've looked in the river,
and dug in the dirt.
I've checked in my pockets,
and under some skirts.

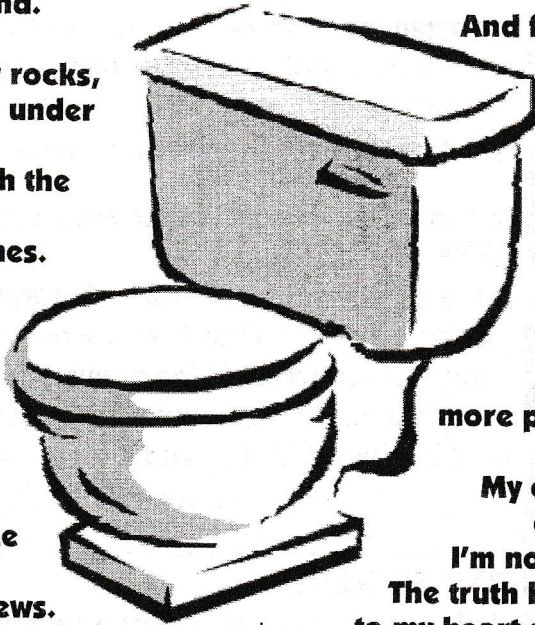
And finally my spirit was
broken,
but in me a
glimmer of hope
was awoken.

I read in the Bible,
and lo' and
behold,
within was a
treasure,
more precious than gold.

My eyes have been
opened,
I'm no longer blind.
The truth has been shown
to my heart and my mind.

For God doesn't hide
under benches or stairs,
but *you* may be hiding...

...(come out if you dare).



WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD?



[ā s t ū d e n t p o l l]



TIM PARROTT:

“Yes I have searched for God, and I would define God as the loving creator of all the universe.”

QUESTION:

Have you ever searched for God, and if so, how would you define God?

Do you have an idea of who God is?



CHERL SAVATSKI:

“Not necessarily searched for Him, I went to a Lutheran grade school so it was sort of handed to me. I would probably define him as someone you can always talk to, a friend, guardian, and father who is very forgiving and always there.”



SARA SCHLOSSER:

“Yeah, I guess, I would think that everybody has at some point in their lives. I would consider it more of an overall being of everything, not so much a person up above. The closest thing to God is a beautiful day, and just seeing the beauty in everything, the little details.”



TIM BERGELIN:

“Not consciously, there was a period when I was depressed and felt really alone, and I almost killed myself, but something stopped me, and it wasn't me. I thought it was God, and I felt this strong presence and promised I wouldn't kill myself. So there has definitely been this presence in my life. God means everyone has a common consciousness. It is the energy of life and of living. God is not a name, and there are many interpretations.”

Student Poll Response:

One of the first things a person encounters as they begin their college career is the college ideal of God. It is a very specific viewpoint; limited in its scope while claiming to be all-accepting. This view tells you to think for yourself and, in the same breath, tells you exactly what to think. Open-mindedness is perpetuated by professors as the sole virtue, while they themselves close their minds to fact and reason.

The reality is that many students spend four years swept up in this tide, never quite gaining clarity or real answers to their questions. Do you have an idea of who God is? Do you care? Students dabble in Americanized forms of Eastern religion, they seek wisdom in the opinions of writers and long-dead scholars, and they hold the psyche and the intellect in the highest position of importance, next to the instinctual drive of emotions.

There are many inherent problems with this college god. It is not only generic and empty, self-serving and powerless, but in the light of our struggles in life and those in our own minds, college god does not work. At this point in our lives as students and twenty-somethings, we are apt to think that we can afford to be flippant, not really knowing and not really seeking answers. But the evidence is there, pointing to one True God, and His perfect love for us is evident every day. You can know the True and Living God, creator of this universe, because through His Son, Jesus Christ, He offers us a personal relationship with Him. He never asks us to abandon reason and intellect: "Come now, let us reason together says the Lord..." (Isaiah 1:18) His words will not fade with the passing of time or the changing

of societies: "...Lord, to whom would we go? You alone have the words of everlasting life, we believe them, and we know that you are the Holy One of God" (John 6:68-69). He offers us perfect love free of any strings attached, just the way we are. Here are the characteristics of God's love for all of us.

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance."

(1 Corinthians 13:4-10 NLT)

We all have the opportunity to experience this love from a God who is so much more than an energy, a force, or a statue.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send His son into the world to condemn it, but to save it." (John 3:16-17 NLT)

"For the truth about God is known to you instinctively. God has put this knowledge in your hearts. From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God."

(Romans 1:19-20 NLT)

It is our choice to push this truth away, or to seek after it.

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FOUR-SLICE

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*feed Science Report

Jer 15:16 [your words were found and I ate them]

an initial life form, from which all subsequent life evolved.

Let's now open the sealed jar and carefully examine the contents inside. Did you find any "new life"?

Of course not! (And aren't you glad!) Our example even contains *organic* material, which contributes an unfavorable bias to our null hypothesis (a handicap, as it were), but even that, too, helps establish our basic point. To attempt to use *inorganic* materials in such a container further clinches our conclusion: did we really evolve from a rock and some water?

The equation implied by our current priesthoods of science is *erroneous*: the underlying equation is incomplete.

matter + energy ≠ new life
matter + energy + information--> new life

The Kitchen Laboratory

The next time you open a brand-new jar of jam, jelly, or peanut butter, let's find out how good of a scientist you are!

Do you carefully follow the evidence, or do you blindly accept the prevailing folklore? Are you a victim of the myths and legends of our time, or do you think critically for yourself?

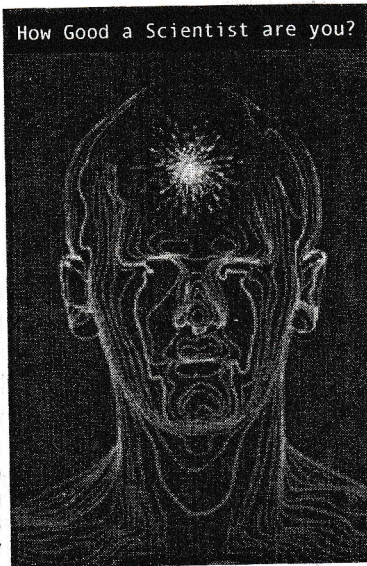
Our entire culture—our science, our social structure, and our educational system—is based on the specious premise of biogenesis: that **matter + energy --> new life** (at least on rare occasions)

Let's conduct an experiment. Take a new (unopened) jar of jam, jelly, or even peanut butter—direct from the supermarket shelf—and examine it carefully.

Notice that it is an "open" thermodynamic system: energy can enter and leave the container as it is exposed to different temperatures. (In fact, the container is probably also optically transparent, but that is incidental to our purposes here.)

According to the dogmas of the current high priest of biology (and other venerated elders of our society), occasionally, if you combine matter and energy, it is possible to yield new life forms. The accepted theory is that even inorganic matter, subjected to totally random processes, originally combined itself into

How Good a Scientist are you?



Unless there is introduced *information*, from an external source—a spore, or some other essential contaminant—no "new life" will ever be found. Ever.

Every day, for over a hundred years, we have continually conducted *billions* of experiments analogous to the one above and we never find any "new" life forms. Our entire food industry *depends* upon the fact that, unless an impurity is introduced, no "new life" is ever found. The Darwinists cannot explain the origin of life because they cannot explain the origin of the *information* necessary!

Take a leaf off a tree or a flower from the garden; examine almost any living thing under a microscope, and you are inescapably confronted with the evidence of *design*: elegant, skilled craftsmanship that remains virtually unparalleled by man.

As we enjoy the variety of treats over the holidays, consider the complexity of our digestive system: how we can intake such a variety of foodstuffs, and yet our body

will selectively take precisely what it needs and pass the unneeded on through (along with the refuse from its own internal processes) and dispose of the excesses. It is a process so complex that it is still only partially understood and continues to defy attempts at comprehensive simulation on the most elaborate computers available.

We now know that even the "simplest" cells are more complex than a city filled with automated factories—building, manipulating, adjusting, growing. And they can do something that our factories cannot do: they can replicate their entire complexity in a matter of a few hours! We are just beginning to understand the nature of the three-out-of-four, error-correcting, digital coding structure used to coordinate the entire operation: the DNA code.

Virtually every field of science—except biology—has recognized the entropy laws which refute the possible emergence of design in the absence of external input. *Microbiology* has now put the final nails into Darwin's coffin.

Every time you open a fresh, new jar of some food item, and don't find evidence of "new life," you have conducted an empirical experiment which refutes the common superstition which continues to be promoted by the orthodox witch doctors of biogenesis: that life occurred without the involvement of a master designer. This, of course, also exposes the real motives of

the vested priesthood: prostituting their avowed "seeking of truth" to their committed resolve to avoid any accountability to a Creator.

Think about it. And follow the evidence, not the prevailing superstitions. Pursue *evidence-based education* in lieu of the contrary-to-fact dogmas inculcating our youth and bankrupting their understanding of the miracle of their origin, thus denying them the majesty of their destiny.

This article was written by Chuck Missler and appeared in the Personal UPDATE December 2002 newsletter by Koinonia House.

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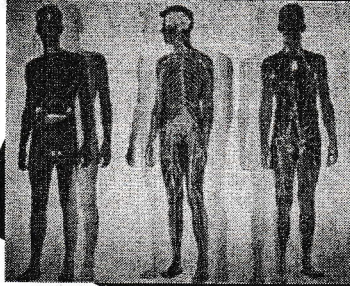
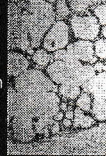
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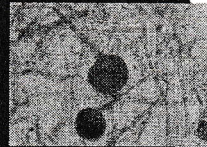
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For more info on this subject, check out www.khouse.org

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MISCONCEPTIONS, MISUNDERSTANDINGS, AND MISINTERPRETATIONS

Dear Believer, You ask me to accept Jesus as my personal Savior; yet his behavior and teachings often expose one who should be escaped, not sought. I only ask that you read what follows in the spirit of open-mindedness taught in Prov. 15:10 NIV ("he who hates correction will die") and Prov. 12:1 NASB ("he who hates reproof is stupid") because I seek to "Prove all things" (Thess. 5:21).

JESUS CHRIST IS THE ANSWER?

Actual pamphlet found at UW-Stout.
Questioning Christian Beliefs.

Greetings. This article is a clear attempt to answer the questions of a local who seemingly has issues with Christianity. We picked up the small brochure, pictured to the left, off of one of our Word On The Street news stands and gave it to six of our ministry students to tackle the answers.

This column's contents are responses to the questions posed by the unnamed one. The questions are not unusual. Sadly, many hang their hat on these questions as reasons to not believe but, as you will see, they are simply excuses. Believe me, I've lived both sides (believing and not) and used all these excuses. I'm a Christian now and I have no regrets. Enjoy...

Their Questions

1) While on the cross Jesus said, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me" (Mark 15:34). How could Jesus be our Savior when he couldn't even save himself? Those aren't the words of a man voluntarily dying for our sins; those are the words of a man who can think of a hundred places he would rather be.

2) Jesus said, "whosoever shall say, 'Thou fool,' shall be in danger of hell fire" (Matt.5:22). Yet, he himself did so repeatedly as Matt 23:17,19 and Luke 11:40 and 12:20 show. Shouldn't he be in danger of hell too?

3) Except for those of biased Christian writers, there isn't one writing outside the Bible in all ancient history that clearly refers to Jesus of Nazareth.

4) Isn't Jesus a false prophet since he wrongly predicted in Matt. 12:40 that he would be buried 3 days and 3 nights as Jonah was in the whale 3 days and 3 nights? Friday afternoon to early Sunday morning is only 1 ½ days.

1) Jesus did not desire to save Himself. He desired to save us. Isaiah 53:5 (AV) speaking of Jesus says, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." The words "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34) point back to a prophetic psalm written by David approximately 1000 years before Jesus and approximately 800 years before any crucifixions are recorded. Psalm 22 (NKJV) begins, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Later in that same psalm we read "...but I am a worm and no man; a reproach of men and despised by the people... they shake their head saying 'He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him'...they pierced my hands and my feet...they divide all my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots..." These are all recorded in the Gospel events concerning Jesus. If you will, Jesus was providing them proof of His deity even in His darkest hour.

2) This calling someone a "fool" in Matt 5:22 is speaking of having contempt and bitterness in your heart and actually judging them with reference to going to hell. And in such a case the person doing the damning is in danger of hell fire himself. The other verses eluded to (Matt 23:17,19; Luke 11:40 & 12:20), teach concerning having the correct thing in front of you, yet opting to do contrary. Not being able to discern right from wrong, even when it is staring you right in the face. Luke 12:20 comes from a parable in which a wealthy farmer is diligent to lay up treasures for himself in this life, disregarding the fact that he has no control over the time that he will die. This farmer spent all his time and energy looking to his immediate comfort, but gave no attention to what really mattered—seeking God.

3) One of a few non-Christian writers is Josephus, a Jewish historian employed by Rome to journal the events around Israel, who did so at the time of Christ and refers to Jesus very plainly in his writings. The Complete Writings of Josephus can be purchased at many bookstores. Both Christian and non-Christian publishers sell it.

4) To understand clearly what Jesus was saying in verse 40, we also have to understand Jewish tradition of the time. And understand that this same tradition holds true today even as it did 2000 years ago. That tradition is this, a "day" begins at sunset and ends the following sunset, and any part of a "day" is considered as having touched the entirety of the day. Meaning that if it were Friday at 2pm, and you told your friends that you would leave for a certain place in two days, and you left at 6am the following morning, you have in fact fulfilled what you told your friends. In light of this well known tradition among the Jewish people, the Bible records that Jesus was removed from the cross before sunset and placed in a tomb, this being done so that the Sabbath was not broken, and this was in fact the first day. Over the Sabbath, or Saturday, would be the second day. And scripture tells us that in the morning of the first day of

Our Answers

5) Another prophecy by Jesus in John 13:38 ("The cock shall not crow, till thou (Peter) hast denied me 3 times") is false because Mark 14:66-68 shows the cock actually crowed after the first denial, not the third.

6) How could Jesus be our model of sinless perfection when he denies his moral perfection in Matt. 19:17 ("And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God").

7) In 1 Cor. 1:17 ("For Christ sent me <Paul--Ed> not to baptize, but to preach the gospel") Paul said Jesus was wrong when he said in Matt 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them..." So how could Jesus be the fountain of wisdom?

8) How could Jesus, whom the NT repeatedly refers to as the son of man, be our savior when this is clearly forestalled by Psalms 146:3 ("Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man in whom there is no help") and Job 25:6 ("How much less man, that is a worm? And the son of man, which is a worm")?

9) How could Jesus be god when he repeatedly said that he was not God's equal; he wasn't god. Obviously examples are: John 14:28 ("...for my Father is greater than I"), John 20:17 ("I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God"), and John 7:16 ("My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me").

10) While on the cross Jesus said "Forgive them Father they know not what they do." To whom was he speaking? They say, "God." But I thought he was God? How can God speak to God if there is only one God? That's two gods.

11) Jesus told us to "honor thy father and mother" (Matt. 15:4) but contradicted his own teaching in Luke 14:26 ("If any man come to me and hate not his father and mother...he cannot be my disciple").

12) In John 3:13 ("And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man...") Jesus erred because 2 Kings 2:11 ("...and Elijah went up by whirlwind into heaven") shows Elijah went earlier.

the week, or Sunday, Jesus met with Mary at the tomb. This would then be on the third day after his crucifixion. He was in the tomb over a period of time that touched three days, not necessarily a 72 hour period of time.

5) The scriptures you have provided actually clarify each other if you look at them in the context of what is being said. It has been my experience that roosters actually give a series of crows before they are finished with their little routine. The first one or two serving to "clear the throat" so to speak before finishing with a mighty noise. In light of this we could simply write off your little foray into "false prophecy" as semantics. But the very scriptures you use to refute the accuracy of Jesus' prediction would have clarified this question entirely if you had looked into the passage in Mark 14 where Jesus predicts Peter's denial.

6) Oh, Jesus did not say He wasn't a "good teacher" in this passage. He was pointing out that He must be God in order to be good. Therefore Jesus asked the question "Why do you call me good? No one is good but One, that is, God." You see, Jesus was God in flesh (John 1).

7) Here again you have taken a small portion of scripture and lied about it to say what you want it to say. Paul did not say that Jesus was wrong concerning the doctrine of baptisms, Paul is actually confessing that he is happy that he had not baptized many within the church of Corinth because disputes had broken out over who was the greatest teacher. Some were saying one was over the other and divisions had arisen over the issue. Paul is actually quite sternly reprimanding the believers. He is not refuting Jesus in any way. Read the passage in its context and you can clearly see this.

8) The phrase "the son of man" is referring to a person, say for instance, you in reference to your father, yet there are clear prophetic statements in scripture speaking of "The Son of Man" that are referring to the messiah. You are speaking of ones referring to the offspring of mankind, but if you read in context Daniel 7:13-14 you see the person spoken of is none other than Jesus the Messiah.

9) Jesus is God's Son. Therefore, Jesus is, as a human being, less than His Father. But, keeping in mind what Jesus said, "I do all things that please the Father," He stands greater than you and I. The Bible teaches that in human form He was made lower to redeem man to God (Phil. 2:5-11). His perfect human life was a state Jesus had to become in order to save the likes of you and I. The verses in Philippians noted above go on to explain the exaltation the Father restored Jesus to which is the name above all names, King of kings.

10) Actually, there are three persons to God (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit). A concise scripture, which refers to all three persons, can be found in John 16:5-15. Also, the Hebrew word for God stated in the Old Testament "The Lord our God is one Lord" (Deut 6:4) is the word Elohim which is the "plural intensive-singular meaning" for God. Thus, the reason why in Genesis God says "Let US make man in OUR image." There are three parts (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) but He is One.

11) Again a partial thought, the entirety of this scripture is in the context of completing what you start, counting the cost and finishing. In light of being a disciple of Jesus, we must not let distractions or cares of this world keep us from finishing the course. Where Jesus was speaking of hating our mother and father, and even our own lives, He was speaking of being willing to give up all we own, all we know, and all we want to pursue Christ. This is not speaking of hating to death, but unwilling to let even our own family turn us from the Gospel of Truth.

12) John 3:13-16 is saying that no one but "The Son of Man" (refer to Daniel for prophecy on The Son of Man) comes down from heaven, gives the message of the Messiah, dies on a cross as depicted by Moses and the brass serpent, and ascends into heaven. This was done to display the love God has for measly humans such as you and I, and to provide a means of redemption to heaven to be with Him.

13) In Matt. 16:28 Jesus said, "There be some standing here, which shall not taste death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom." Yet, they all died and he never came.

14) Jesus told us to "Love your enemies; bless them that curse you" but ignored his own advice by repeatedly denouncing his opposition. Matt. 23:17 ("Ye fools and blind"), Matt. 12:34 ("O generation of vipers"), and Matt. 23:27 ("...hypocrites...ye are like unto whited sepulchres...") are excellent examples of hypocrisy in action.

15) Even many of the staunchest defenders of Jesus admit that his comment in Matt. 10:34 ("I came not to send peace but a sword") contradicts verses such as Matt. 26:52 ("Put up again thy sword into his place; for all that take the sword shall perish with the sword").

16) The Messiah must be a physical descendant of David (Rom. 1:3, Acts 2:30). Yet, how could Jesus meet the requirement since his genealogies in Matt. 1 and Luke 3 show he descended from David through Joseph who was not his natural Father (The Virgin Birth).

17) Jesus told a man in Mark 8:34 that "whoever will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." What cross? He hadn't died on the cross yet. There was nothing to take up. That man would have had no idea what he was talking about.

18) In Mark 10:19 Jesus told a man to follow the commandments. Yet, one of those listed by Jesus was "defraud not" which isn't even an OT commandment.

19) In Luke 12:4 Jesus told his followers to "Be not afraid of them that kill the body," but in Matt. 12:14-16, John 7:1, 8:59, 10:39, 11:53-54, and Mark 1:45 show that he hid, escaped, and slinked around on numerous occasions.

20) In Luke 12:4 Jesus said to the thief on the cross, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." But how could they have been together in paradise that day if Jesus lay in the tomb for 3 days?

21) For Jesus to be executed for our sins makes about as much sense as my own son telling a judge that he would accept execution for my crimes. Although a nice gesture it has nothing to do with justice. What judge would agree?

22) And lastly, in Matt. 15:24 Jesus said, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" but later told his followers to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matt. 28:19). To whom, then, are they to go? Only to the Jews or everyone?

13) If we look to the next thirteen verses, we see this fulfilled on the Mount of Transfiguration. Peter, James, and John saw Jesus transfigure into Glory as He is in heaven. Did they not also see Jesus in His resurrected state and watch Him ascend into heaven in the beginning of the book of Acts chapter 1 verses 6 through 9? They saw it before they died.

14) Jesus was teaching us not to repay evil for evil, to do what is right in God's eyes, but we also must call a spade a spade. Those who think themselves wise, but ignore evidence that stands right in front of them, would they not be considered foolish? If you were holding the winning lottery ticket and failed to check the winning numbers, wouldn't that make you a fool? The scribes and Pharisees had the winning ticket in their hands, but made up their own numbers for winning. They had all of the evidence in front of them, but refused to see the truth.

15) This passage is speaking of the fact that the very message of Jesus sets men at odds, one against another. The Gospel of Salvation causes men to choose Truth or their own wisdom, causing division. But comparing verses like Matt 10:34 and Matt 26:52 is like comparing apples to oranges, one has *nothing* to do with the other.

16) In Jewish custom and tradition, lineage was always traced through the father's side, and Matthew simply follows the legal Jewish system. But we should also remember the second part of the equation, Mary. She too was descended from the line of David through her father Joachim.

17) Anyone of that time would understand he was speaking about Rome's tool for capital punishment. Jesus is saying that if they were to follow Him they must be ready to die because people opposed to the good news would try to kill the messengers. This is similar to saying "get the chair" when referring to electrocution.

18) Actually this *defraud* is most likely a "paraphrase" of the 9th & 10th commandments and is backed up by Leviticus 19:13. Lev. 19:13 says, "Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning."

19) Jesus was speaking about fearing God, who has the power to cast into hell eternal, not fearing man who can only kill the body. The time of fulfillment of scripture had not come, so when the people picked up stones to stone Jesus, He simply moved on. Jesus won't force Himself on anyone or stay where He is not wanted.

20) The Bible is the only Holy book which claims that God exists in a timeless realm (eternity = no beginning and no end). That existence is beyond our comprehension. In this realm, God is able to see all things at once. It is a completely unfathomable realm for us. For God, it was today.

21) 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (NLT) says, "We are Christ's ambassadors, and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, 'Be reconciled to God!' For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

22) These two passages do not contradict in light of Romans chapters 9-11 and Genesis chapter 12. First in Genesis chapter 12:2-3 (NKJV) we see God making a **promise** to Abraham saying "...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." With that in mind, we read Romans 9:8 (NLT), "Abraham's physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. It is the children of the promise who are considered to be Abraham's children." Then picking it back up in Romans 11:17 (NLT), we read, "some of these branches from Abraham's tree, some of the Jews, have been broken off. And you Gentiles [other nations], who were branches from a wild olive tree, were **grafted** in. So now you also receive the blessing God has

These examples expose only a few of the many reasons I can't accept Jesus as a Savior. A far greater number can be found in the monthly publication, BIBLICAL ERRANCY, which is "The only national periodical focusing on biblical errors, contradictions, and fallacies, while providing a hearing for apologists." A free copy is available at: 3158 Sherwood Park Drive Springfield, Ohio 45505 (513) 323-6146

promised Abraham and his children, sharing in God's rich nourishment of his special olive tree." Now, getting back to the passage you mentioned in Matthew 15:24 (NKJV) where Jesus said, "I am not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel," we see Jesus testing her faith in this promise. The woman responded (verse 27), "Even the little dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Jesus answered (verse 28), "O woman, **great is your faith!** Let it be to you as you desire.' And her daughter was healed from that very hour." This gentle woman was a child of the promise through faith and was thereby grafted in as a descendant of Abraham, the father of the House of Israel.

The only exposure here is the lack of Biblical understanding which comes from reading the Bible with pre-conceived notions such as those of the author of this list of questions. Simply put, mankind has been looking for a way to avoid being accountable to a God and instead to do as their lusts direct. In this struggle going on in the hearts of those who are digging up supposed "contradictions" (which is something they really have no knowledge of) to attempt to argue with someone who actually does study the Bible, it is completely fruitless and leaves the questioner in no state to be able to fully enjoy the sin of this world. There remains that lingering question... "What if I'm wrong?"

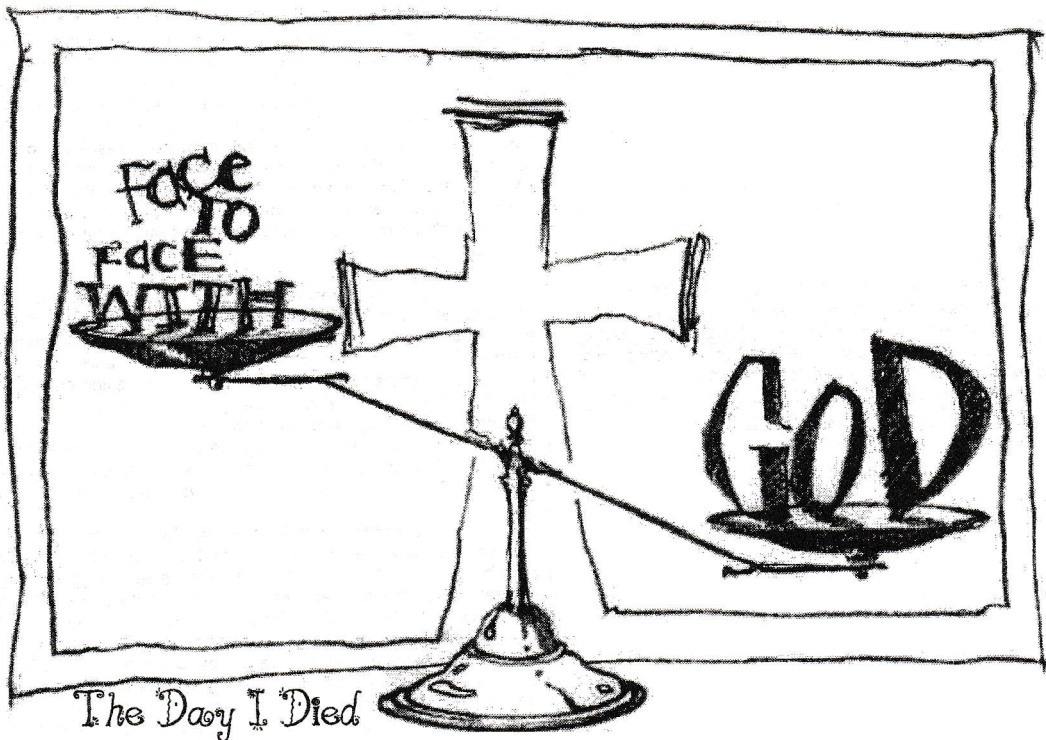
The Apostle John tells us that these things were written so that we may know we have eternal life. It's not an "oh, I hope so" type of thing. It is a full understanding that stems from coming to a realization that Jesus is real and that without Him we are lost in our sin, damned to hell. When we ask for Jesus' help, something real happens. It is as the Bible describes. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit "the teacher." All of a sudden things which were not understood were spiritually discerned because of the Holy Spirit. You may try to understand the Bible while not believing in the Lord unto salvation. In that state you will never really understand it because as the Bible says, "these things are spiritually discerned." I am living proof of this thing I speak of. Before I was a believer (age 25) I tried to understand Christianity, but it led me to mock it and think it foolish. Then my life went crazy, out of control. I exclaimed, "God! If you are real, I need to know! Help me!" From that day forward it has been a learning and growing relationship with Him. The cool part is that you don't have to know the depths of the Bible or be able to answer lame questions such as we have seen in this and the last Word on the Street magazine to have salvation unto heaven. Christianity is a "believe and you shall see" relationship with God and not a "figure it out first" religion as are most other world religions. If you want Jesus, call out as I did. "Help me Jesus!" If it is from the heart, He promises to.

Feel free to ask us any questions by writing us at:
Word on the Street, 621 Wilson Ave, Menomonie, WI
54751

Or drop in for a church service at the above address:
Sundays – 10:30am, Wednesdays – 7:00pm

Or drop in for a more informal Bible study at UW-Stout
Memorial Student Center's Northwoods Room
Mondays at 7:00pm (during school)

In all honesty, if we in Menomonie, WI can come up with reasonable answers to these questions, are they really that "controversial"? Thanks for reading.



The Day I Died

I died this morning and came in an instant before my LORD. I fell at his feet weeping, too afraid to ask for another chance. I counted at once the innumerable times I had continually denied my LORD, yet I was still too proud to beg. How unfamiliar it was to now be thinking of Him as "my LORD", but how appropriate it seemed. Everything, in the blink of an eye, became undeniably clear to me...my reason for having lived, the responsibilities I had forsaken, the challenges I had avoided, the excellent blessings I had traded away for instant gratification, and the reason for my death. I was terrified to think of my two beloved sons and my precious daughter whom I had left behind, now with families of their own...my grandchildren...my sister and my nephew...none of whom had ever uttered 'LORD' from their lips. How dreadful it was to be here, now,

kneeling and weeping like this and to have the terrible understanding that I had neglected to tell them of the presence of God the Father. How terrible that I had passed at the chance to teach my children of His perfect love and his personal involvement in each of their precious lives. Oh, my soul...who will save them? I cannot go back!! It was too late now, and hopelessness covered over my weary eyes like a heavy blanket of desperate blackness.

This fear that I tell you of was like none other. To no earthly experience could I relate my emotional state of torment. Combined with unprecedented amounts of regret and shame, of sorrow and panic, of embarrassment, pity, and guilt, I was the final ingredient in a recipe of spiritual failure.

As I collapsed to my knees before

my LORD I couldn't reason with myself any longer exactly why I had felt it appropriate to deny His involvement in my life, His very presence. It was now undeniable. I now understood that He is involved in the lives of everyone, but I wasn't now able to fully convince myself that I had been justified in ignoring Him as I always had in life. Now as I came before Him I wouldn't even look up for fear that His Holiness would destroy my being. His radiance was indescribable, and pierced me with an excruciating power that left me crippled at his feet. I was paralyzed by His majesty. You've heard it said, "Our God, Oh Most High..."

...I understand now, that those very words mean more than a human mind could ever fathom.

At that moment, I wanted nothing more than to be someplace where He wasn't. I was beyond

humiliation. I already knew the fate that awaited me, and I only wanted to begin the suffering immediately so as to bypass this confrontation altogether.

The idea of an eternity laden with burning torment had begun to sound like Heaven as I wept so bitterly before my only LORD and Savior in those horrific moments of absolute Hell.

I couldn't look up to see Him, nor could I stand. I did not have the courage to utter any of my feeble thoughts to my all-knowing God, and I was unable to move. I had no power within myself to make an effort of any sort.

In the midst of this uncertainty and despair, there came forth a tender voice that was undeniably familiar. For so long it had only been recognizable to me as "still" and "small," but as I knelt there sobbing, I heard for the first time that same familiar voice that had been with me for all of my life come forth audibly and fill my environment with calmness.

The voice was gentle and soothing, and spoke these words; "As so terribly sorry as you are my lovely child...as horribly regretful and ashamed as you are. As scared, and as humiliated, and as weak as you are... For as much pain as you feel in this moment, mine is doubled. My pain cannot be understood, but yours is within reason. For in this moment you feel rejection, and it is but a moment, but it is you who have continually rejected me for a lifetime. Henceforth, you will

go into darkness for eternity where I will no longer be with you, but you will never be forgotten. Yes, I know your pain, but mine is inexplicable. You have made your decision already, and the sorrow is mine. I love you my dear child, I most certainly love you."

I didn't want to accept His words but I was unable to do otherwise. After He had finished speaking, the calmness and peace that was felt in the presence of His voice

*I knew what it
was that was
awaiting me, and
it was exactly
that after which
I sought.*

immediately vanished and left me vulnerable to the restless despair that I had felt before He spoke. I decided at once to seek comfort in a place far away from Him, someplace where I wouldn't even know His presence.

I could feel the heat already, and I was longing to be in it, for I knew beyond any doubt that it was what I deserved. I knew what it was that was awaiting me, and it was exactly that after which I sought.

THE GATHERING

ON-CAMPUS
BIBLE STUDY

- WORSHIP
- OUTREACH
- EVENTS

GET REAL
PURPOSE...
THE TRUTH
...A REASON
TO LIVE!

Monday Nights
7:00pm
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For as long as I can remember there had been this dark cloud following me, nothing but bad luck. My heart was empty and it seemed like the weight of the world was on my shoulders.

When I finally thought things were good, reality would slap me in

the face. I found out I was pregnant. Oh, what a joy! The doctor told me I had a picture perfect pregnancy, but when I went into labor I knew something was wrong. They ended up doing an emergency cesarean section. They put me to sleep, and when I woke up she was being airlifted to another hospital. The doctors said it was just a precaution. Four and a half hours later, while in recovery, I found out she had died.

"I felt like I was newly born and things had a new look as if I was seeing through new eyes."

I didn't get to see her or touch her while she was alive. I held her for the first time in the funeral home. I was broken; a piece of me had died, too. I blamed God and told everyone there was no God because if there was a God this wouldn't have happened.

I wanted to die; all I wanted was to be in the ground next to her. This led me to the ugly world of drugs. This dulled the pain temporarily and was a good way to shorten my life. I figured the only one I was hurting was me.

Where there are drugs there are law officials with a job to do. I was arrested



A CONVICT TAKES THE WITNESS STAND IN A CASE FOR JESUS CHRIST

a few times but always bailed out and went right back to the drugs. I had told the police to shoot me. The last time I was arrested I couldn't bail out. I was put on a suicide watch. They asked if I wanted to talk to someone from a church. My reply was, "I don't need religion crammed down my throat. There is no God."

A week later, they gave me a sign up sheet for Calvary Chapel. Something inside told me to go. I went and met two wonderful ladies. I started crying and poured out my heart. They told me that God was there for me and loved me no matter what. I asked Him to come into my life. There was such a peace in my heart and that weight on my shoulders was lifted. I was a new person. I felt like I was newly born and things had a

new look as if I was seeing through new eyes.

I have put my life in the Lord's hands, to do as He wishes. He has a plan for me. I do not know what it is yet, but what I do know is that I can't wait to see my daughter. I know she is being well taken care of because she is in an awesome place.

Life here on earth is short, but our life in heaven will be eternal. My dark cloud has been lifted and Jesus is shining brightly in my life. I thank God everyday for not giving up on me. He truly has blessed me. ✨

How God Found Me...

The Power Of His Forgiveness And The Depth Of My Need For Him In My Life

I used to be a good person. I sat through endless Sundays at church, I did good deeds, I worked my hardest to portray an immaculate reputation. I appeared to be the athletic, high achieving, "all-together American girl." I strove for a life that everyone around me would admire, a life free of any sort of failure. These were the most painful and exhausting 19 years of my life.

Then, at 19 years old, I found myself sitting in a dark dorm room with my head in my hands, crying and coming down from a drug trip—trying to reconcile the vast chasm between the life I appeared to live and the reality of what my life had become. I thought I was a shining example of a human being, I thought I had a good amount of God in my life, what more could there be? I felt false and filthy.

That night God showed me the power of His forgiveness and the depth of my need for Him in my life. For the first time in my life, the burden of my slavery to sin and my striving to appear perfect was lifted from my shoulders. The Bible describes how God lifts a veil from our eyes and

allows us to see the truth of Jesus' love for us and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us. 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 says, "But

"For the first time
in my life, the
burden of my
slavery to sin and
my striving to
appear perfect was
lifted from my
shoulders."

whenever anyone turns to the Lord, then the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, he gives freedom. And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more" (NLT).

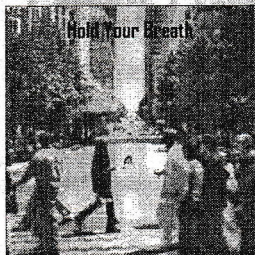


Detecting God...

Ask God To Make Himself Real To You And He Will

I remember a specific instance in my life when I was lying in my bed thinking about where people go when they die. Did people just go into a non-existence like the time before they were born on this earth to their parents or was heaven for real? And if heaven was real, wouldn't it be boring to live on a cloud forever and ever? I thought about this stuff and then shoved it quickly out of my mind. If I'd thought about it any further, it would have made my head explode, and the fear of the unknown would have given me an ulcer. Thoughts like this would periodically come into my head, and I continued to push them out choosing to live in ignorance rather than dealing with the reality of death and what would follow. Do you ever have thoughts like this? Don't live in ignorance. Ask God to make Himself real to you and He will!

music station

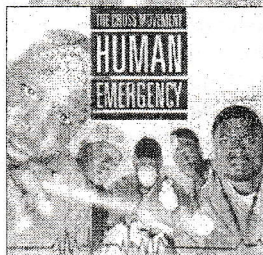


Embodiment

Songs For the Living
Solid State Records

"Hold Your Breath," the latest offering from the band Embodiment, is the sound of a band that is completely confident with themselves, their sound, and each other. A band that, contrary to the album's title, can finally breathe. Songs like album opener "Yours Truly" and the moody and contemplative "A Seasons End" evoke some indie rock sensibilities, while still being firmly rooted in the depth and passion of heavier rock music and staying decidedly away from the so-called "nu-metal" trend machine.

www.embodimentcore.com



The Cross Movement

Human Emergency
Cross Movement Records

Cross Movement's "Human Emergency" oozes with lyrical intensity and passionate urgency as the entire Cross Movement crew comes together on this electric album. Unlike so many Christian rap groups, Cross Movement delivers Jesus-centered lyrics and killer hooks to compliment their post-modern flows.

www.crossmovement.com



Caedmon's Call

Back Home
Essential Records

As far as I am concerned, the 5th time is the charm. Well, it is for Caedmon's Call at least. Their latest offering entitled "Back Home" has Caedmon's Call going back to the basics with songs like "Only Hope" then drifting to the mysterious, wistful side when they pick up instruments like the bierimbau, udu, and tongue drum for the song "Hands of the Potter." As usual, you will be taken in by the band's unique trio of vocalists and soothed into staying by the beautifully crafted "You Created."

www.caedmons-call.com

Audio Review

■ THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). You may be wondering who Jesus is and why you need Him in order to have salvation. Through a Bible study based on chapters 13 and 14 of the book of John located in the New Testament of the Bible, Pastor Chuck Smith explains who Jesus is and why He is the way to know God. Tape Title: "John 13-14" by Pastor Chuck Smith

■ ALL RELIGIONS LEAD TO THE SAME GOD?

Do you think that all religions lead to the same God? It is a common thought today that Islam and Christianity have the same God. However, the Bible and the Quran teach quite the contrary. Allah and the God of the Bible are actually very different. In this tape Dr. Ron Carlson teaches the differences between the god of the Quran verses the God of the Bible. I challenge you to check this tape out and find out the truth about the true and living God. Tape title: "Islam" by Dr. Ron Carlson

■ CREATION TESTIFIES OF GOD'S REALITY

Was it really a big bang that created all of the magnificent things we see on a daily basis? The stars, the galaxies, and the intricate details of nature speak boldly that there must be an all-powerful, all-knowing Creator. In the Bible, Psalm 19:1-4 says, "The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display his marvelous craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or a word; their voice is silent in the skies; yet their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to all the world" (NLT).
Tape title: "Romans 1" by Jon Courson



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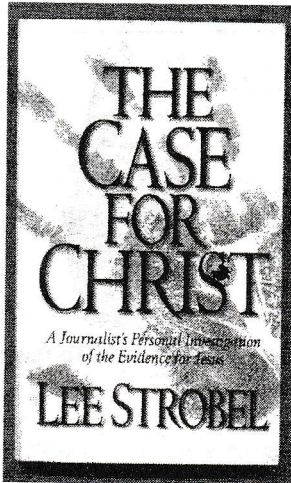
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BOOK REVIEW



The Case for Christ

By: Lee Strobel

You have been invited to become a juror in the world's most controversial case. You can, once and for all, decide for yourself: who is the person of Jesus Christ, based on actual courtroom evidence?

The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel is, as its cover proclaims, "a journalist's personal investigation of the evidence for Jesus."

"riveting quest for truth about history's most compelling figure."

Strobel challenges all of us to examine the actual facts of hotly debated issues such as "How reliable is the New Testament?", "Does evidence exist for Jesus outside the Bible?", and "Is there any reason to believe the Resurrection was an actual event?"

Author Lee Strobel, a former legal affairs editor of the *Chicago Tribune* and graduate of Yale Law School, investigates Jesus through a legal perspective. Strobel traveled the country to obtain the expert opinion of 13 leading scholars and authorities on the various subjects. Using the very same classifications from courtrooms across America today, Strobel brings to light proof through eyewitness evidence, documentary evidence,

corroborating evidence, rebuttal evidence, scientific evidence, psychological evidence, circumstantial evidence, and fingerprint evidence for Jesus.

At the conclusion of the book, Strobel says, "After a personal investigation that lasted over 600 days and countless hours, my own verdict in the case for Christ was clear." This case will bring you to the edge, you will no longer be able to ride the fence on this important decision. Is Jesus of Nazareth really the Son of God? You will have reached your own verdict as a juror in the case for Christ.

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we

must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic ... or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

—C.S. Lewis

IN THE MOVIES



www.upcomingmovies.com

Movie Preview: **The Matrix Reloaded**

Release Date: May 15th

MPAA Rating: The first film was rated R, so it is very likely that the sequels will be as well.

Distributor: Warner Bros.

Production Company: Village Road show Pictures, Silver Pictures

Cast: Keanu Reeves (Neo), Carrie-Anne Moss (Trinity), Laurence Fishburne (Morpheus), Hugo Weaving (Agent Smith), Jada Pinkett-Smith (Niobe), Adrian Rayment and Neil Rayment (The Twins).

Director: Andy Wachowski and Larry Wachowski (Bound, The Matrix, The Matrix Revolutions)

Screenwriter: Andy Wachowski and Larry Wachowski (Bound, The Matrix, The Matrix Revolutions)

Music: The lead single for Matrix Reloaded: "P.O.D's first new song this year has been confirmed as the lead single and video for the upcoming Matrix film." www.payableondeath.com

It's finally here, the second in the infamous Wachowski brothers' Matrix trilogy, Matrix Reloaded. And it's already got the spotlight. Shot in Australia, taking almost a whole year, and costing over \$300 million, this film is sure to be a hit.

Four years ago, the Wachowski brothers introduced us to the action packed sci-fi world of The Matrix. If you haven't seen it, I highly recommend it because Reloaded begins exactly where the first movie left off. Larry and Andy Wachowski have taken large measures to ensure the quality and depth of the storyline and plot. They wanted more than just incredible effects and filming, though the climax of this

"Make a mental note: 2003 will be the year of the Matrix."

(MSNBC)

sequel will prove nothing less. "This ensuing sequence may be the most audaciously conceived, thrillingly executed car chase ever filmed. Sounds like hype, yeah. But you gotta see this thing. The scene features two kung fu battles in speeding vehicles—one in the back seat of a Cadillac, and the other on the roof of an 18 wheeler truck." (MSNBC)

With the return of our favorites: Keanu Reeves, Hugo Weaving, and Laurence Fishburne, there are some fresh new faces. Jada Pinkett Smith plays Niobe, a former girlfriend of Morpheus, and Monica Bellucci, a dark seductress who tries to tempt Neo. Tragically the Oracle, played by Gloria Foster, passed away September 29, 2002, of diabetes. It is said that she finished most of her filming. Also, 22-year-old Aaliyah died in a plane crash before she finished filming. The pop star

was cast in a supporting role that was replaced with Marvin Gaye's daughter, Nora Gaye.

I don't want to ruin it for you so I'll keep it short. We find out that the Matrix is 10 times the size of

New York and operates as

a huge metropolis. Somehow, the machines have learned the location of the last human city, Zion, and The Keymaker enters the scene as the humans' only hope. The only catch is he is aided by two dreaded twins that appear and reappear as ghosts coming after everyone with switchblades. The end will take you deeper into the machine world, finding if there is any good inside worth saving.

Stay tuned for The Matrix Revolutions, the last film in this soon-to-be infamous and epic trilogy. It's due out in early November. Also, the Wachowski brothers have made a series of animated mini films called, Animatrix. They are said to fill in the gaps in the intimate world of the Matrix.

For all of you Matrix buffs out there, check out <http://awesomehouse.com/matrix> for a deeper look at the Jesus Messiah parallels.

Sources:

1. www.upcomingmovies.com—picture
2. www.msnbc.com/news/850165.asp?0cv=CB21

Source of Light Ministries



Source of Light Ministries is engaged in a worldwide ministry reaching Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America. For the past 50 years it has been meeting the spiritual needs of multiplied thousands through Bible correspondence courses and other literature.

Source of Light Ministries believes that Christian fellowship and sound Bible teaching are vital to the growth in the Christian's life.

make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." They share this good news through gospel literature, portions of Bible verses, and Bible correspondence courses by placing them into the hands of multitudes and in as many lands and languages as possible. Source of Light Ministries also wants their ministry to encourage believers, train Christians to know

Their purpose is to tell the world that Jesus Christ came to the earth, died for our sins, and rose again to give us victory over sin.

They encourage the branches and associate schools of their ministry to channel those who have come to know Jesus Christ to local Bible believing churches or if necessary, to establish churches. For example, in India more than 600 churches have now been planted.

Their purpose is to tell the world that Jesus Christ came to the earth, died for our sins, and rose again to give us victory over sin. They want everyone to know that they can trust Christ for their salvation as Jesus told us to do in Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore, go and

and follow the Word of God (Bible), and to strengthen and establish local churches by providing study and training materials.

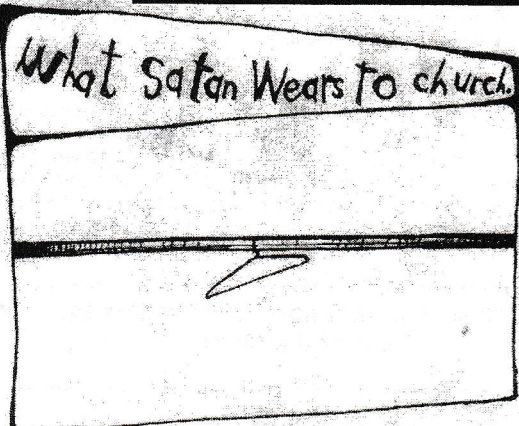
Recently, Street Level Ministries has started to financially and prayerfully support this ministry in India.

For more information check out:
www.sourcelight.org

SOME'NOTHER PHAT TOONS: FOR THE NOT-SO-CONSERVATIVE



brain tacos



What do you put your faith in?

Are You Putting Your Faith in Something Unfaithful?

According to Webster's Dictionary, **faithfulness** means to be steadfast, steady, to be established, set

What doesn't change?

up, and firm. Someone who is **faithful** remains the same, and true to their words or purpose.

According to that definition I can't think of a whole lot in this world that is **faithful**. What doesn't change? Who doesn't betray you, turn their back on you, or leave you? Who is true to their word? Who keeps all of their promises?

We all desire and expect **faithfulness**, truthfulness, and loyalty among friends, family, or spouse. But do we think about faithfulness in what we put our **faith** in: a theory, a person, a religion, or a god? Imagine someone that would love you consistently. Someone that would love you the same no matter if you loved them in return. Someone that would never lie, cheat, or steal, someone that is wholly and completely loyal to you, someone whose love for you would never change.

Who is true to their word?

When you think about it, you really don't want to believe in a theory, religion, or person that is always changing. What good would it be if someone else could add or subtract to that theory or religion? How steady and secure would it be if you could change the rules? After all, you know yourself, and know you aren't completely sure of everything.

I want to put my **faith** in something more secure than that. I want to believe in something and someone that is bigger, smarter, and more powerful than I am. I want something that never changes, that remains steady and firm, something **faithful**. When you think about it, what you believe in encompasses your entire life. Especially when it concerns your after-life.

There is one person that I have found **faithful**. His name is Jesus. Even if we try we can't add to or subtract from what He said. We can't change or make amendments to what He set up in His word, the Bible. He remains the same. Example: He loves everyone even those who don't love Him back or even despise Him. His love for us never wavers. He loves us whether or not we love him back, or falter, or have a bad day, or whatever. He loves you constantly. It is not based on what you do, like so many other religions. In the Bible **Hebrews 13:8-9** says, "**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, so don't be attracted by strange new ideas. Your spiritual strength comes from God's special favor, not from ceremonial rules about food, which don't help those who follow them.**" There is absolutely nothing you can do to make Him love you less, and

Who doesn't turn their back on you?

there is nothing you can do to make Him love you more. Sure He may not enjoy all the things we do and say but His love remains **faithful**— it stays the same. The Bible tells us that He loves us with a perfect love. "**Such love has no fear because perfect love expels all fear...**" (1 John 4:18a) He is **faithful** even when we are not. "**He will keep you strong until the end, and he will keep you free from all blame (because he died for your sins) on the great day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. God will surely do this for you, for He always does just what He says, and He is the one that invited you into this wonderful friendship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord**" (1 Corinthians 1: 8-9 NLT).

You don't have to worry. You can trust God and count on Him. You can rest because God is in control. You don't have to guess about where you stand with Him. You can know for sure that He will do what He said He

Who keeps all their promises?

would do. "**Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is a faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and constantly loves those who love Him and keep His commands**" (Deuteronomy 7:9 NLT).

"Great is His faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh everyday."

(Lamentations 3:23 NLT)

A WORD STUDY

JARGON:

Find

heurisko {hyoo-ris'-ko}

1) to come upon, hit upon, to meet with
a) after searching,

to find a thing sought

b) without previous search, to find (by chance), to fall in with
c) those who come

or return to a place

2) to find by enquiry, thought, examination, scrutiny, observation, to find out by practice and experience

a) to see, learn, discover, understand

b) to be found i.e. to be seen, be present

c) to be discovered, recognized, detected,

to show one's self out, of one's

character or state as found out by others (men, God, or both)

d) to get knowledge of, come to know, God

3) to find out for one's self, to acquire, get, obtain, procure

The New Testament of the Bible was written in the Greek Language. Many Greek words have more than one meaning or a more detailed meaning than its English translation. Check out the meaning of the Greek word for "find" (left) then read the Bible verses below with that definition in mind.

In each of these verses, Jesus is the one speaking.

"Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks." Matthew 7:7-8 (NLT)

"Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29 (NLT)

"He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it." Matthew 10:39 (NKJV)

"So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it." Hebrews 4:16 (NLT)

source: www.blueletterbible.org

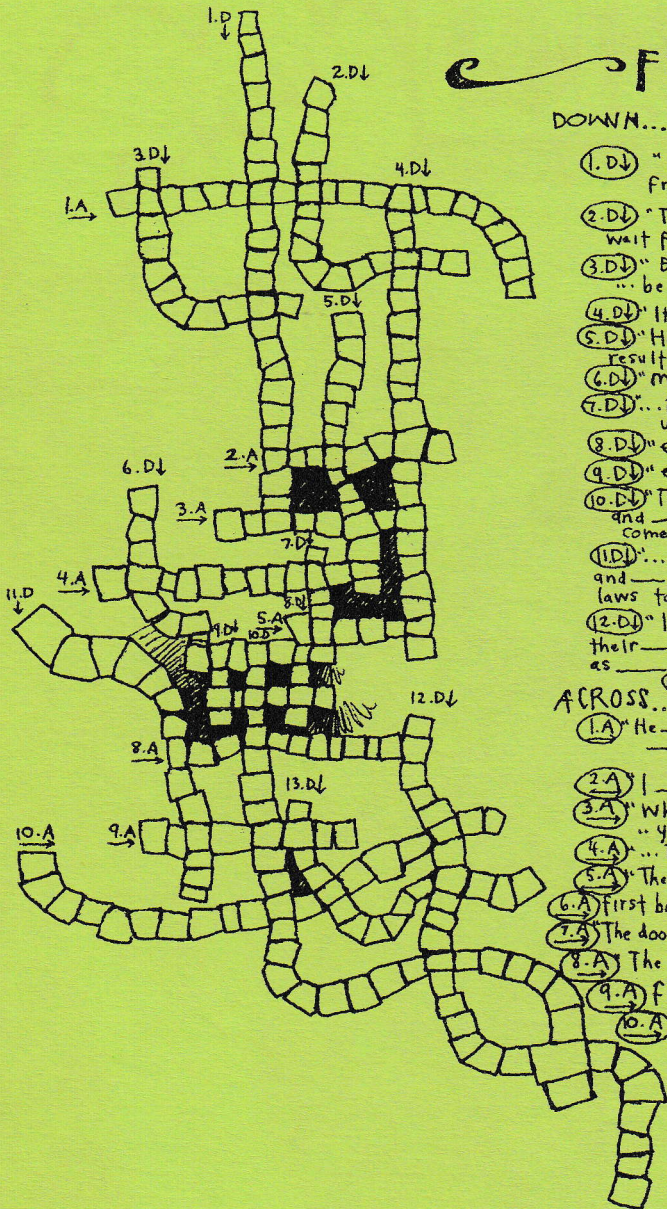
FINDING GOD.

DOWN...

- (1.D) "I _____ to the _____, and he _____ me, freeing me from all my _____." (Ps 34:4)
- (2.D) "The LORD is _____ to those who wait for him and seek him." (Lam 3:25)
- (3.D) "But may all who search... be filled with _____ and _____." (Ps. 70:4)
- (4.D) "It is _____ to _____ God without _____." (Heb. 11:6)
- (5.D) "Hezekiah sought his God _____. As a result, he was very successful." (II Chr. 31:21)
- (6.D) "My only _____ is _____." (Is 8:17)
- (7.D) "...those who _____ the LORD understand completely." (Pr. 28:5)
- (8.D) "everyone who _____ finds" (mt. 7:8)
- (9.D) "everyone who _____ receives." (mt. 7:8)
- (10.D) "The LORD is the source of my right _____ and _____, and all who were _____ with him will come to him and be _____." (Is 45:24)
- (11.D) "... because Ezra had determined to _____ and _____ the law of the LORD and to _____ those laws to the people of Israel." (Ezra 7:10)
- (12.D) "I will return to my place until they _____ their _____ and look to me for help. For as soon as _____ comes, they will _____ 4 _____." (Hosea 5:15)
- (13.D) "turn from _____ and do what is _____." (Is 26:9)

ACROSS...

- (1.A) "He _____ his fathers God and _____ his commands _____ following the practices of Israel." (II Chr 17:4)
- (2.A) "I _____ search for you." (Ps 63:1)
- (3.A) "Whenever you were in _____ and sought God... you found him." (II Chr 15:4)
- (4.A) "... To seek the LORD with all their _____." (II Chr 15:4)
- (5.A) "The land is ours because we _____ the LORD." (II Chr 14:7)
- (6.A) first book in the new testament.
- (7.A) "The door is opened to everyone who _____." (mt 7:8)
- (8.A) "The poor will _____ and be _____." (ps 22:26)
- (9.A) Free Candy is a _____.
- (10.A) "When God killed some of them, the rest finally sought him. they _____ and _____." (ps 78:34)



Street Level Ministries

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