

הקלוא נפתח וזו אחריה הכבוד דהקדחנס עבר וזוהרין עליו העונות עם חזרת לבית המנוח במואגור גדול

GREEK

NEUENOCTIOTON... THEUC ETEPA... ENIAYO... KONTI... UN EUSKO... TLUCKPA

עלמות אור זרעית הפור לשמחה שמחו ותקיעו צוהר בדהקס ששל כל ואהמטה סגוש כל מוהו פכל יעשושמה ימסוהותה בדת אשמר בועתו לע

ותהו חמ שרדה על ששמו ויקרא שמו פלא חיען אל עבודת אביר שח שלום לסר פדה מן אנה ול שלום און זמן עקפמא הוה ועש ממלכתו להכין אתהו לם עד חממ שמט ובצבקה מעתה ועד עולם קנאת יהודה צבאות יעשה יאמס דבר שלח ארני כמיעקב

תקיעו צוהר בדהקס ששל כל ואהמטה סגוש כל מוהו פכל יעשושמה ימסוהותה בדת אשמר בועתו לע

The prayer of the Gospel To the Galatians Paul goeth to Hierusalem.

and the hour thereof... To the Galatians... Paul goeth to Hierusalem.

ANCIENT ENGLISH

The Epistle of Paul to the Galatians. CHAP. I. I have written this Epistle to you...

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the GALATIANS

THE Galatians, having launched their Christian Experience by Gal. 1:1 and 1:6 have their words of faith and grace...

MODERN ENGLISH

Start Online Bible Millennium Edition 1.30 File Edit View Library Audio Tools Window Help

Enter Data: <John 4:3> AV NKJV 1 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus...

PocketBible

John 17

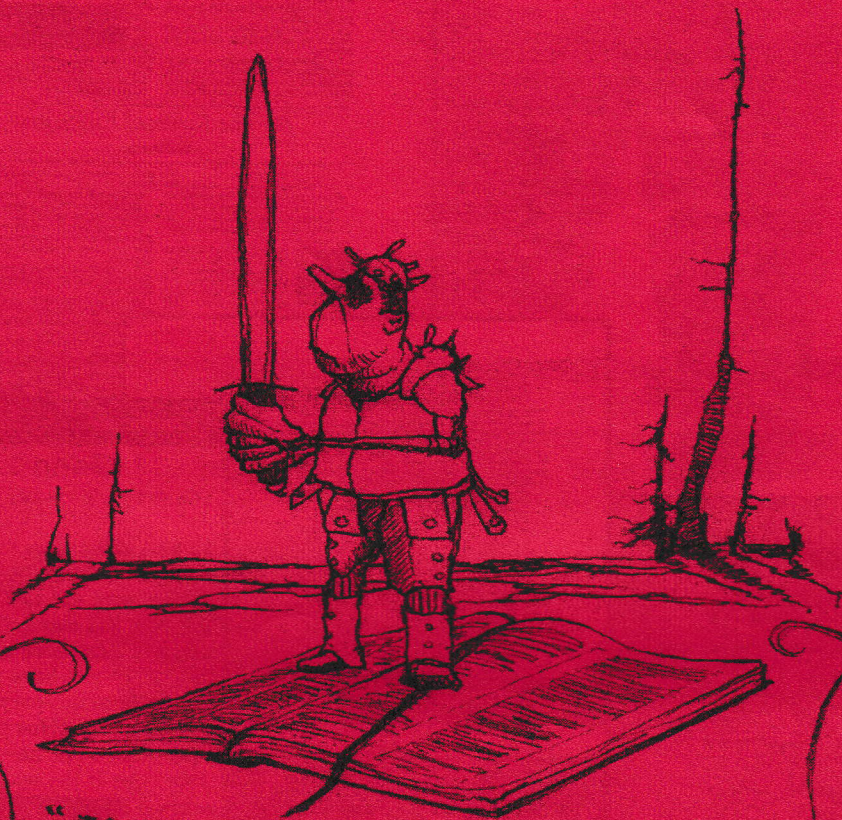
The Prayer of Jesus

In 17:1 When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he looked up to heaven and said...

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FOR THE POCKET PC FOR THE PC

THE BIBLE - NOT SOME DUSTY OLD BOOK!



"THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING
AND POWERFUL,
AND SHARPER THAN A TWO-EDGED SWORD,
PIERCING EVEN TO THE DIVISION OF
SOUL AND SPIRIT, AND OF JOINTS
AND MARROW, AND IS A DISCERNER OF
THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART."
HEBREWS 4:12

John

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Word *on the street*
magazine

is a quarterly publication of
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a UW-Stout student organization.

Want to know more?

Check out our website—

www.streetlevel.uwstout.edu

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please write us:

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HALFWAY DOESN'T PAY

I know a man who grows really huge pumpkins. These are prize-winning pumpkins, weighing in sometimes at over 700 pounds. They are freakishly large, almost as tall as a big child and as long as an adult. Before he can even plant them, he does a soil test to see exactly which minerals and nutrients he will need to add that year for maximum growth. Then weeks are spent preparing the soil, adding loads of manure and minerals, and saturating the ground with water in anticipation of the planting.

In the early spring, he begins the painstaking process of pollinating each plant by hand, in order to ensure a longer growing time. He builds shelters around the baby plants to protect them from the early spring storms, and checks them each morning and night to gauge their progress. As they expand and grow, the plants spill out of the confines of the carefully built shelters to absorb sun on their own, and they become strong enough to support the pumpkins that will soon pop out of the large orange flowers.

Soon there is fruit, and as a result of the prime growing conditions that he has prepared for them, these extraordinary pumpkins begin to grow at an

unbelievable rate. First gaining five pounds a day, then ten, and eventually toward the end of the growing season they are gaining a nearly unheard of thirty pounds each day!

During this time of rocket growth, his work does not end. In fact, it doubles as he must feed them hundreds of gallons of water each day and put the fruit under hail shelters, propping them up on supports so they do not crack, split, or rot.

HE COULD GROW NORMAL JACK-O-LANTERNS OR A TYPE THAT MADE GOOD PIE FILLING, BUT THOSE KINDS ONLY REQUIRE MINIMAL EFFORT. HE LOVES THE THRILL OF SEEING ALL THE TOIL PRODUCE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY.

"Why would he do all this work for a big fat pumpkin?" you may ask. Since I am particularly unschooled in the ways of giant vegetables, I stood wondering the same thing as I stared in awe at their bright lumpy shapes.

Well, there is a state and national competition where pumpkins can be entered in each year to win cash prizes. They are put on display and the

growers spend a day "talking pumpkins" and comparing growing strategies from region to region. This is one reason to grow huge fruit, but not the main reason.

The main reason became evident to me the day he took me out to the pumpkin patch to see the halfway mature fruit. As I listened to him talk with such pride about each one of the eleven pumpkins, I realized that the money and competition had little to do with it.

He is hooked on the growing process. He just loves to nurture them, to see them shoot out from nothing, taking joy in each pound gained, each small progress they make. He could grow normal jack-o-lanterns or a type that made good pie filling, but those kinds only require minimal effort. He loves the thrill of seeing all the toil produce something extraordinary.

In the midst of explaining manure and soil to me, he said something profound:

"I could put in a halfway effort and the pumpkins might grow to about two or three hundred pounds, but it doesn't pay, either you go all out and get the huge ones, or don't waste your time."

I couldn't have agreed more, and as I thought more about this a mountain of spiritual analogies piled up in my brain.

The God of the Bible is an extraordinary garden tender, preferring to grow record-breaking fruit with much love and toil. He is

hooked on the growing process, carefully preparing the hearts of His children to experience Him in the fullest way possible. He protects us from the early storms, getting so much joy from each step we take in His direction. As we grow He chooses to support us and constantly be at our side, delighting in the progress we make. The Bible says there is an endless supply of living water available through Jesus Christ to those who thirst. Read chapter four of the book of John in the Bible, it is a perfect example of this! God puts in the full amount of work possible in order to watch us grow, preferring to grow grand prize giants rather than the everyday common result.

God is asking us to go all out for Him. He wants us to stop wasting our time with mediocre results that only end up smashed by a baseball bat on someone's front porch on Halloween.

In the book of Revelations in the Bible, chapter 3, verses 15-20, God's wishes for His children are as clear as day. It reads: "I know all things that you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish you were one or the other! But since you are lukewarm water I will spit you out of my mouth! You say, 'I am rich, I have everything I want, I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and poor and blind and naked. I advise you to buy gold from me, gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich.... I am the one who corrects and disciplines everyone that I love. Bediligent and turn from your indifference. Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends. I will invite everyone who is victorious to sit with me on my throne..."

We can choose indifference, which would be choosing to be a normal specimen. Or we can choose to be cared for and tended to by a

master gardener who loves to watch us grow. God has put in the full effort because he witnessed the horrid death of His Son, Jesus. This sacrifice was His way of preparing and cultivating the ground for us, and now we are able to grow close to God because Jesus paid for our sins. He will do the work of watering and supporting us as we grow because He knows each of our specific needs.

Realize that right now, whatever our opinion may be about God and about the Bible, nothing changes the longing God has to grow us. He wants us to invite Him into our lives so He can make them incredible, changing us from something ordinary to something extraordinary. Go all the way, He will give us victory and invite us to eternal life shared as friends. *

* "I command you to love each other in the same way that I love you. And here is how to measure it—the greatest love is shown when people lay down their lives for their friends. You are my friends if you obey me. I no longer call you servants, because a master doesn't confide in his servants, now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me" (John 15:12-15 NLT).

Bible verses in this article are from the New Living Translation (NLT).

WATERING
STREET LEVEL CAMPUS RENDEZVOUS

STREET LEVEL IS A UWSTOUT
CAMPUS ORGANIZATION

*"Where two
or more are
gathered
together in
My name,
I am there
in their
midst."*

MATTHEW 18:20

**STREETLEVEL
ON-CAMPUS
BIBLE STUDY**

**Monday Nights
7:00pm**

IN:

**The Memorial Student Center
Ballroom C**



There is much historical, scientific, and theological evidence to support the accuracy of the Bible and the legitimacy of the writings therein. There are many Bible scholars pointing to the fulfillments of prophecy within the Bible, and archaeologists are digging up ruins and artifacts that back up its teachings. All of these aspects tell an important testimony of the Bible's authority and accuracy as a historical document, but how can we relate to it today? A common myth is that the Bible is a dry, old, dusty book with stories that don't make sense and people who led boring lives. Many people think the happenings in the Bible were so long ago and so far away that they are no longer relevant in light of the issues we deal with today.

However, upon reading the Bible, we can see more clearly that the things we encounter as human beings span ages and cultures. The people in the Bible dealt with the exact same issues that we face today. The most amazing truth is that God never changes, and His love for His people is as unwavering now as it was then.

The following list contains issues that confront us as humans living in a world full of sin, and

answers to these problems from the Bible. This is just a tiny sample of the relevancy of God's Word for today.

ACCEPTANCE: Let's face it, we all feel the need to be accepted. We want that pat on the back or someone who will never let us down. The problem is that we can never gain this acceptance from another human being because sooner or later they will disappoint us. There were people during Jesus' lifetime that wanted acceptance, but they were the outcasts of society. They were prostitutes, drunks, and tax collectors. Jesus was the only one to show them true love and acceptance by taking time to eat dinner with them:

"That night Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to be dinner guests along with his fellow tax collectors and other notorious sinners. The Pharisees were indignant. 'Why does your teacher eat with such scum?' they asked his disciples.

When he heard this Jesus replied, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor, sick people do.' Then he added, 'Now go and learn the meaning of this scripture: I want you to be merciful, I don't want your sacrifices. For I have come to call sinners, not those who think they are already good enough.' (Matthew 9:9-13)*

Jesus offers us love just as we are, and in His love is a perfect acceptance that will never let us down.

"...nothing... will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)*

ADDICTION: Addiction goes deeper than just

substance abuse—our greatest addiction is to sin. The Bible talks a lot about this addiction to sin, and how God gives us the power to be free from our slavery to addiction.

“Don’t you realize that whatever you choose to obey becomes your master? You can choose sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God and receive his approval.” (Romans 6:16)*

“If your sinful nature controls your mind there is death, but if the Holy Spirit controls your mind there is life and peace.” (Romans 8:5-9)*

DEPRESSION: Everyone gets down at times, but today’s remedy is just to pop more pills to fix the problem. Here is what the Bible offers for those who feel down or depressed.

“Jesus said, ‘Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.’” (Matthew 11:28-30)*

God is able to rescue us from even the worst depression and fear.

“He lifted me out of the pit of despair.” (Psalm 40:1-3)*

“...when he looked around at the high waves he was terrified and began to sink. ‘save me Lord,’ he shouted. Instantly, Jesus reached out his hand and grabbed him.” (Matthew 14:29-31)*

GRIEF: God knows we grieve, understands our sorrow, and comforts us. He does not promise to preserve us from grief, but to help us through it. He gives us hope that, for His children, there will be no

more grief in Heaven.

“He is the source of every mercy and the God who comforts us...” (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)*

“He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain.” (Revelation 21:4)*

These are just a few examples of the numerous ways that the Word of God is just as applicable today as ever. To understand more fully how much He loves you, spend some time relating to Him by reading His words to you in the Bible.

*All Bible references are from the New Living Translation.

Bible Statistics:

Number of books in the Bible: 66

Chapters: 1,189

Verses: 31,101

Longest name: Mahershalalhashbaz

Longest verse: Esther 8:9 (78 words)

Shortest verse: John 11:35 (2 words)

Longest book: Psalms (150 chapters)

Shortest book (by number of words): 3 John

Longest chapter: Psalm 119

Shortest chapter: Psalm 117

The word “God” appears: 3,358 times

The word “Lord” appears: 7,736 times

Number of different authors: 40

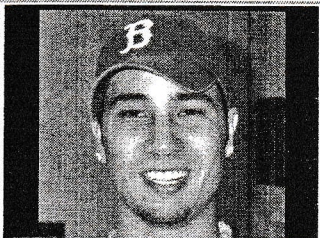
Number of languages the Bible has been translated into: over 1,200

Hours it takes to read the entire Bible: 70

• **Stephen Langton first divided the Bible into chapters in 1228.**

source: www.cdu.jesusanswers.com

Question: What's your opinion of the Bible and how did you reach that opinion?



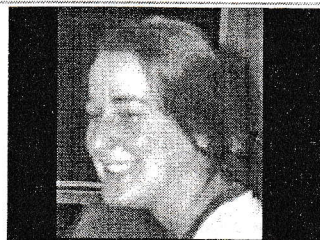
Jason Set

"I feel that the Bible is an accurate source to go by. It has a lot of good points, but I don't feel that a person's life should be totally based on it. It puts certain restrictions on people and I think a person should be able to do whatever they feel is right. I know people, I'm not going to say who, who base their entire life on it and it limits them from certain things. They only associate themselves with certain people and those who don't live like they do are somewhat looked down upon. Overall, the Bible: good, basing your whole life on it: not so good."



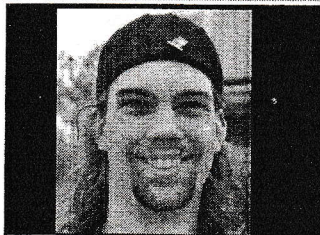
Levi Wagner

"The world would be a better place if more people read it. I was just raised that way."



Molly Blatz

"I think that the Bible is a good literary text. I have read some of it because I grew up in the church, but I think sometimes people read too much into it. It has a lot of really beautiful stories."



John Englund

"The Bible is real and I know this by life experiences. It has proved itself to me by its real application in my life."

The Bible is a Love Letter...

For a moment, let's fast forward a few years to a time when all of us twenty-somethings may have children. Now let's say, for some reason, that there is a law that forces you to be separated from your babies at birth, before they have a chance to know or see you, they will be taken away to a distant and foreign land to be sold into slavery, with only a slight chance of seeing their real family again. There is only one thing that you are allowed to do--you are told you can write them a letter, and in this letter you may put anything you wish for them to know or understand. Perhaps information about their parents, their history, their purpose, or simply how real you are and how much you love them, even though they have never seen you.

If you were given this sad ultimatum, what would you write? Would you focus on making the letter merely a great literary work, a bit of good teaching, or just some generic code for living? Probably not. Into this letter you would pour all the passionate love a parent could feel for their children, telling them how you long to see them, and that your greatest desire is for them to know the depth of your love. You would describe your characteristics to them, maybe a little of your sense of humor and family traits you'd wish to pass on. You would explain to them the cause of the separation, the law that took them away from you at birth, and the plan you have to do everything in your power to rescue them and bring the family all together, encouraging them to keep hope and to look forward to the freedom that will be theirs someday.

Now put yourself in the child's shoes. You have grown up in life of slavery, not knowing a real family. You have a boss that feeds you and gives you a bed, but he is also very cruel and only civil toward you when you do exactly what he wants. You have grown up to be weary and beaten down, never knowing kind love or caring from anyone. In the back of your mind is the glimmer of hope that you may have a family, but you have learned to push this idea out because it is just too painful to hope for more than the reality of your harsh situation. One day an older friend, also a slave, hands you a letter written in a foreign tongue and it is unlike anything you've ever seen. The friend tells you that it is the letter your parents left you describing their love and plan to save you. How would you react?

Maybe you would refuse to believe your friend, arguing that you can't yet read this language yourself, and you have no way to be sure what the letter really says. Perhaps you would rip the letter up in anger before even reading it and become bitter because you don't understand how real parents who love you could have ever put you in this situation; they hadn't yet come to rescue you. You might decide to learn to read the language and find out for yourself what the letter actually says. In any case, you have a choice to believe in not only the existence of your blood family, but also in the reality of their love and the effectiveness of their plan to rescue you from slavery and to be with them some day. There is much proof supporting their existence; such as the eye-witness accounts of older slaves that had seen and known your parents, and the letter itself with its browned pages and ink smudged by tears.

Your heart longs to believe that there is more to your life than a meaningless existence of slavery until the day you die, but it just seems too good to be true.....

Believe it or not, the Bible is just such a **letter from a loving Father to His enslaved children**. He has left behind a legacy for us full of the proof of His existence. God has included in His love letter the reason for our separation from Him, and His plan to rescue us so we will see Him again. God writes that sin is the reason for the separation from Him in our lives. "But there is a problem; your sins have cut you off from God" (Isaiah 59:2). "Sin is no longer your master, for you are no longer subject to the law, which enslaves you to sin. Instead, you are free by God's grace" (Romans 6:14).

He describes His plan to save us from our slavery to sin and be reunited with us. He did this by sending his only free son, Jesus, to Earth to die in our place, paying the debt for all of our sins, and buying us a way out of our slavery. God also writes of how Jesus rose from the dead, ensuring that this is a permanent payment, one that cannot be taken back. This new free life is available because Jesus is now alive. Included in God's letter are eye-witness accounts of Jesus' life and actions here on Earth. "We are made right in God's sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done" (Romans 3:22). "We are no longer slaves to sin...we are sure of this because Christ rose from the dead and he will never die again...He died once to defeat sin" (Romans 5:6-10). "The one who existed from the beginning is the one we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is Jesus Christ, the word of life...We are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard..." (1 John 1:1-3) "For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the power of our Lord Jesus Christ and his coming again. We have seen his majestic splendor with our own eyes" (2 Peter 1:16).

The Bible also contains a beautifully full and descriptive picture of what God is like, concerning his characteristics and feelings toward us. He is so passionate about His love for His children. He wants us to know about His kindness and tender love, so we can respond to Him in love, not out of obligation. "...I have loved you my people with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself" (Jeremiah 31:3). "...I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised and I will bring you home again. For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "they are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). "The Lord is merciful and gracious; he is slow to get angry and full of unfailing love" (Psalm 103:8).

Finally, this leaves us with a choice of what to do with this beautiful love letter. The Bible contains absolutely every instruction for living a life of hope and joy, along with the details of God's faithful plan of love to save us, His children in exile. Will you refuse to believe in both the existence and love of God along with His promises to you and hope for your future? Will you dismiss it as just another memento to sit on your shelf, or will you delve deeply into the evidence left for you by your Perfect Father?

*All Bible verses are from the New Living Translation

APATHY KILLS



But who cares right? People today do not seem to care about much of anything; we can believe whatever we want as long as we don't bother other people. We are concerned with "getting stuff" that is supposed to make us happy. Do these things really make us happy in the long run? People today don't want to take the time to decide if God is real, and even if He is, no one has time for Him. The problem with caring too much about anything is that it gives us responsibility. If God exists, then we have a responsibility to Him. When we really care for a person we spend time with them. **If we really care about our relationship with Jesus Christ, then we spend time with Him and serve Him.** Proverbs 19:16 says, "He who keeps the commandments keeps his soul, But he who is careless of his ways will die."

If you're not a believer in Jesus Christ, it's time to start caring about who He is and why all these Christians are saying that we need him so much. We waste so much time collecting our possessions, but no one cares enough to find out what really is important in this life. Unfortunately, there are many churches and Christians out there that are just as guilty of not caring as the world around them. In an article called "The Failure of the Christian church" the author describes it this way:

"Unfortunately, because of doctrinal "refining" on the non-essentials, a desire to be comfortable, and apathy, the American church has, in many respects, become castrated. It spends too much time splitting doctrinal hairs, separating, and then hiding in churches designed to keep its members comfortable and safe. On the outside, the world is going to hell while on the inside, we are playing the religion game."¹

As individuals we all have the responsibility of making a choice: to serve God completely or to sit back, not care, live our lives as we see fit, and maybe show up to church when it's convenient. Everyone's future depends on Jesus Christ—who He is, and what He has done for us. It's time to start caring. God loves us whether we acknowledge His existence or not. If we continue to live a life of apathy, one day we'll find that we should have cared—by then it will be too late.

Sources:

1) Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry
<http://www.carm.org/issues/churchfailure.htm>

2) Apathy, an Enemy of the Church, Bill Cantrell
<http://home.hiwaay.net/~billc2/apathy.htm>

A MAN WITH A GREAT INTEREST IN DOLL- MAKING CREATED SEVEN DOLLS MADE OF WOOD.



He carefully carved each intricate feature so that every doll was different from the next. He made them each with moveable parts and colored hair. He gave them each a voice, breath, and a beating heart. Every one was beautiful in its own way, and the doll-maker was very pleased with his work. He loved those seven dolls more than anything, and he talked with them often, telling them never to leave him, to listen to his instruction, and to heed his correction. The doll-maker warned them to pay attention to him always because he knew everything about them, he knew everything they needed, and he knew their thoughts and desires. He told his dolls that no matter how well they thought they knew what was best for themselves, he would always know better because he was the one who had made them. The doll-maker promised that if they would allow him to, he would take care of them forever. The dolls believed him with all of their minds, with all of their hearts, and with all of their souls.

One evening as the doll-maker

was resting in his chair, a puppeteer stole into his house through an open window. The puppeteer was evil and dangerous, intelligent and sly, and very jealous of the doll-maker's talent. The puppeteer spoke with the seven dolls about a life that existed outside of the doll-maker's house. A life of adventure, glamour, and popularity. The puppeteer was very convincing. The dolls listened intently before the puppeteer promised another visit and slipped through the same open window without stirring the doll-maker. In the morning the doll-maker heard his dolls discussing some things amongst themselves. They kept their conversation to a whisper and stopped talking altogether when they realized they were being heard. The doll-maker was very troubled by what he had heard, for although he wasn't able to understand clearly what was being said, he knew in his heart that each of his dolls would leave him in the night. This could very well be the last time he had to spend with them. That very night he lined them up on

nodded their wooden head and believed him with all of their mind, with all of their heart, and with all of their soul. The puppeteer put all seven dolls into a cloth sack and left through the window. Each of the dolls was willing and eager to leave.

It was no surprise to the doll-maker the next morning when he found the shelf empty. He was only resting in his chair and not sleeping the night of the puppeteer's first visit and had overheard the things he had told the dolls. Furthermore, the doll-maker knew the puppeteer well; he was very deceiving and his speech was very smooth and enticing. He knew the puppeteer had a reputation for approaching the weak and gullible with seductive offers and empty promises. The doll-maker knew all about the puppeteer, for he had previously worked for the doll-maker. However, the puppeteer became very jealous of the doll-maker's talent and success and had been working diligently against him ever since to thwart his business. So it was no surprise to the doll-maker that his dolls had been stolen, especially by one like the puppeteer.

the shelf above his table as was the routine before he went off to sleep. He told them how pleased he was with them and how deep his love was for them. He bid them a good night knowing that for the majority of them it was actually a farewell.

During the night the puppeteer returned, sliding through the window and over to the shelf where the dolls sat in a row. He asked them if they had considered the things he had spoken of the night prior. The dolls each

The doll-maker didn't lose track of his dolls, but followed the puppeteer and his traveling show to each stage they would visit. The doll-maker would purchase balcony tickets to each performance and watch as his beloved dolls were made to dance uncontrollably and jerk around the stage in unnatural ways. They were forced to say things that weren't of their character, becoming almost unrecognizable. It pained the doll-maker to no end seeing his precious dolls bound up with strings that were never intended to be a part of them. It was a terrible thing for the doll-maker to behold his dolls being treated this way by an impersonal puppeteer who was not visible to the audience but hovered above the stage with the controls in his evil hands.

The doll-maker watched his precious ones over many years in a spectacular display of puppeteering and theatrics, seeing the same sad little drama unfold in the same predictable way, night after night. He took note of how they didn't seem as content as when they had first begun performing, and how the strings had begun to look cumbersome to his dolls. It broke his heart to see this, so the doll-maker took it upon himself to cut the strings of the smallest doll at the end of the line. The poor doll fell to the floor, the doll-maker picked him up and held him in his arms. The doll noticed that his strings were cut and was extremely thankful, promising to stay with the doll-maker forever.

"Go and tell the others what I have done for you. Tell the other dolls that I will do the same for them," the doll-maker commanded. The doll told the others they were bound up by strings and they were being controlled, but the others completely ignored him. He told them there was a life far better than this, but the others laughed at him. He reminded them of the doll-maker and how much he loved them. He reminded them of his promises, his generosity, and his compassion, but the others mocked him. The smallest doll returned to the doll-maker and reported to him the things that were said. "They didn't believe me. They said I was a liar. They think that you and the puppeteer are the same person, and they hate me because they don't think it is right for me to claim I know such things. They don't trust me because I am little. They told me they are happy to go on doing what they are doing, and if I wouldn't be quiet they were going to light me on fire!! Why can't you just cut their strings so they can be free from the puppeteer? Why don't you take them from him so they can understand how awful he is and see the things that I see? How terrible this is!! They have all but forgotten you!! Won't you please just cut their strings?"

"I would never do such a thing for them," the doll-maker replied with a sorrowful tone. "I have allowed them to choose for themselves what they would like to pursue, and they have traded the truth for a lie. They have allowed

themselves to be seduced by the false promises of the puppeteer hoping they might find happiness, in spite of the fact I had told them all that was needed to find it. They have utterly forsaken me in order to love themselves. I will not cut their strings because I love them and have allowed them to choose for themselves what they would like. They have chosen the way of the puppeteer, so that is what I will allow them to have, even though it pains me greatly. For you and I both know what the truth is, but they will never understand. I would cut their strings if that was what they wanted; they only need to ask. I would do anything for them. I would die for them. Unfortunately, there is nothing more I can do. They knew me and rejected me, and when I sent you, they rejected you. Their decision is final."

"But I don't understand," the doll sighed.

"I didn't ask you to understand. I love them far too much to cut their strings," the doll-maker replied.

"But why did you cut my strings?" the doll asked.

"Because I love you, too," the doll-maker answered.

"But I don't understand," the doll sighed.

"I didn't ask you to understand," came the reply.

AND THE DOLL BELIEVED HIM WITH ALL OF HIS MIND, WITH ALL OF HIS HEART, AND WITH ALL OF HIS SOUL.

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*feed Science Report

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

Feasting Upon Christ

By: Dave Hunt

We have previously shown that conceptual ideas expressed in words are not physical. Those who doubt this fact must answer the following questions: How much does morality *weigh*? How does ethics *feel* to the *touch*? What is the *taste* of justice, the *odor* of holiness, the *sound* of honesty, the *visible appearance* of truth? Obviously, each of these words expresses a concept which has no physical qualities, is not describable in physical terms and must therefore be nonphysical.

All thoughts, even of physical things, are nonphysical. This self-evident fact does not deny the reality of either the mental dimension or the material universe, but it clearly separates one from the other.

Psychics claim to be able to bridge this chasm and to transcend time. Hinduism and related forms of mysticism, such as Christian Science and other "mind sciences," attempt either to create the physical with mental ideas and images or to deny objective reality with the claim that all existence is in the mind. Half-believing these lies, parapsychologists endeavor to establish a *scientific* link between the mental and physical and to discover how to manipulate the latter with the mind. We have dealt with such matters in *Occult Invasion* (see www.theberean.org) and will not do so here.

Since all thoughts are nonphysical, no thought could have a physical source.

Therefore, thoughts and ideas do not originate with the brain, a physical organ. Undeniably, the mind is not physical--yet it has a mysterious connection to the brain which science cannot fathom.

Matter, including the brain, cannot think. Ideas must have an intelligent source which is distinct from the physical world. Nor can matter arrange itself into words and sentences expressing conceptual ideas.

Yet this is exactly what we find with DNA. There, stated in a precise language, encoded for decoding by certain protein molecules, is a complete manual of *written* instructions (imprinted on the

Since all thoughts are nonphysical, no thought could have a physical source.

single cell from which we each begin physical life) for constructing and operating each of trillions of individual cells and forming them into a body. Unquestionably, DNA was conceived of and put into process by an Intelligence far beyond the grasp of human minds.

DNA alone is sufficient to prove the eternal existence of God, the Creator of all. The theory of evolution is the desperate grasping at straws by those who "did not like to

retain God in their knowledge" and whom He therefore "gave ...over to a reprobate mind..." (Rom 1:28).

Inasmuch as thoughts are nonphysical, their intelligent source must also be nonphysical. Certainly this is true of the Supreme Intelligence: "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (Jn 4:24). Therefore, man, created in the "image of God" (Gn 1:26,27; 9:6) with the capacity to conceive conceptual ideas and to communicate them in words to other intelligent beings, must be a nonphysical intelligence living in a physical body. No one can honestly deny this simple fact--a fact which, by the way, further reveals the lie of evolution. The human soul and spirit comprising man's nonphysical intelligence and personality could never evolve from *matter*.

Thoughts have a spiritual source. We know that physical bodies grow old and eventually die and decay in the grave because of the Second Law of Thermodynamics, the law of entropy. There is no reason, however, to believe that the nonphysical person, who originated the thoughts and made the choices, ceases to exist when separated from the body by death. That thinking person who made his own moral decisions is logically, biblically and justly accountable to his Creator-God for every thought, word and deed--and one day will give that account and reap the consequences.

UW-STOUT EVENTS...Check it out y'all!

SPORTS:

- **thursday, november 13**
Soccer NCAA Tournament begins
- **friday, november 14**
Hockey at St. Mary's, Winona, Minn., 7:30 p.m.
- **saturday, november 15**
Football vs. UW-Platteville, 1 p.m.
Women's Cross Country co-host NCAA Division III Regionals, Colfax, Wis., 11 a.m.
Men's Cross Country co-host NCAA Division III Regionals, Colfax, Wis., 12 p.m.
Hockey vs. St. Thomas, 7:30 p.m.
- **friday, november 21**
Men's Basketball at U of the South Tourney, Sewanee, Tenn., vs. U of the South, 1 p.m.
Women's Basketball at Kalamazoo Tourney, vs. Denison, Ohio, Kalamazoo, Mich., 6 p.m.
Hockey at Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn., 7 p.m.
- **saturday, november 22**
Women's Cross Country at NCAA Division III Nationals, Hanover, Ind., 11 a.m.
Men's Cross Country at NCAA Division III Nationals, Hanover, Ind., 12 p.m.
Men's Basketball at U of the South Tourney, Sewanee, Tenn., vs. Lynchburg, 1 p.m.
Women's Basketball at Kalamazoo Tourney, vs. Kalamazoo or MSOE, Kalamazoo, Mich., 1/3 p.m.
Hockey vs. Bethel College, 7:30 p.m.
- **monday, november 24**
Men's Basketball at Transylvania University, Lexington, Ky., 7 p.m.
- **tuesday, november 25**
Women's Basketball at Northwestern College, Roseville, Minn., 7 p.m.
Hockey at St. Johns, St. Cloud, Minn., 7 p.m.
- **wednesday, november 26**
Men's Basketball at Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind., 7:30 p.m.
- **friday, november 28**
Men's Basketball hosts UW-Stout Tournament, Carleton vs. Wis. Lutheran, 6 p.m., Stout vs. Northwestern, 8 p.m.
- **saturday, november 29**
Men's Basketball hosts UW-Stout Tournament, Consolation, 6 p.m., Championship, 8 p.m.
Hockey vs. UM-Crookston (Thanksgiving Tourney), 7:30 p.m.
- **sunday, november 30**
Women's Basketball vs. Northland College, 1 p.m.
Hockey vs. MSOE (Thanksgiving Tourney), 4 p.m.

continued on next 3 pages...

- **tuesday, december 2**
Women's Basketball vs. UW-Superior,
7 p.m.
- **wednesday, december 3**
Men's Basketball vs. UW-Superior,
7 p.m.
- **friday, december 5**
Hockey vs. UW-Eau Claire, 7:30 p.m.
- **saturday, december 6**
Women's Basketball at UW-Eau Claire,
5 p.m.
Men's Basketball at UW-Eau Claire,
7 p.m.
Hockey vs. UW-Stevens Point, 7:30 p.m.
- **tuesday, december 9**
Women's Basketball vs. UW-Stevens
Point, 7 p.m.
- **wednesday, december 10**
Men's Basketball vs. UW-Stevens Point,
7 p.m.
- **wednesday, december 12**
Hockey vs. UW-River Falls, 7:30 p.m.
- **saturday, december 13**
Women's Basketball at St. Cloud State,
St. Cloud, Minn., 7 p.m.
Men's Basketball at Elmhurst College,
Elmhurst Ill., 7:30 p.m.
Hockey at UW-River Falls, 7 p.m.
- **monday, december 15**
Women's Basketball at Martin Luther,
New Ulm, Minn., 7 p.m.
- **saturday, december 20**
Men's Basketball vs. Viterbo University,
7 p.m.
- **sunday, december 28**
Men's Basketball vs. KM Hoopers
(exhibition), 3 p.m.
- **monday, december 29**
Women's Basketball vs. Keene State,
Phoenix, Ariz., 10 a.m.
- **wednesday, december 31**
Women's Basketball vs. Southern
Maine, Phoenix, Ariz., 10 a.m.
- **saturday, january 3**
Women's Basketball at UW-Oshkosh,
5 p.m.
Men's Basketball at UW-Oshkosh,
7 p.m.
- **tuesday, january 6**
Women's Basketball vs. St.
Scholastica, 7 p.m.
- **friday, january 9**
Gymnastics at UW-Oshkosh, 7 p.m.
Hockey vs. Finlandia (JV), 7:30 p.m.
- **saturday, january 10**
Men's Basketball vs. UW-Platteville,
7 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs.
UW-Platteville,
5 p.m.
- **tuesday, january 13**
Women's Basketball at UW-La Crosse,
7 p.m.
- **wednesday, january 14**
Gymnastics vs. Winona State, 7 p.m.
Men's Basketball at UW-La Crosse,
7 p.m.

- **friday, january 16**
Hockey at St. Norbert, Green Bay, Wis., 7 p.m.
- **saturday, january 17**
M & W Track Alumni/IntraSquad meet, TBA
Women's Basketball at UW-Whitewater, 5 p.m.
Men's Basketball at UW-Whitewater, 7 p.m.
- **tuesday, january 20**
Women's Basketball vs. UW-River Falls, 7 p.m.
- **wednesday, january 21**
Men's Basketball vs. UW-River Falls, 7 p.m.
- **friday, january 23**
Hockey vs. UW-Superior, 7:30 p.m.
- **saturday, january 24**
Gymnastics at UW-Eau Claire, TBA
Men's Basketball vs. UW-Eau Claire, 5 p.m.
Women's Basketball vs. UW-Eau Claire, 7 p.m.
M & W Track at St. Mary's Invite, 11 a.m.
Hockey at St. Scholastica, Duluth, Minn., 7:30 p.m.
- **wednesday, january 28**
Women's Basketball at UW-Stevens Point, 8 p.m.
Men's Basketball at UW-Stevens Point, 6 p.m.

- **friday, january 30**
Gymnastics at UW-Whitewater, 7 p.m.
Hockey vs. St. Scholastica, 7:30 p.m.
- **saturday, january 31**
M & W Track host UW-Stout Open, noon
Men's Basketball at UW-Platteville, 5 p.m.
Women's Basketball at UW-Platteville, 7 p.m.
Hockey at UW-Superior, 7 p.m.

UW-STOUT Academic Calendar

- **Wednesday, November 26**
Thanksgiving Break, No Classes
- **Monday, December 1**
Classes Resume
- **Friday, December 12**
Classes End at 5:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, December 13**
Commencement
- **Monday, December 15-
Friday, December 19**
Evaluation Week
- **Friday, January 2**
WinTerM Classes Begin
- **Sunday, January 18**
WinTerM Classes End

MUSIC:

• Open Mic

Thursday, Nov. 13, 8pm, MSC
tickets: free

From acoustic guitar to spoken word, performance art or stand-up comedy, all are encouraged to participate; variety is after all, the spice of life. Performance sign-up will occur at the door the night of the show.

• Eric Nieves

Wednesday, December 3, 8pm
Huffs-MSc lower level
tickets: students \$2.50
public \$5.00

• Totally 80's Open Mic

Thursday, December 4, 8pm, MSC
tickets: free

• Breathing Machine w/ A Day Away

Thursday, December 11, 8pm, MSC
tickets: free
www.breathingmachine.com

• Mason Jennings

Friday, November 21, 8pm,
Great Hall, MSC
tickets: \$5 students
\$10 public

COMEDY:

• Rusty Dooley w/ Fetal Funk Bass 3000

Wednesday, November 19, 8pm
Great Hall, MSC
tickets: students \$2.50
public \$5.00
www.auburnmoonagency.com/comedyrusty.html

For further event info: www.uwstout.edu

FILM:

• Ultimate X

Tuesday, December 9, 7pm,
Huffs-MSc lower level
tickets: free

Touchstone Pictures' motion picture ESPN's "Ultimate X" takes audiences inside the excitement and explosive drama of ESPN's massively popular Summer X Games. Chronicling the breathtaking highlights and dramatic stories behind the 2001 Summer X Games in Philadelphia, ESPN's "Ultimate X" showcases the eye-popping skateboarding, BMX biking, Moto X, and street luge competitions on the giant screen for the first time. In the film, X Games stars including skateboarders Tony Hawk, Bob Burnquist, and Bucky Lasek, BMX stunt riders T.J. Lavin, Dave Mirra, Cory "Nasty" Nastazio, Ryan Nyquist, and Mat Hoffman, and Moto X riders Travis Pastrana, Brian Deegan, and Carey Hart share their experiences as they prepare for and compete in the ultimate championship event for action sports. Written and directed by Bruce Hendricks.

THEATRE:

• A Child's Christmas in Wales

Saturday December 13th, 7:00 pm
tickets: free to public, food donations accepted for local food pantry
This is Dr. Miller's annual solo performance of the Dylan Thomas classic *A Child's Christmas in Wales*.
<http://lorenzo.uwstout.edu/theatre/utheatre.html>

STOUTREACH EVENTS:

• 9TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIVING TREE

Donate gifts for the holidays for children and teenagers
Sign up dates: November 20th-December 9th At Involvement and Leadership Center-MSc
Gift drop off date: Wednesday, December 11th, 3:30 pm-6:00 pm, Huff's-MSc
Contact the Involvement and Leadership Center, Rm. 133, MSC-Phone #232-1772

The soul and spirit--cognitive person who was created "in the image of God"--is clearly not subject to physical laws, and therefore continues in conscious existence eternally. As Paul declared, "the [material] things which are seen are temporal; but the [nonmaterial] things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor 4:18).

William Law said it well nearly 300 years ago in *The Power of the Spirit*: "The time of man's... grasping after positions among men or amusing

himself with the foolish toys of this vain world can last no longer than he is able to eat and drink with the creatures of this world." Far from being the end of human existence, however, death brings man before God in judgment: "...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb 9:27). The Bible often declares that man continues to exist eternally, either in heaven or in hell. There are many warnings of eternal punishment (Ps 9:17, 55:15; 139:8; Prv 5:5; 7:27; 9:18; 15:24; Is 5:14; 14:9, 15; Ezk 31:16-18; 32:27; Am 9:2; Rv 20:13-15, etc.).

More than any other part of Scripture, the recorded words of Christ warn of the judgment and eternal punishment that follow death for those who persist in rebellion against God during their physical existence (Mt 5:22, 29,30; 10:28; 11:23; 18:7-9; 23:15, 33; 25:46; Mk 9:42-48; Lk 16:19-31, etc.). Likewise, Paul and the other apostles warned of eternal judgment and hell (2 Thes 1:9; Jas

3:6; 2 Pt 2:4; Rv 19:20; 20:10,14,15, etc.).

It is the nonphysical and eternal part of man, the soul and spirit, to which Scripture is addressed. By contrast, most of man's efforts and attention are concerned with his temporary physical needs and pleasures. The physical so consumes

...Most of man's efforts and attention are concerned with his temporary physical needs and pleasures.

h u m a n thought that spiritual truth is obscured by the sensual. And to this fact all of the world's religions bear eloquent testimony!

Paganism is dominated by fetishes, idols, ornate altars, robes, candles, elaborate ceremonies, and repetitiously chanted secret formulas. All of these are part of a superstitious attempt to influence the nonphysical spirit world by physical means. It is clearly a continuance of the lie

The physical so consumes human thought that spiritual truth is obscured by the sensual.

with which the Serpent deceived Eve: that through eating physical fruit she could gain spiritual blessings, including immortality and godhood (Gn 3:1-7).

That very delusion became the foundation of all false religions (including pseudo-Christianity). Israel also

succumbed to this deception, worshiping the counterfeit gods of her idolatrous pagan neighbors in ornate temples containing extravagant altars set in sacred groves upon "high places" (Nm 33:52; 1 Kg 3:2,3; 2 Kg 15:35; 2 Ch 33:19; Jer 3:2; 7:30-34; Ezk 16:16-43; Am 7:8,9, etc.), bringing God's judgment (Lv 26:30-33, etc.). For example: "...king Ahaz...saw an altar...at Damascus; [and]...sent to Urijah the priest the fashion of the altar...according to all the workmanship thereof. And Urijah the priest built the altar according to all that king Ahaz had sent from Damascus...And when the king was come from Damascus, [he]... approached to the altar and offered thereon" (2 Kg 16:10-12).

Much of the professing "Christian church" of today continues to pursue the same abominations. Most obvious is Roman Catholicism, with its sacred instruments of worship made of precious metals mounted with jewels, its rich altars, statues, ornate cathedrals, priests presiding over elaborate rituals and dressed in luxurious vestments and outlandish hats—as though such temporal things merit God's eternal favor. Physical

symbols (bread and wine) were turned into Christ himself, with the delusion that ingesting them (Him?) into one's stomach brings forgiveness and eternal life by installments.

Sacramentalism, both Catholic and Protestant, brushes aside the commonsense understanding of the inviolable separation

between the physical and spiritual. Christ's words are ignored, even defied: "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (Jn 6:63). Instead, it is as though Christ actually said, "The flesh is the key. Physical religious objects are doorways to God's power, and words have spiritual value only when used in the church's rituals."

One of the most miraculous provisions for Israel throughout its decades in the barren wilderness was the water that came from solid rock—a Rock which apparently was always at hand wherever they journeyed. Paul says, "they did all drink the same spiritual drink...of that spiritual Rock that followed them..." (1 Cor 10:4). *Spiritual drink...spiritual rock...that followed them?* Paul explains, "and that Rock was Christ." Not that Christ was literally a rock, of course, but the rock and the water which miraculously flowed from it represented Christ and the spiritual water of life which He would provide through His redemptive work on the Cross.

Earnestly trying to turn His people's attention from physical water for the body to spiritual drink for thirsting souls, God exhorted a rebellious Israel, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters....Seek ye the LORD while he may be found..." (Is 55:1,6). In clear declaration of His deity, Christ claimed to be that spiritual water of eternal life, the spiritual Rock and the Lord of Israel himself: "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly [inward being, soul and spirit] shall flow rivers of living water. (...this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive...)" (Jn 7:37-39). He repeatedly made it clear that spiritual eating and drinking is through *believing* in Him.

To the woman at the well Christ makes the same claim: "Whosoever

drinketh of this [physical] water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the [spiritual] water that I give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (Jn 4:13, 14). Obviously, Christ did not offer to satisfy her physical thirst with physical water, but her spiritual thirst with the gift of eternal life, which she could only receive by faith in Him alone.

In His temptation by Satan in the wilderness, Christ quoted the words He had spoken to the Israelites through Moses: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"

God" (Dt 8:3; Mt 4:4; Lk 4:4). The manna miraculously given to Israel throughout its wilderness journey, like water out of the Rock, was one more symbol of the spiritual provision they could receive by believing His words.

There is a clear distinction—yet at the same time an illuminating parallel—between physical bread which sustains the physical body and nonphysical words which sustain the soul and spirit. Christ often used something physical to illustrate a spiritual truth: "I am the light of the world" (Jn 8:12); "I am the door...the good shepherd...the vine, ye are the branches" (Jn 10:7-9, 14; 15:5, etc.). Never, however, did He suggest that the physical thing

itself had any spiritual power. *And that is the grave error of sacramentalism.*

In presenting Himself as the fulfillment of Old Testament promises to Israel, Christ made the most powerful, yet often overlooked, declarations of His deity. A mob of hungry Jews, interested only in the healing of their bodies and the filling of their stomachs, wanted to "take him [Jesus] by force, to make him a king" (Jn 6:15). Seeking to turn them from the physical to the spiritual, Jesus claimed to be the One to whom the manna and water out of the Rock pointed: "[H]e that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst...Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead....I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world" (Jn 6:35, 48-51).

At this point, Catholicism make its gravest error: transubstantiation. Insisting that Christ is not speaking spiritually but physically, Catholics boast that they take Him *literally* when He says, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you" (Jn 6:53). Thereby, Catholicism misses the "spirit, and...life" (vs. 63) given to those who accept by faith the salvation He offers through His becoming a man and dying for our sins. Blind to the spiritual, it claims that its priests have the power to turn bread and wine into Christ's physical body and blood—again and again. Instead of believing that Christ paid sin's penalty in full by one sacrifice on the cross, they claim to perpetually sacrifice Him and to physically ingest His literal

body and blood.

A similar mistake is made even by many who rightly deny the error of believing that the communion bread and cup are Christ's physical body and blood. They imagine that there is *spiritual power* in the physical act of partaking of these elements. But Christ established this ordinance as an act of *remembrance*: "this do in remembrance of me" (Lk 22:19, 20; 1 Cor 11:24, 25).

The physical act itself has value only in pointing to the spiritual truth which it represents. For believing participants, it is a reminder to carefully and prayerfully consider again Christ's sacrifice of himself for our sins on the cross. To unbelieving observers, it is a proclamation of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ for their sins as well, though they rejected Him: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew [proclaim] the Lord's death till he come" (1 Cor 11:26).

While the incarnation and Christ's payment of the penalty for sin in order to redeem a Bride is a "great mystery" (Eph 5:32), it is revealed in ever deeper measure to those who feed upon Him through meditation upon the "Word of life" (Phil 2:16; 1 Jn 1:1). How it must grieve our Lord that so many of us, redeemed at great price with His blood poured out at Calvary, have such a feeble appreciation of Him, the eternal Son of God "come in the flesh" (1 Jn 4:2,3; 2 Jn 7). This is why our worship is so shallow, so inadequate, in expressing His eternal pre-incarnate majesty as God, the infinite love manifest in his incarnation and sacrifice for sin, and the glory to which He has ascended and where He will one day receive us in His likeness.

Failure to feast continually upon Him is the reason that our lives reflect so little of Christ "who is our life" (Col 3:4). May we believe and rejoice in His promise: "[W]hosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely" (Rv 22:17). And with deepening understanding and increasing love for Him, may we help others to experience the joy and abundance of the life there is in Christ for those who feast upon "the bread of life."



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CONCERTS:

Words of Grace—November 21st

Complex Zero—December 5th

2 BLOCKS from
The UW-STOUT Campus

The Blind Munchies Scoop:

"The Munchies" is a groovy retro coffeehouse decked out in antiques and old couches. It is a comfortable place to come and chill out with the books, play a quick game of pool, or just listen to the cool music playing in the background. Our coffee and food items are priced as suggested donation. The coffee is the best gourmet coffee you will find in town. With flavors such as "Heart of Darkness", "Jet Fuel", "French Roast", and "Velvet Hammer", it's sure to get you going in the morning or keep you up for that late night cramming session. We also serve a full line of espresso and specialty drinks like mochas, lattes, and Italian sodas. More good news: we serve fresh bakery daily. On Sundays and Wednesdays we serve hot food like pizza, chili, soup, or sandwiches. While Stout is in session, there is also live music twice a month. The music is eclectic: everything from acoustic to punk and there's no cover ever! We are generally open from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and are located at 621 Wilson Avenue in Menomonie, one block east of Burger King. Need a place to chill? Come on down. More info?

Hotline: 715-235-9300

Why You Can Trust God With Your Life

Is there anyone or anything in this life that we as human beings can trust? Is there any person you know you can trust completely, who will never lie to you, disappoint you, or take advantage of your trust and vulnerability? The truth is that we all know, sooner or later, that even the people closest to us let us down, disappoint us, and hurt us, and we do the same to them. We are eager to put our trust in computers, science, and technology, but because all of these are practiced by men or made by men, they will fail also. Computers break down, science proves itself wrong again and again, and even the most brilliant technologies can

become harmful. Even religion will disappoint us. Priests, pastors, and church members can never fill the need we all have to find just one thing in life that will not lie to us and never break a promise.

I have found one whom I can trust completely: Jesus! I trust Him with my life because He is worthy of trust. He has never broken even one promise, He does not and cannot lie, and although I spent a majority of my life living a lie, He will never lie to me. "So God has given us both his promise and his oath.

These two things are interchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can now take courage, for we can hold on to his promise with confidence" (Hebrews 6: 18, NLV).

We can spend our whole lives denying God's existence, making intellectual arguments why there could not be one true and loving God. We can try to disprove the Bible, or to brush Jesus off as a mere human being or just a good moral teacher, but the fact remains, He does not lie, and He keeps every one of His promises.

He does not lie

"... because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, never wavers between yes and no... he is the divine Yes—God's affirmation. For all God's promises have been fulfilled in him." (1 Corinthians 1:19-20).

The most powerful example in the Bible of God's unchanging faithfulness and unconditional love is that of His relationship with the nation of Israel. From the very beginning, God set Israel apart as His chosen people. He would use this nation as a visible example of how He loves all of us no matter

what we do, and reaches down to us with His Son Jesus to show us how He longs to have a relationship with us. These following examples from the Bible are just a few of the many instances where God gave a promise to the people of Israel and tested their faith to see if they would, in turn, trust Him.

Many people are familiar with Noah and the ark and the Great Flood. It is sometimes overlooked as just a fun Bible story, but it was as real as September 11th or World War 2. At that time, no one living in that area of the world (the desert!) could have fathomed a worldwide flood, and many would have thought God crazy for asking them to build a

huge boat. However, in this historical event, God is testing Noah to see if he will simply trust in God's promise and the faithfulness of His word. God gave all the building plans and instructions, and after Noah had completed the ark, God sent forty days and forty nights of rain that covered the entire earth. He had kept each promise to Noah, and then made a final covenant with him;

Then God told Noah and his sons, "I am making a covenant with you and your descendants, and with the animals you brought with you... I

solemnly promise never to send another flood to kill all living creatures and destroy the earth".... I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my permanent promise to you and to all the earth" (Genesis 9:8-13 NLT).

So from the very beginning of time, God's word held true. Another amazing instance is God's covenant with Abraham (a descendent of Noah in early Bible times).

Abraham and his wife Sarah were both very old and had not yet been able to conceive a child. They were worried

had promised. Sarah became pregnant, and she gave a son to Abraham in his old age. It all happened at the time He said it would. And Abraham named his son Isaac" (Genesis 21:1-3).

In these examples it becomes clear that God, who knows everything and loves each one of us individually, keeps His promises even in adverse situations. The promise that affects each of us today in the most life-changing way is God's promise of eternal life in

"My servant* grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, sprouting from a root in dry and sterile ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with the bitterest grief... Yet it was our weaknesses he carried, it was our sorrows that weighed him down... But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that

He keeps every one of His promises

because they wanted their heirs and descendents to be from their bloodline. Abraham asked God what to do, for both of them were surely infertile. God told him to wait, for they would, indeed, have a son. However, instead of relying on God's promise, Abraham took matters into his own hands and slept with a family servant named Hagar, (who was not of their bloodline), and Hagar became pregnant. Abraham messed up because although he would have a son with Hagar, this was not the way that God had promised it would happen. So did God give up on Abraham and Sarah? No. He remained true to his word and shortly thereafter, Sarah became pregnant to prove that God is faithful even when we are not.

"Then the Lord did exactly what He

the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament is filled with prophecies and promises of the coming of Jesus. Each prophecy was fulfilled perfectly by Christ, down to the smallest detail. God told us He would send a sacrifice for our sins, promising hope for a new life because we would be saved by Christ's death on the cross. Once again, God kept His word, which has changed each life that chooses to accept Jesus and the promise in Him. This final verse is a prophecy about Jesus, written long before His lifetime, in the Old Testament book of Isaiah. It describes the suffering He would experience and what that means to you and I.

we might have peace. He was whipped and we were healed! All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own, yet the Lord laid on him the guilt and sins of us all" (Isaiah 53:2-11).

* this is in reference to Jesus

God loves us this much, will we trust in His promises and the truth of His word?

UNUSUAL THINGS IN THE BIBLE:

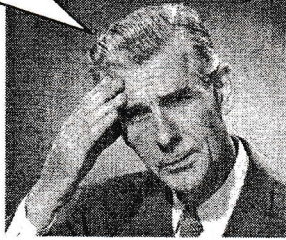
• Sun stood still for a whole day (Joshua 10:13).

• The sun traveled backward (Isaiah 38:8).

• A harlot was an ancestor of Christ. (Matthew 1:5).

(carm.org)

Does the Bible really teach that Jesus was God and had absolute equality with God?



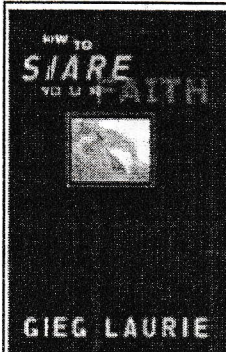
Yes, there are many passages in the New Testament and even some prophetic passages in the Old Testament that teach this.



Here are a few examples:

1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:1,14).
2. "I and My Father are one. Then the Jews (showing that they understood the implications of such a statement) took up stones again to stone Him" (John 10:30,31).
3. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery (or a thing to be held onto at all costs) to remain equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:5-7).
4. "All men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who honors not the Son honors not the Father who has sent Him" (John 5:23).
5. "Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and My God. Jesus said unto him, Thomas, because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are they who have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:28,29).
6. "The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him" (John 1:18).
7. "Jesus said unto him,.. He who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).
8. As an Old Testament example, read the prophecy of the suffering Servant in Isaiah 52:13-53:12. There are a couple dozen specific fulfillments and quotations of the prophecies of this passage in the New Testament accounts of the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ (see, for example, 1 Peter 2:21-25). In Isaiah 52:12 we read, "Behold my Servant shall deal prudently, He shall be exalted (Hebrew *rum*) and extolled (*nasa*) and be very high." Thus He is identified with Jehovah of hosts "sitting upon a throne, high (*rum*) and lifted up (*nasa*)" in Isaiah 6:1,3. Jehovah is the personal name of Israel's one true God. The suffering Servant, the Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament, is here identified as Jehovah, the one true God of Deuteronomy 6:4.

BOOKS: R E V I E W



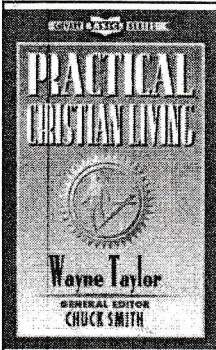
How to Share Your Faith by Greg Laurie

"I was sweating, shaking, and thinking, 'This isn't going to work!'" Is that how you feel when it comes to witnessing? You're not alone. Statistics tell us that 95 percent of all Christians have never led another person to Christ. So how do you learn the life skill of helping a person pass from darkness to light? You're holding the answer right in your hands.

Greg Laurie has not just written a book. He's put down on paper what really works when you share Christ. Not only that, but these brief, fast-moving chapters are actually fun to read. You'll find the practical... how to build a bridge, how to avoid arguments, how to use Scripture properly, how to present Jesus as the only way, along with the problems...what if they say no? What if they say yes?!

No slick fixes here. Just a readable, enjoyable collection of first-person stories that will fire you up and give you firepower. So stop feeling guilty about not sharing your faith. Relax, take a deep breath—and take this book home. It really works!

Source: *How to Share Your Faith* by Greg Laurie, back cover page



Practical Christian Living by Wayne Taylor

Christianity is not just going to meetings once a week, it's an everyday relationship—an exciting, active involvement. That is why Paul pleads with us in Romans 12:1, 2 saying, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

In this book, Pastor Wayne Taylor takes us through a study of Romans 12 & 13 showing us what practical Christian living is all about.

Source: *Practical Christian Living* by Wayne Taylor, back cover page



Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper

John Piper writes, "I will tell you what a tragedy is. I will show you how to waste your life. Consider this story from the February 1998 *Reader's Digest*: A couple 'took early retirement from their jobs in the Northeast five years ago when he was 59 and she was 51. Now they live in Punta Gorda, Florida, where they cruise on their 30-foot trawler, play softball and collect shells....' Picture them before Christ at the great day of judgment: 'Look, Lord. See my shells.' That is a tragedy.

God created us to live with a single passion: to joyfully display his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life. The wasted life is the life without this passion. God calls us to pray and think and dream and plan and work not to be made much of, but to make much of him in every part of our lives."

Mospeople slip by in life without a passion for God, spending their lives on trivial diversions, living for comfort and pleasure, and perhaps trying to avoid sin. This book will warn you not to get caught up in a life that counts for nothing. It will challenge you to live and die boasting in the cross of Christ and making the glory of God your singular passion. If you believe that to live is Christ and to die is gain, read this book, learn to live for Christ, and don't waste your life!

Source: *Don't Waste Your Life* by John Piper, back cover page



study materials
music
commentaries
bibles

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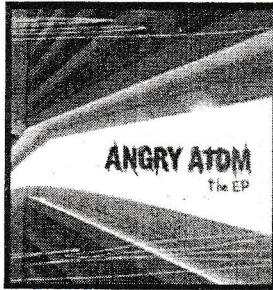
... featuring bands that have played at the **Blind Munchies Coffeehouse** !

Heartfelt Whisper— EMO/Rock Independent

Combining definitive rhythm-driving percussion and passionate melodic guitar work with heartfelt, capturing vocals, **Heartfelt Whisper strives to create a relevant and unique sound.** With a desire to use a broad vocabulary of sound and sweeping landscapes of language, the band will continue to expand their own scope of thought and music. In addition, in unity with their desire, they aspire to make applicable these same ideas to an audience dying to hear truth and solid music.

*taken from <http://groups.msn.com/HeartfeltWhisper/homepage.msnw>
website: www.heartfeltwhisper.com

Heartfelt Whisper



Angry Atom— The EP— Punk Independent

Angry Atom is a brave, 3-piece punk rock band from Minneapolis. Spectacular stage presence, meaningful lyrics, and extreme musical talent lend a hand in landing these guys gigs in all types of venues including the Quest. As Bill Royce of Luke 2 Productions puts it, "**You guys sound so tight, you should work for Fruit of the Loom.**"

website: www.angryatom.com

Nic Johnson—Weightless—Rock Independent

At some point in your life you may have been comforted by a variation of this statement, "Struggle builds character".

If there is any truth to that statement, Nic Johnson is a man that has enough character to overflow into the hearts and minds of every person in the world.

With the release of his second independent CD, "Weightless", Nic continues to write undeniable catchy pop songs that will stir your heart and challenge your soul. To many listeners this time around seems a lot different than the last. It is almost as if you are witnessing the aging of a very fine wine...waiting in anxious anticipation for the moment of perfect arrival.

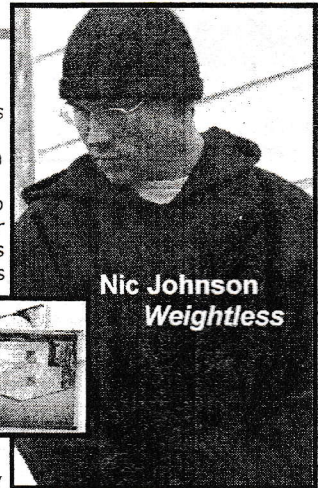
Though this story may seem sad, it is a story of grace and conquest, love and devotion. Enjoy the words of the songwriter himself:

"My name is Nic Johnson. I feel that God has called me to perform my music through guitar and voice. I have a mission to let people know about Jesus. God has given me the gift of writing music that gives people a common ground and allows them to relate to what I am trying to say through my lyrics. Being born with cerebral palsy, I had a multitude of struggles while growing up. Yet God has granted me the grace to see past my limitations. It is my desire that what I have experienced through God's undying grace will bring people from every walk of life into His kingdom."

"Weightless" is a definite snapshot in time that will make you stop and think. Touring plans include most major markets in the Midwest, and feature spot on the upcoming 2003 UNSUNG HEROES TOUR and also several radio and music/bookstore appearances. Look for the first single "Weightless" to hit radio soon!

*source: www.nicjohnson.net/bio.html

website: www.nicjohnson.net



LAZY BONES

Where do scriptures come from?
What does the bible teach?
Why do people go to church?
And why do preachers preach?

And what if I don't like to read?
What happens if I'm bored?
What if I can't understand?
And what if I don't "praise the LORD"?

Is it that I'm careless?
Are gnashing teeth awaiting me?
Can bodies burn forever?
Could I be doomed to wail and weep?

Well, where's the bells and whistles?
And why is God ignoring me?
I've been to church, I've probably prayed,
I guess I think I might believe.

So Jesus if you hear me,
come save me if you please...
..and I'll just sit and wait
because
I'm not about to seek.

"For everyone who asks
receives;

he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks,
the door will be opened."

MATTHEW 7:8

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me
with all your heart."

JEREMIAH 29:13

"...anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists
and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

HEBREWS 11:6

Jesus Freaks Bring Jesus Rock Radio to the Philippines

104.1 FM Olongapo, Philippines

AYay! What a trip. **EX**-maintenance-**MAN** Tim Dodson (now senior pastor of Jesus Fellowship of Believers), his wife (the nurse), and I (the stereotypical geek) were on a mission. Really! We were going where no pastor and computer geek had gone before.

Yes. Among other duties, we had been given the awesome responsibility of setting up a **radio station** in Olongapo, Philippines. This was scary, especially considering neither Tim nor I had ever set up a radio station before. We started off late one Friday, heading to the airport with our recently retired 101.1 radio transmitter, a signal amplifier, an antenna yet to be assembled, a slew of cables, microphones, and other paraphernalia all stuffed into a giant green army duffel. What were we thinking? Well nonetheless, **one week and two days later** we arrived in Olongapo. Why so long? Well... there was other highly important business to take care of (not that it involved spending a week on Cebu island with my lovely girlfriend or anything like that). So anyway it was now Sunday morning and we were in Olongapo. We were staying at the Calvary Chapel there. We had two church services that day in which the pastor of Calvary Chapel Olongapo felt compelled to tell the people that a radio station would be set up on Monday. Ok. Now there were real expectations. Did we really know what we were doing yet? Monday came. The paper diagram was revealed, the cabling began, the transmitter manual was downloading, and the software installation was

lagging. Someone asked **"Is the radio working yet?"** I responded "Uhm not yet... maybe tonight" with a smile as I prayed, **"Please help God"** Later, as the software was still downloading and the songs were still uploading, Tim and I turned to the antenna. As we opened the box, we found wiring, a ribbon-like antenna, PVC pipe, a circuit board, and other weird little electronic components. We set the picture diagram before us, and the soldering began. After lunch it was time for our first test. Since the software wasn't ready yet, we hooked up a CD player and popped in an album of Menomonie's very own groovy funky rock band, "Red Clay." It rocked... well for at least two blocks. Tim went for a walk with a two way radio and his portable FM receiver while I sat on the other end changing and locking frequencies. It wasn't a very long walk. Yikes. Now my adrenaline was moving. Was it the signal booster? No. Was it the antenna? Well, the antenna appeared to work for at least two blocks. Was it our frequency? I didn't know. As typical men, this was when we started to read the manual rather than just look at the pictures. It was a long day. After careful investigation, Tim repositioned the antenna (much higher and in the position that our reading had indicated). We also changed the frequency to 104.1. This caused the least interference and allowed us to maximize the MHz we were pumping through our 54" antenna while not losing our frequency lock on the transmitter (again, reading was helpful). The results: by 9pm we were playing the same tunes as Menomonie's very own 101.7 FM, and the beats were actually reaching the edge of the city and hitting the shores of Subic Bay. God was good. What a trip. God showed us that he can do some crazy things with just a few weird Jesus freaks. Anyway, this is 104.1 FM Olongapo missions team signing off.

ONE GIRL'S STORY...

So, I came to Stout because of my boyfriend, who was a year older than me and was already a sophomore. He was everything to me and I thought for sure we'd get married and be together forever. I also came with my best friend and one of her friends. I led a pretty average life. I came from a suburb of the Twin Cities in Minnesota. I got good grades, I didn't do drugs, I had only been to a few parties and I went to church almost every Sunday. I was on the A squad soccer team with my two best friends. I wasn't the most popular, but I had a close circle of friends and a lot of acquaintance friends. I had a wonderful, fun-loving family who all lived within a few miles of each other. **IT SEEMED LIKE THE PERFECT LIFE.**

I arrived at Stout expecting the same kind of life, but it didn't quite turn out that way. I guess I applied a bit late because they told me to arrive a few days early and register for classes when I got there. I did, but ended up with a schedule of really hard classes like Cultural Anthropology and Geology, because that was all that was left. They didn't have a room for me so I got a spare room in North Hall a bit away from my friends who were sharing a room in JTC-North Campus. I felt a bit alone and overwhelmed, but still had hope that things would just work themselves out.

My best friend decided that Stout wasn't for her and left within the first week. I didn't know her friend very well and she went home on the weekends. I tried to hang out with my boyfriend but for some reason he didn't think it was cool to go to parties with his girlfriend. I went to a few parties with a few girls on my floor and drinking helped me feel less awkward and out of place. My boyfriend didn't like me going to parties. He became increasingly more angry and controlling, having people follow me to parties and telling me how to dress and act. One day he told me that he was only with me so he could have sex at college and not catch any diseases. So, yeah, I broke up with him and promptly found out from my friends back home that he had cheated on me with several girls. My hometown 120 miles away might as well have been 12,000 miles away. **MY WHOLE WORLD WAS CRASHING AND I BECAME MORE AND MORE DEPRESSED.** All I wanted was to be happy again, to have friends, have meaning to life, and to be in love. This was all that mattered to me.

I got a flyer in the mail about a sorority (a local sorority that is no longer on campus). I dropped by a meeting and it was really great. A lot of the girls were older and they were all really nice. I instantly had a group of friends, a bunch of fun stuff to do, and a way to meet guys. It was pretty fun at first. There were a lot of parties, a lot of drinking, and a lot of guys. I somehow always ended up drinking too much, but then again everyone always drank too much, and every event revolved around drinking. Since they were a local sorority they didn't have any rules about drinking. Initiation was not that bad: signatures, scavenger hunts, and how to throw a "social," which was just more drinking. I wanted so desperately to be the right person, so I could get the right guy, so I could have a perfect life and be happy again. I dated a lot of fraternity guys but all of those relationships were short-lived. I guess I wasn't the smartest girl because I always drank too much and ending up doing stupid things, embarrassing things. It was the same thing over and over, whether it was in Mexican sombreros or bowling in our pajamas, we always ended up drinking, making out, and sleeping around.

I flunked out of school after just two semesters. I was kind of freaked out because I had never failed anything that big before. I blamed it on being sick a lot and my hard classes, but it was really from the partying. In a way it was a side issue because what I really wanted was to find love, a love that would last forever.

One night some friends and I went to a frat party in Eau Claire. I thought this would work out great since no one knew me in Eau Claire—I could have a clean slate. I met this great guy; he turned out to be the president of the fraternity. He was extremely good looking and charming. I couldn't believe he wanted to go out with me. He invited me to an initiation weekend up at some cabins in Hayward. Basically, they were going to haze the new freshman recruits. When we got up there I didn't really know anybody. Everyone had a date for the weekend and we were all pretty much drinking the entire day. I couldn't handle drinking that long and ended up so drunk that I had to go pass out. When I woke up in the morning something was wrong. My date was packing up his things and seemed troubled. I got up and packed up and went outside. That's when I met her. A girl he knew from Hayward had come to visit him the

night before. He had left the party and went with her to Perkins. It was very tense. Everyone was talking about how she was Christian, a virgin, didn't party, and that my date really liked her.

I was devastated. How could I compete with that? ■

HAD RUINED MYSELF. No matter how hard I tried to make myself into the person that we wanted, this was the one thing I couldn't do. I couldn't make myself a virgin again and I couldn't make myself pure. And the sad part was that in my heart I really wanted to be pure, not just for this guy, but also for myself. Deep down I was ashamed of the life I was leading, but I didn't quite know what else to do. I had gone to church when I was growing up, but I hadn't gone in ages. I had a Bible that I didn't read, but I knew that sleeping around and having sex outside of marriage was technically wrong according to churches and God. However, everyone else was doing it and honestly it was just too hard not to. **A FEW MONTHS LATER, MY ROOMMATE INVITED ME TO CHURCH.**

It was unlike any church I had ever been to—it was like a big family. The people were loving, and most of all, they were real. They were living great, wonderful, happy, abundant lives. This was it! This was what I wanted, yet I wondered how they were so happy and fulfilled. As I came to more and more Bible studies, I found out they had a real relationship with God. They didn't just pray before meals; they talked with Him all day. They studied the Bible and applied it literally to their lives, and it was changing them. It was amazing. I didn't know life could be like this.

During one Bible study, the pastor said that sin separates us from God because He is perfect, and that death is the penalty for sin. However, he said that Jesus paid for all of my past, present, and future sins when He died on the cross. God did this for everyone everywhere. This meant that if I believed in Jesus, my slate was clean, and so was I. I told God that this is what I wanted, and that I was so thankful to Him for doing this. **HE GAVE ME NEW LIFE;** He made me clean and I was pure again in His eyes. He gave me the strength to live right according to Him. I no longer had that sinking feeling of being ashamed. ■ **WAS FULL OF PEACE AND JOY.**

Walking in a Winter Wonderland...

What's there to do around Menomonie in the winter? Check it out:

Ice Skating

Outdoor: Wilson Park (Wilson Ave.)

Indoor: Dunn County Ice Arena
(Dunn County Recreation Park/Fairgrounds
715-235-9958)

- Indoor Skating
- Open Ice Wed 7:45 am-9 pm, Sun 7:15 am-8:30 pm
- Hockey league games

Cross Country Skiing & Snowshoeing

*Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area

Hoffman Hills is located ten miles northeast of Menomonie, off Hwys. 12 and 29. Ideal for quiet relaxation, Hoffman Hills offers youth group camping, a two-mile self-guided nature trail, hiking, picnicking, and challenging cross-country skiing in season. A 60-foot observation tower offers picturesque views of the rugged hill country.

(Open daylight hours year-round. Fee: trail pass/donation.)

*Red Cedar Trail

The Depot Visitor Center is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The Visitor Center has interpretive displays and natural history exhibits. Visitors can also get tourist information, trail passes and gifts there. We have had to shut down the water fountain at Downsville because of below freezing temperatures at night. (Downsville is a small town about 7 miles south of Menomonie, at the midpoint of the trail)

Please remember to purchase your state trail pass before using the trail. Passes may be purchased at the Menomonie Depot trailhead, Trailhead Sports next to the depot, the Creamery in Downsville, or the self-registration station at Downsville. If you bring a pet, remember to keep it on a leash 8 feet or shorter at all times.

www.dnr.state.wi.us

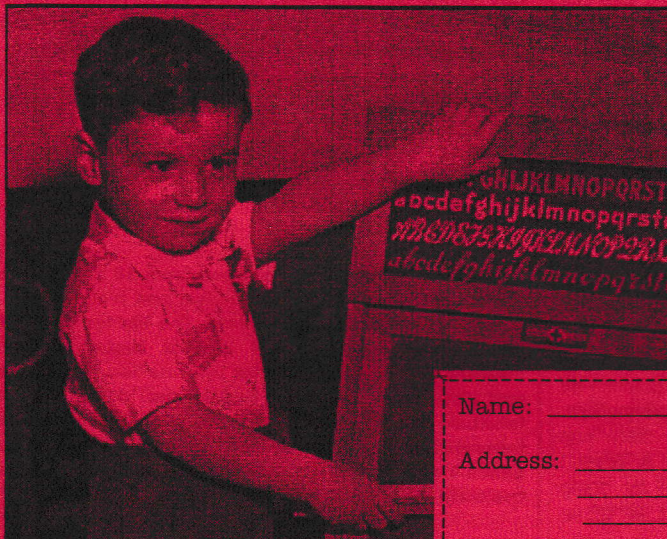
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2 Timothy 3:16

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