

# DITOR'S CORN R

My two cats, Tika and Nyla, are the source of much joy in our house. It is so pleasant to come home and be greeted by their meows, purrs, and rubs. Throughout the day, as I do my work, it is so fun to spy one of them curled up somewhere, looking soft and cuddly, and to take a five-minute break for petting and cuddling. Our cats, like most other pets, are a gift from God to add pleasure and enjoyment to our days here on Earth.

But even Tika and Nyla are affected by the evil and sin that has plagued this Earth since the Garden of Eden. When Tika was a kitten she would bring us a pretty leaf everyday as a loving gift. However, most recently both Tika and Nyla have brought home "gifts" of a more unpleasant nature: wounded birds. These birds were not wounded by some other animal that they were bringing home to rescue. No, these birds were wounded by one of my cats.

It is always a terrible moment as the members of my family meet the ugliness of this world face to face. Too many times I have had to drive the bird—with its flying feathers pulled out—to a Wildlife Rescue Home where they will live in a large cage with other wounded fowl. Sometimes, however, the birds did not survive their ordeal and died on our doorstep.

The anger, sadness, and disgust in our home over Tika's or Nyla's actions seem to communicate little to them. It is in their nature. Yet, at night, they still come to say hello to us with their purrs. Gone is the evidence of their deeds the previous day. They are again the same loving, purring friends they were before their heinous deeds. And I am brought to think about life through these unfortunate crimes.

What am I to do? I've implemented bells and other cat devices to prevent a repeat of the crimes. But even these don't always work and the bell itself is a constant reminder of the world's brokenness. If it weren't for that jingling sound around her neck, my gentle cuddly cat would become a heinous monster.

In the anger and horror of the moment, I would like to simply rid myself of my violent pets—to shun them, give them away, or deposit them in a woods where they would survive only shortly before becoming dinner for a coyote.

I find myself capable of as much heartlessness as my cats. Given the right circumstances and the right passions combined at just the right time, I could commit any crime, even ones I would shun and decry at another time.

What should we do with those that do evil? In regards to my cats, I cannot commit the same crime to them as they have done to the innocent birds. When my cats are injured, I still take them to the vet and pay to have them restored to health. When they come to say hello, I still say hello back.

Our aim is to urge men and women to stand for truth and resist error. We pray that in times of serious compromise our ministry will equip you with solid information on current end-time issues and trends, and encourage you to live a life apart from worldly influences.

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# **WINTER 2011**



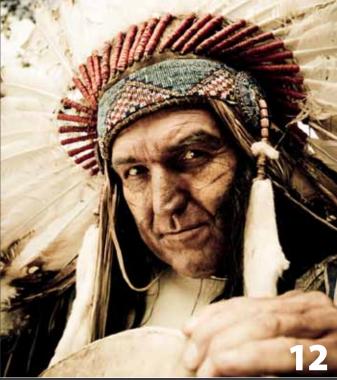


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# Microwave Christianity

and

by Dan Gabbert



# Hydrotherapy

the past—before I was blessed with my gifted cook of a wife, Patsy, and before I was introduced to the inside scoop on healthy eating—I used to cook frozen burritos in the microwave.

The tantalizing odor made my mouth water with anticipation. After merely a minute, I would take the burrito out, and sit down to enjoy the results of the miracle of microwave cooking. But without fail, as I chomped down on that burrito, my teeth would collide with an uncomfortable surprise: a sizzling outside, but a frozen core!

You've probably begun to imagine what kind of spiritual lessons a person could glean from such an experience. But before you do, let me throw this one out for your thoughts: that befuddling burrito experience is spoken of in the book of Revelation, under different terms of course. Let's look at the Lord's message to the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:15-16:

Is it possible to appear hot on the outside, but be luke-warm on the inside?

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

This verse addresses three different temperatures of Christianity: hot, cold, and lukewarm. Is it possible to appear hot on the outside, but be lukewarm—or even as frozen as a burrito—on the inside? How I praise God for the fact that if someone's spirituality resembles a half-baked burrito, they do not have to remain that way!

Vine's Expository Dictionary tells us that the word "hot" in these verses means "boiling hot," from the Greek verb to be hot or fervent. Thayer's Greek Dictionary defines "hot" figuratively as "fervor of mind and zeal."

#### Hot

Spiritually speaking, hot works are produced in the life of an earnest praying Christian who is growing more and more in love with the Lord Jesus Christ. This Christian is actively practicing the mind of Christ by training His thoughts to mirror the Master's thoughts about whatever situation he is facing, and actively practicing responding to life's events as he believes Jesus would (see Philippians 2:5; 1 John 2:5-6).

When someone's works are truly hot, genuinely fervent for the Lord, they are actively experiencing three conditions:

- 1. Their hearts are being moved by the faith and love of Christ to a daily personal decision to surrender to God and hold to Jesus as both Saviour and Lord of their lives (John 1:12; Romans 5:10);
- 2. Their hearts are moved by the faith and love of Christ to daily study the Word of God prayerfully to know Him and His ways (Psalm 25:4-5; 2 Timothy 2:15); and

3. In every situation, their hearts are being moved by the faith and love of Christ to continue doing their best to glorify God instead of protecting themselves. They keep doing the best they can to make the Lord look attractive and desirable to others (see 1 Corinthians 10:31).

There may be other indicators, but these three are vital evidences of a living heart experience with Christ that make a person's works hot, empowered, and engendered by the indwelling Holy Spirit in harmony with the will of God found in His Word. These "hot works" are like a healthy burrito that is hot on the outside and on the inside!

## Cold

Cold works are man-made, not coming from any prompting of the Holy Spirit of God, but from the damaging fleshly desires of the unconverted heart (see Galatians 5:19-21). The three conditions in place when works are cold, are as follows:

- Their hearts are not responding to the wooing of the Holy Spirit, and not surrendered in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ;
- 2. Their hearts are **not interested in God's Word**; and
- Their lives are producing works that are focused on protecting their own interests, disobedient to the will of God found in His Word.

These works are like the burritos just removed from the freezer, frozen both on the outside and the inside.

Thayer's Greek Dictionary defines "cold" in these verses figuratively as "destitute of warm Christian faith and the desire for holiness."

#### Lukewarm

Revelation 3:17 clearly indicates how extremely dangerous a lukewarm spiritual condition can be! Why? Have you ever taken a bath and attempted to keep part of the water hot and the other part cool?

It doesn't work for long, does it? Mixing hot and cold always results in lukewarm.

At the right temperature, lukewarm water can make a person relax to the point of falling asleep. And just like in the physical bathtub, Christians who are spiritually lukewarm are in danger of falling asleep, and missing out on what's happening.

Lukewarm works can deceptively appear on the outside as very religious and genuine—or to follow our analogy, hot—but spring forth from a cold, unsurrendered heart still clinging to self-interest (Isaiah 29:13; Ezekiel 33:31).

That blend of spiritual lukewarmness does its destroying without a person being aware of what's happening. The enemy of our souls likes it that way! But praise our blessed Redeemer for His call to our hearts found in this message to the Laodicean Church.

# Cold works are man-made, not coming from any prompting of the Holy Spirit of God.

Testimonies makes this alerting statement:

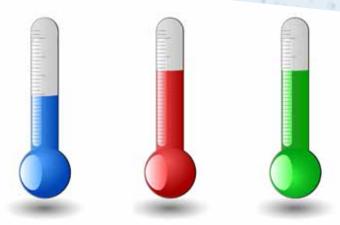
No stronger delusion can deceive the human mind than that which makes them believe that they are right, and that God accepts their works, when they are sinning against Him. They mistake the form of godliness for the spirit and power thereof. They suppose that they are rich, and have need of nothing, when they are poor, wretched, blind, and naked, and need all things (4T: 406).

I believe the devotional *Steps to Christ* adds to this picture of a lukewarm experience:

...there may be an outward correctness of deportment without the renewing power of Christ. The love of influence and the desire for the esteem of others may produce a well-ordered life. Self-respect may lead us to avoid the appearance of evil. A selfish heart may perform generous actions (58).



By now you may be asking, is there any way to know what temperature my works are? Is there any way to be assured that my experience with Jesus is healthy? The answer is yes!





Where do my works originate? Matthew 12:34 tells us that, " out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

How can I tell where my heart is at in my relationship with Christ? Matthew also has that answer:

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (6:21).

So here's the truth of the matter: whoever or whatever I am giving the majority of my mental attention to—spending the most of my time thinking about—is my treasure, the "heat of my heart." And friends, the heat of our hearts determines the temperature of our works for Christ.

Steps to Christ expounds on this simple concept:

By what means, then, shall we determine whose side we are on? Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are Christ's, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. All we have and are is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things (58).

The Holy Spirit uses the medium of God's Word to convict, convert, and transform our hearts.



## **Spiritual Hydrotherapy**

How does a person allow Christ Jesus to become the Heat of his heart? How do I place myself in a position where I can experience the motivating love and empowering faith of Christ? How can I learn to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, and delight in giving Christ my best energies every day and please Him in all I do?

In Ephesians 5:26 we discover that Christ is going to cleanse His Church through "the washing of water by the word." This is His spiritual hydrotherapy that will bring healing to the Laodicean lukewarmness.

In Bible prophecy, we understand water to represent peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues (Revelation 17:15). However, in our personal relationship with Christ, water represents the Holy Spirit:

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive (John 7:38-39 NKJV).

Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit speaks to the mind, and impresses truth upon the heart. Thus He exposes error, and expels it from the soul. It is by the Spirit of truth, working through the word of God, that Christ subdues His chosen people to Himself (DA: 671, emphasis added; see also Psalm 119:9-11).

The Holy Spirit uses the medium of God's Word to convict, convert, and transform our hearts.

## **The Good Fight**

2 Timothy 6:12 says, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses" (emphasis added).

Anyone truly desiring to make sure they are spiritually healthy Christians—hot for Jesus inside and outside—truly laying hold on eternal life, must be willing to fight the good fight of faith.

What is that good fight of faith? The same verse answers: it is the fight to "lay hold on eternal life." According to John 17:3, eternal life is based upon knowing the only true God and His Son Jesus Christ.

Did you catch the combination? The good fight of faith is to a) lay hold on eternal life and to b) know God and His Son Jesus Christ. That is why it is so vital for us to study the Word of God.

God's Word is what the Holy Spirit uses to **reach our hearts** with the truth about God, and convert us to Jesus Christ (see Ephesians 1:13; John 16:13-14).

God's Word is what the Holy Spirit uses to **increase our faith** in God (Romans 10:17).

God's Word is what the Holy Spirit uses to **sanctify us** (John 17:17).

God's Word is what the Holy Spirit uses to **lead us into the liberty of a fervently hot love experience with the Lord Jesus Christ**, both inside and out (2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 5:14-15).

The true temperature of a person's relationship with Jesus Christ is reflected in his relationship with the Word of God. Let me ask you dear friend, what is the Bible to you? Is it a decoration on your coffee table, or an intimate part of your habitual communion with God?

#### Consider this:

The Word of God is to be studied and taught. Converse with God through the medium of His Word. Thus our characters will be transformed. The ideas and habits once thought essential will be changed. God's Word is to be our lesson book.

It is through the medium of this Word that we are to learn all about that better country, and the preparation essential for everyone to obtain an entrance into the kingdom of God, and come into possession of eternal life.

That Word obeyed cheerfully and willingly, will ennoble your whole being in this life (1SAT: 286).

Precious friend, are you longing for greater confidence that you really do have eternal life, that Jesus really is the "heat" of your heart?

Do you long for greater assurance that you are truly the Lord's, that you are one of His jewels? Read Malachi 3:16-17.

Are you desiring to be sure you are experiencing a hot, intelligent, faith-filled love relationship with Christ, not cold or lukewarm? Read Revelation 3:15.

Are you wanting your Christian experience to shine brighter and brighter for Him unto that perfect day? Read Proverbs 4:18.

If you are willing, Christ through the Holy Spirit can do all this for you, and more! Read Ephesians 3:20.

# Your part in this powerfully healing team effort is to fight for daily quality time alone with God.

Commune with Him through His Word with a willingness to diligently practice what His Spirit impresses upon your heart.

It is essential for each of us to develop the eternal habit of willingly spending quality daily time alone with God in His Word. This means beholding Christ and His ways of thinking and responding, visiting with Him unceasingly in prayer, and practicing in our daily life what the Lord impresses upon our heart from that heavenly communion with Him. This practice is what will keep us from becoming Laodicean burritos.

May this statement of inspiration challenge and encourage you:

Our bodies are built up from what we eat and drink. And as in the natural, so in the spiritual economy; **it is that which our minds dwell upon which sustains the spiritual nature**. Our Saviour said, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

Spiritual life must be sustained by communion with Christ through His Word. The mind must dwell upon it, the heart must be filled with it. The Word of God laid up in the heart and sacredly cherished and obeyed, through the power of the grace of Christ can make man right, and keep him right; but every human influence, every earthly invention, is powerless to give strength and wisdom to man. It cannot restrain passion, or correct deformity of character. Unless the truth of God controls the heart, the conscience will be warped (2 SM: 124, emphasis added).

I want to be steaming hot inside and out for our loving Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. How about you?

Let's settle in our hearts to daily experience some spiritual hydrotherapy, what do you say?





Although I had read many stories of India and also learned much about the country in school as a child, I was not prepared for the sights and sounds of the cities and the countryside.

#### **The Cities**

The city streets are jammed with traffic. The cows and bullocks walk unconcerned down the highways and streets and no one seems to mind. Whole families ride on one motorcycle. The father drives, with one child riding in front of him, another child immediately behind him, and the mother riding on the back, holding a baby, her sari scarf flapping in the draft created by the cycle.

I will never forget the first time I saw a leper. It was revolting, but I couldn't help but look. In my mind I remembered the Biblical accounts of lepers calling out, "Unclean, unclean!" as they walked along the thoroughfares of the villages and cities. What a sight to see fingers and toes gone, chins and noses no more in existence. Most of these people beg as a means of survival.

In one city, we stopped our vehicle in front of a shop. A lady with a very tiny baby that looked more dead than alive came to the window asking for money. We gave her a few coins and it wasn't long before another lady came along to beg, carrying the same baby. One wonders if the child was kept in a near starved state just so that people would have pity on them and give them money.

Then there were the blind, the crippled, and the street children. When we would walk down the street, we would sometimes be surrounded by half a dozen children all begging for coins. They would get down on their knees and wipe the dust off our shoes if we didn't have time to stop them.

We realized later that some of these children actually work for adults. They feed the children and give them a place to stay. All the money the children earn is turned over to them.

My heart went out to those children. Some of them were dressed in absolute rags, with dirty bodies and sad, empty eyes. We were told that some of these children were actually left to fend on the streets because the parents couldn't feed them. The father might be an alcoholic, and the mother might work in the fields to bring home rice for their food. But there would never be enough for the growing family. How sad! It made me wish that this sick world would be over with and that Jesus would come soon and put an end to the misery that we saw all around us.

The smell of garbage pervaded the streets. Some merchants try to keep the area directly in front of their shops clean, but it is almost an impossible task. The cows come by depositing their waste and urinating. People throw their paper wrappings or plastic bags on the ground. Vendors leave their rotting fruit to continue their decay on the sides of the road or on the sidewalks.

One day as we were walking, the stench was so bad that we decided we would take the next street over. But, going down the next street was even worse. Lined with open sewers, the street was being used as a public toilet. We didn't try that again.

#### The Villages

Going to the villages was a much pleasanter experience. There still was the smell and the people relieving themselves on the side of the road, but the people were so pleasant and they seemed cleaner somehow.

People loved having us come to their home and praying with them. We tried to get to as many homes as possible. In many homes there would be someone who was ill. We would pray for each one. I thought of how Jesus went to the villages and when He left there was not a sick one in the village.

One sick lady was really weak and pale. After we had prayed with her and left her to go to the next house, we heard someone running after us. As there were many people following us from





one house to another, we didn't pay too much attention. But finally the lady came up and got our attention. We recognized her as the lady that we had just prayed for. There she was, happy and smiling and well. Praise the Lord! He is still in the business of healing people!

The Orphanage

Two years ago we decided that we had to do something for the children in Pastor Daniel's district. We decided that we would help build an orphanage for that area. It would take care of the needs of 100 children.

That orphanage has been completed and is full. Not all the children are totally orphaned. Some of them have one parent, but that parent is not able to look after and feed all their children. So they have requested that the orphanage would take care of their child.

The name of the orphanage is "Balm of Gilead Refuge Home." Here the children are clothed and fed. They are taught Bible stories and songs. Each one has a bed with a thin mattress and a blanket. There are two to a bed. The orphanage provides them with two meals a day at least.

The yard at this orphanage is very small and so there is not a lot of room for the children to play. We had hoped we could buy a lot that was next to the site so there would be more room for the children and a place for a garden.

Next to the orphanage a school was built by a dedicated husband and wife from British Columbia. This school has the capacity to educate 200 children: the orphans as well as some of the children from the community. Without an education, the orphans have very little opportunity to get ahead in this life.

Each month there are expenses to meet at this orphanage. Food, clothing, and medication are all needed. Also, the salaries

of the six school teachers and all the caregivers need to be paid, as well as the bills for electricity and other incidentals. There are real needs to be met, which can be covered by approximately \$2500 US per month.

God has been so good to us and has planted our path in pleasant places. We have a responsibility to help those less fortunate.

This November we are planning on going to India again. Every week and sometimes daily, we have calls from India requesting that we come to work in the villages. There are about 75 villages that are waiting for us to come and evangelize.

One of the Conferences has asked my husband to train about 78 Bible workers. These workers have had no formal training in how to reach people, and some of them have little knowledge of what our church teaches. So this is a priority. During the training we will have to house and feed them in a central place.

Presently all of my husband's sermons have been put into book form and translated into the Telegu language. Three thousand copies are now printed and ready for distribution. This will be a great benefit to the Bible workers as well as the pastors in the area.

The needs are great and we ask for your prayers and means for the work in this nation. God bless you as you consider what you can do for the work in India. Thank you for what you have done in the past and in advance for what you will do.

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me (Matthew 25: 40).

If **you** would like to donate to help support the work in India, it is not too late. amazingdiscoveries.org/donate

or (a): 1-866-572-9457

visit:

# Y AIR MAIL

# >> Greetings from India

The following is a letter received from one of the pastors working with the new orphanage established in India through the work of Amazing Discoveries and it's affiliates.

Greetings in the holy name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

I would like to tell about one of the children who now stays with us at the Healing Balm of Gilead Refuge Home in India. His name is 'Nani. He has a mother and a sister,

Before coming to Gilead, this boy never went to school. He used to spend his time stealing country chicks and cashew nuts from farmers. but no father.

He would sell what he stole, and use the money to go to the movies.

Occasionally, he would ask his mother for money so he could go play cards. When his mother refused, he would beat her and his gister. as. when his mornier refused, he would be a mother came to me and cried for During my visit to this boy's village, his mother came to me and cried for her son's condition. I spoke with this child about the love of Jesus, and he

accepted our offer to come and stay in our Gilead Refuge home. cepieu our oner to come and stay in our shead han ran away twice. But Although we accepted him in the orphanage, Nani ran away twice. etill we did not give up on him. We brought him back every time. Now, he has been with us for seven months. He has learned to do chores, and prays for

I can truthfully say that 'Nani is now a godly child. God has brought so

Like 'Nani, many others have also found shelter and God's peace at the you all every day.

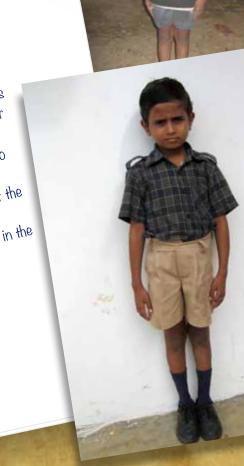
much change in his life.

Thope you are happy to see this kind of development and change in the Healing Balm of Gilead Refuge Home.

lives of downtrodden children.

Your faithful steward in God's vineyard,

Pastor Daniel



Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.



A lawyer in India who has become convicted of the truth preached by Pastor Victor Gill is using Pastor Gill's sermons to do evangelism.

This lawyer isn't even a baptized Seventh-day Adventist yet, but he knows it is the truth and is spending all his efforts to share the Gospel with his fellow countrymen.

He is only one of the many that are asking for more missionaries to come help evangelize India.

What about you? Will you answer the Macedonian call?

Victor Gill cannot answer all the requests himself. Calls like this keep coming from India. Workers are needed for the vineyard. If you want a real experience, please answer this call.



Call **1-866-572-9457** today to learn more about joining Pastor Victor Gill on his next trip to India, or support the mission financially by visiting **amazingdiscoveries.org/donate**.





# Vatican urges economic reforms, condemns collective greed

By Philip Pullella

#### VATICAN CITY, Oct 24 (Reuters)

The Vatican called on Monday for sweeping reforms of the world economy and the creation of anethical, global authority to regulate financial markets as demonstrations against corporate greed continued to spring up in major cities across the globe.

An 18-page document from the Vatican's Justice and Peace department said the

financial downturn had revealed behaviours like "selfishness, collective greed and hoarding of goods on a great scale," adding that world economics needed an "ethic of solidarity" among rich and poor nations.

Urging Wall Street powerbrokers to examine the impact of their decisions on humanity, the Vatican called on those who wanted to change economic structures to "not be afraid to propose new ideas, even if they might destabilise pre-existing balances of power that prevail over the weakest."

The document was released as "Occupy Wall Street" protests this month sparked similar anticapitalist movements around the world with demonstrators angry

# The Savage — Saved by Grace

by John Witcombe

Can the savage receive salvation without knowledge of Jesus and the plan of salvation?

"Does my righteous behavior have anything to do with whether I'll go to heaven?" asked the Bible study leader.

"Absolutely not," came the quick reply from one corner.

"It most certainly does," came a retort from the other corner.

I watched as round one began.

So just how does one receive the right to enter heaven? The answer must fit all people, of all ages, in all regions of the world. Whatever the answer, it must be the answer for the savage who lived 4000 years ago anywhere in the world.

If you answered, "accept Jesus as your personal Saviour" or "believe that Jesus rose from the grave," or "believe on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ," or "have a personal relationship with Jesus," that would not have worked for the savage who never did have an opportunity to read a Bible or hear about Jesus.

There has always only been one way to receive salvation and that is by grace alone.

Can the savage receive salvation without knowledge of Jesus and the plan of salvation? The Bible says he can.

In fact, the person who has knowledge of Jesus and the Bible receives salvation in exactly the same way as the savage who has never heard of Christ. There has always only been one way to receive salvation and that is by grace alone. So just what is grace?

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age (Titus 2:11-12).

An important insight on the meaning of "saved by grace" is found here. Grace is an active principle that enters into the heart and changes the conduct. Grace is not simply an attitude of God that causes Him to overlook lawlessness.

It is possible to have two savages, totally ignorant of Jesus and the plan of salvation, and one will be saved and one will be lost. What is the defining difference between the two? They both

Grace is an active principle that enters the heart and changes the conduct.

live well-ordered lives. They both avoid all appearance of evil. They both perform generous actions.

The reason one is saved and one is lost has to do with the source of power that drives the conduct. The redeemed savage has yielded to the grace of God that has spoken to his heart. Because of his choice to yield, the robe of Christ's righteousness has been placed upon this savage.

He resists worldly lust and lives soberly and righteously in his village. He treats his neighbor as he would want to be treated. He doesn't steal because he loves his neighbor as himself.

The power that drives this conduct comes from the robe of Christ's righteousness that has been freely imparted to him. His eternal salvation and his present righteous behavior are found in the robe of Christ's righteousness alone.

The lost savage resists God's grace that has also been speaking to his heart and yet he still avoids all appearance of evil and lives a well-ordered life. The source of power that drives his conduct is self-centered love. He wants to be thought of well by others.

According to Zechariah 13:6, the obedient savage will first learn of Christ's sacrifice for him when he gets to heaven:

And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

A savage who has never heard of God can practice pure religion:

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves...Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. (James 1:22, 27).

For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, [savages] which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another (Romans 2:13-15).

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. (Acts 10:34-35).

Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way (James 2:24-25)?

Likewise, was not the savage justified by works, when he treated others as he would like to be treated?

The savage can no more live in harmony with the law of God than can a leopard change his spots (Jeremiah 13:23). Righteous living does not originate in the heart of the good savage. Rather, he is simply cooperatively working out the grace that God implants in his receptive heart.

For it is God which worketh in [the savage] both to will and to do of his good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

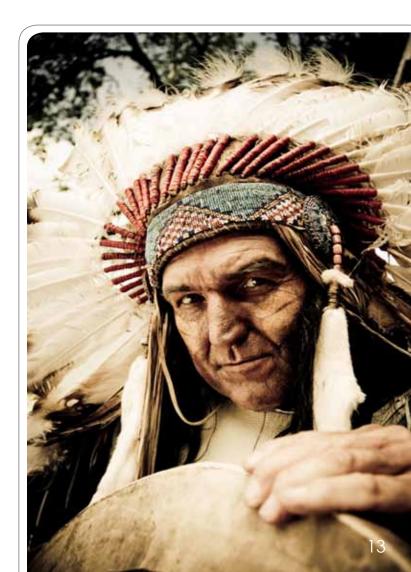
Some Christians believe that if they claim the blood of Jesus to cover their sinning, they have salvation whether or not they put away the evil of their doings. The Christian is in danger of doing as the Jew did—substituting the sacrifice for the covenant experience.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven (Matthew 7:21-23).

The savage did not sidestep obedience to the Spirit's voice to his conscience. He did not claim he was vicariously covered by a substitutionary sacrifice whether by a lamb as the Jew did or by the cross of Jesus as the superficial Christian does.

He simply did the will of God: he ceased from sin by the power of an indwelling Saviour now enthroned in his heart.

For where sin did abound, grace doth now much more abound, not to the concealment or excusing of sin, but rather to its pardon and eradication (Romans 5:20-21).





# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1

Amazing Discoveries is now a **full contracted partner of Glorystar**. This means that ADTV will automatically be programmed in when setting up a satellite with Glorystar for viewing Adventist Channels on Galaxy 19. To celebrate, Glorystar is offering an Amazing Discoveries Viewer Special.

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As of October 30, 2011, Amazing Discoveries is now on local digital TV in southern New Jersey, southeastern Pennsylvania, and northern Delaware. Tune in to DTV channel 8.5 for ADTV with Walter Veith, Victor Gill, and many more.

3

Internet Channel Expands to ALL Users



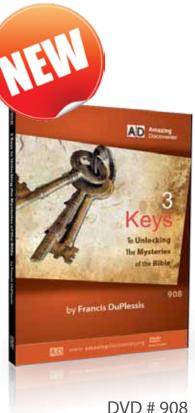






Our Internet channel is now available in **Adobe Flash player** and **smart phone native players.** This means that everyone—even Safari users and those on their Androids and iPhones—can easily watch our satellite channel at amazingdiscoveries.tv.

Tune in today!



DVD # 908

# 3Keys

# To Unlocking The Mysteries of the Bible

by Francois DuPlessis

In this DVD lecture, Pastor Francois DuPlessis shares the typology of Christ found in the prophecies and prophets of the Bible. By looking at the stories from the angle of typology, we learn to see the depth of the life experiences of Old Testament characters. Take a look at Moses, Cyrus, Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin, and others. (approx. 30 min)



special price: \$12.00

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### "But what, is thy servant a dog?" 2 Kings 8:13

Major General Edward Braddock (1695-1755) was a British General who had become famous on the battlefields of Europe. He came to Virginia in February 1755 to command all the British forces in North America against the French.

In July 1755, Braddock and his troops were ambushed in a ravine by 254 French and 600 Indians, and Braddock was shot in the chest.

Just before he died, reclining in the arms of Lieutenant Colonel George Washington, Braddock exclaimed "Who would have thought it?"

Yes, who would have thought that the British General who had won so many battles in Europe would be defeated at

the hands of so few French and Indian allies in the midst of that American bush.

"Who would have thought it?" is an expression that comes to mind not only when we think of military disasters but also of those crushing

moral disasters and ambushes that suddenly overwhelm the souls of men and women today.

The story found in 2 Kings 8: 7-15 serves as a good example of the point I wish to make:

And Elisha came to Damascus; and Benhadad the king of Syria was sick; and it was told him, saying, The man of God is come hither. And the king said unto Hazael, Take a present in thine hand, and go, meet the man of God, and inquire of the LORD by him, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?

So Hazael went to meet him, and took a present with him, even of every good thing of Damascus, forty camels' burden, and came and stood before him, and said, Thy son Benhadad king of Syria hath sent me to thee, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?

And Elisha said unto him, Go, say unto him, Thou mayest certainly recover: howbeit the LORD hath shewed me that he shall surely die. And he settled his countenance stedfastly, until he was ashamed: and the man of God wept.

And Hazael said, Why weepeth my lord? And he answered, Because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strong holds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child. And Hazael said, But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing?

And Elisha answered, The LORD hath shewed me that thou shalt be king over Syria. So he departed from Elisha, and came to his master; who said to him, What said Elisha to thee? And

he answered, He told me that thou shouldest surely recover.

And it came to pass on the morrow, that he took a thick cloth, and dipped it in water, and spread it on his face, so that he died: and Hazael reigned in his stead.

Benhadad was desperately sick. He feared for his life, and of course desired life. When he learned that "the man of God," Elisha, was in Damascus, a flicker of hope arose in his heart that perhaps this man could make him whole.

Remember that shortly beforehand, this same king was searching for Elisha to kill him (2 Kings 6:8-15). But by this time all of Syria knew about Naaman's healing of leprosy and word got back to Benhadad that there might be hope for him too. So, Benhadad sends Hazael to find out from Elisha whether he would recover:

And the king said unto Hazael, Take a present in thine hand, and go, meet the man of God, and inquire of the LORD by him, saying, Shall I recover of this disease?

And Elisha gives this reply:

Thou mayest certainly recover: howbeit the LORD hath shewed me that he shall surely die (2 Kings 8:8, 10).

In other words, Benhadad's illness was not fatal, but he was going to die regardless. Hazael purposed in his heart to kill Benhadad and take his throne.

And he settled his countenance stedfastly, until he was ashamed: and the man of God wept. And Hazael said, Why weepeth my lord?

When Hazael returned to the palace the sick monarch eagerly asked him what Elisha had said. Hazael replied, "He told me that thou shouldest surely recover" (8:14). He did not finish the sentence.

The king is relieved and falls asleep. He would have awakened to new life, completely healed, but guess what happens?

And it came to pass on the morrow, that he took a thick cloth, and dipped it in water, and spread it on his face, so that he died: and Hazael reigned in his stead. path of evil deeds. But this story shows us how one evil thought entertained leads to another, and one wicked deed leads to still more wicked deeds, until the one who consents to walk in the pathway of evil finds himself sinking to depths of iniquity he never would have planned for himself or have thought possible.

When the prophet sketched his future for him, Hazael drew back with horror and detestation and exclaims, "Am I a dog that I should do this thing?"

And, when we study the humanity of the Bible, we see this so clearly. Mere personal disinclination is no guarantee against any evil that men have done or will do.

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it (Jeremiah 17:9).

He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool (Proverbs 28: 26).

The great doers of evil were the men who thought they could never do such acts.

As a youth, Napoleon wrote an essay for the Lyons Academy on "The Dangers of Ambition." Nero said, "would that this hand had never learned to write" when asked to sign his first death warrant.

Robespierre, who during the reign of terror sent thousands to the guillotine, resigned his office as provincial judge because he could not bring himself to pronounce a sentence of death upon a man convicted of capital crime.

Tell the young King David that he would live to darken the closing days of his reign with murder and adultery, and what would he say?

Tell Solomon as he kneels that night, asking God for wisdom to discern between good and evil to judge his people, that he would forsake his father's God and bend his aged knees to heathen deities and follow after strange women, and what would he say?

Tell Peter on that faithful night as he boasts of his fidelity to Jesus, that before the sacramental wine is dry on his lips he would deny his Lord, and what would he too have said?

# This story is an alarming comment on human nature

And he answered, Because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strong holds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child (8:11-12).

When Hazael heard Elisha's awful prophecy, he drew back with horror and said, "But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing? And to this the Prophet replied, "The LORD hath shewed me that thou shalt be king over Syria" (8:13).

Hazael kills the king, beginning a reign of crime and violence that far outdid Elisha's predictions.

This story is an alarming comment on human nature. It teaches us how ignorant we may be of our own hearts and how evil may thrive and expand.

Then, when the evil has been done, we exclaim, "how in the world could I have done it?"

"Who would have thought it?"

The Lord knew better what Hazael would do in the future than did he himself.

Most people do not sit down and plan a vile, horrendous



Most people do not sit down and plan a vile, horrendous path of evil deeds.

If we could foresee the future and tell this man and that woman of the offenses they will one day commit, what would they say?

Who would have thought it?

Is it any wonder that the Bible says, "Who can understand his errors?"

How can we account for this? We may have within us an evil person, who will declare himself if he can.

He is there beneath the breast of the ripest saint

and beneath the breast of the worst criminal.

It was this discovery Paul speaks about in Romans 7: 19–21:

For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law,

that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

When Paul describes himself, he describes you and me, too. This may not be very complimentary, but it is true.

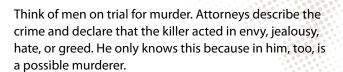
When burglar has broken into your home, a detective goes carefully over the ground, determining the burglar's purpose. How can be do that?

The detective is able to put himself in the place of the thief because in him there's a possible thief.

The dangerous thing about any repressed evil desire is that the opportunity to gratify it may suddenly arise. Actions that may seem unthinkable and detestable from a distance take on a far different appearance when our desire and an opportunity suddenly and unexpectedly meet each other in our life's experience.

Most of us have been hiking in the woods and have stepped on a tree trunk, only to have our foot fall right through to the heart of a rotten log.

Temptation finds the Christ-filled heart like sparks on ice, but temptations to a Christless heart and life are like sparks falling on a keg of gunpowder.



If this were not so, the attorney could not prosecute, nor the jurors decide, nor the judge declare a sentence. We all share with one another the common nature of humanity.

Hazael must have been thinking about the possibility of becoming king.

Elijah had earlier predicted that he would become ruler of Syria. As Elijah looked into the face of Hazael and knowing the desire of his heart, he saw the shadow and reflection of evil deeds.

Hazael wanted to be king, and the sole obstacle to the fulfillment of his ambition lay there, weak and sick.

The final collapse was sudden, but the rotting of the tree was not sudden. It took years of summer rain and winter snow to decompose the wood. There are hearts today like that fallen tree. They are simply waiting for the pressure of the iron heel of temptation before they give way.

When they go down, the newspapers herald it in flaming colors, and agonized friends weep over it and exclaim, "How sudden! Who would have thought it?"



But it was not sudden at all. It was the last stage in a long process of corruption and deterioration.

Our prayer should be, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24).

Remember, we are all tempted by our own desires. Then the desire, when it is finished, bringeth forth sin and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death (James 1:14-15).

The tempter can never compel us to do evil...He cannot control minds unless they are yielded to his control. The will must consent—faith must let go its hold upon Christ, before Satan can exercise his power upon us (DA, 125).

Jesus said the devil came and found nothing in Him—no possible place of contact (John 14: 30). The trouble with you and me is that when the devil comes, he finds so many things in us, so many places of contact.

When sparks fall on ice, nothing happens. When sparks fall on water, nothing happens. When sparks fall on marble, nothing happens. When sparks fall on a gunpowder magazine, there is an explosion!

Temptation finds the Christ-filled heart like sparks on ice, but temptations to a Christless heart and life are like sparks falling on a keg of gunpowder.

In Christ is your safety. Pray that He might dwell in your heart. If you have fallen, remember, Jesus is still your Saviour. He came to rescue you.

Seek His forgiveness and ask Him to restore you and give you a new start.

For He is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy (Jude 24).

## SPIRITUAL FORMATION DVDs

Rick Howard



## **Emerging Deception Series:**

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by Rick Howard

Jesus warned that the supernatural deceptions of the last days would threaten to fool even the "very elect." The only hope of identifying the subtle forms of deception Satan will use on God's people is to rely upon divine inspiration. Join Rick Howard in his study of Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy to uncover the truth of the omega rebellion.

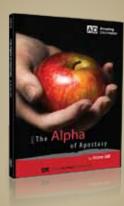
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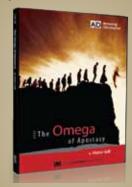
## 915 - The Alpha of Apostasy

The alpha of apostasy introduced to our church by John Harvey Kellogg included controlling minds, resisting the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy, the exaltation of self, and his insistence of advocating false theories concerning the personality and presence of God. We are counselled by the Spirit of Prophecy that this would arise again just before the end of time, known as the omega of apostasy.

## 916 - The Omega of Apostasy

Spiritualism is now changing its form, veiling some of its more objectionable and immoral features and assuming a Christian guise. Formerly it denounced Christ and the Bible; now it professes to accept both.





# Be Ready Always to Give an Answer

by Nikolai Ilachtchouk, as told to Wendy Goubej transcribed by Cailey Bennett

My name is Nikolai. I am a shipper at Amazing Discoveries.

I am from Russia. My wife Natalia and I worked for the municipality of Moscow in a time when the Communist system was very closed to religion. After



Perestroika—the political restructuring of the Soviet Union in the 1980s—people were allowed to

exist and answered

speak about God on TV. Everyone was shocked, but I was intrigued. Could God really exist?

I went into my room, closed the door, and prayed to God, saying "God, if you exist, show me what to do." Right after praying, I was afraid. What if God actually did exist and answered my prayer?

Shortly after speaking that prayer, I had a dream that I was in a desert. The sand was blowing against my ankles and the sun was beating down on me.

I saw two men pulling water out of a well. "Are you kidding me?" I asked. "This is the desert!" But when I bent over the well, I felt the moisture against my face. The well was too deep to see the water, but I could hear it flowing.

The two men pulled out a bucket of crystal-clear water and poured it over my hands and face so I could wash. Then, they gave me a small black lamb. I embraced it to my chest and continued on my way.

When I woke up, I didn't understand the dream, but believed that somehow God would answer my prayer.

A couple of weeks later, I was travel-

ing by train to the Ukraine to visit my relatives. I had packed vodka and meat for the journev, and when it was time to eat, I invited the two other men in my compartment to share the meal. However, the men responded that they would not drink.

I thought this was useless. What good is vodka when you have no one to drink it with? But I shrugged and drank it anyways. Later in the day, the men started talking to me.

They were Seventh-day Adventists, which is why they didn't partake in the meat or vodka.

As they ate their bread and radishes, they told me their stories. One had been an alcoholic, and had damaged his family so much he decided to commit suicide.

The poison he drank burned his esophagus, but somehow didn't kill him. He believes God saved his life, and is now on fire for God.

The other was in the Communist Party. He worked in a mine. His sister, an Adventist, often told him that she was praying for him, but he just ignored her.

One day, however, he fell in the mine. Miraculously, he lived—and



didn't even break a bone. He credits God for saving him, realizing that his sister's prayers were not falling on deaf ears.

When the men left, they gave me a small copy of the Gospel

of John. I tossed it on my bookshelf when I returned home, and did not look at it for some time.

When I did notice that little book again, I read it and was amazed by the truth inside. The Holy Spirit spoke to me, and I went to a Seventh-day Adventist church.

I've come to understand that they are still just people trying to make a living.

One time, I was on my way back into Canada. The stern young lady in the booth asked me, "what are you bringing back?"

"Bibles and DVDs," I said.

"Which Bible?" the border guard asked.

"The King James Bible," I replied. "I find it a bit hard to read, because I am from Russia and English is not my first language. However, I believe that it is more correct than the NIV or other translations.

"I became a Christian only by a miracle in Russia. At that time, Christians were not even allowed to have Bibles."

I noticed the border guard's expression soften. She seemed

genuinely interested, so I continued on, sharing my conversion story with her. As I was speaking, I looked behind me, and noticing the long line said, "I better leave. There's a long line up of cars behind me!"

The border guard didn't seem to mind. "Never mind them. Please continue."

So, I went on to tell her how I can see that many in North America have not had their faith put to the test, and therefore are lukewarm in their spirituality.

They are bored, seeking to be entertained, and have not had their thoughts, lives, and hearts cleansed through a living relationship with

Jesus Christ. The lack of persecution or hardship in their lives has made them weak in their faith.

I told her I work at Amazing Discoveries, and how we are exposing deceptions, sharing the truth, and exposing lies that lead to darkness. Eventually, the border guard told me I could go. I tried to give her a copy of *Faith on the Line* before I left, but she was not permitted to take it because of government policy.

"God bless you," I said, and drove across the border.

Another time, just after the predictions about Jesus coming back on May 21, God gave me another opportunity to share my faith. When I went down to the US, I was met by two male guards and one female guard at the border. "What are you bringing into ther US?" they asked.

"Religious DVDs and books," I replied.

I asked God, "why did you lead me to such a weird church?" The people were so strange. But I kept going because I knew somehow that it was indeed God leading me there. I was baptized under Mark Finley's campaign in Russia.



I believe that those two men on the train were the men in my dream. I was living in death—in the desert of sin—but those men showed me how to find the water of life. They showed me how I could be clean.

You'll never be on fire for God if you just read someone else's experience.

Many years later, I am living in Canada. I work as a shipper for Amazing Discoveries, which means I take many trips across the border from British Columbia into Washington.

Border officials have a reputation for being abrupt

and even unpleasant. But on my countless journeys across the border, I've come to understand that they are still just people trying to make a living. When asked what the DVDs were about, I said that they were about Jesus, and His soon Coming. One guard asked, "Wasn't Jesus supposed to come on May 21?"

acts of obedience.

I smiled and said, "Nobody knows the day or time that Christ will return. Only God knows that. However, Jesus told us that we need to pay attention to the signs of the times around us.

"Signs include the state of the economy and the frequent earthquakes and hurricanes. That's what these DVDs are about—exposing the lies of secret societies and showing the truth about what's going on."

The two men were listening carefully, but the woman abruptly said, "OK, you can go. Get out of here!"

A week later, I was crossing into the US again. When I got to the border, who did I see but one of the men who I had spoken with merely a week earlier! The man said, "You spoke to us last week about Jesus. I would like to apologize for how rude that lady was to you."

I said, "It's ok. I undestand." I then told him very briefly about how I have seen God at work in my own life.

I share these stories not to impress you but to call you to share your faith with anyone and everyone. We should work for God in every circumstance, and always try to purposely mention God and His goodness. You never know how the Holy Spirit will use your acts of obedience. That's why I often say "God bless you", even to strangers. Some people think it's odd and even annoying. But I do it anyways because you never know when it will make someone think about their relationship with God. And I have often had good conversations with people because I brought up God in a conversation.

I don't want this to be one of those testimonies that you read to warm your heart, and then go away and soon forget. You'll never be on fire for God if you just read someone else's experience. You need to get out there and live your own life—and be zealous for God and His Word.

Think about your own life. What stories can you tell of how God is good to you?

...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15).

God is not looking for brilliant men, is not depending upon eloquent men, is not shut up to the use of talented men in sending His Gospel out into the world. God is looking for the broken men who have judged themselves in the light of the Cross of Christ. When He wants anything done, He takes up men who have come to the end of themselves, whose confidence is not in themselves but in God.

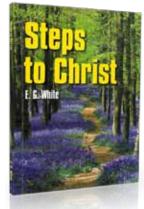
-H. A. Ironside

## Steps to Christ by Ellen White

A beautiful full-color edition of the book Steps to Christ. Perfect to share with friends or neighbors.

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We are looking forward to hearing from you!

#### Editor's Corner - cont. from page 2

When they purr or curl up in some corner, I still smile at the gentleness they are exhibiting, all the while knowing in my heart that these creatures cannot be trusted—that given the right circumstances and the right passions, they may yet again disappoint me.

This whole debacle leads me to think about God's love for the sinner—His love for me. How often have I disappointed my Lord? How often have I not deserved any more love, any more care, any more regard, and yet He has given it anyways.

How often have I wrung God's heart with pain because of my actions? And yet how great, how marvellous is His mercy towards me and to any sinner. Whether they have acknowledged their sin or not, the sun and rain falls on all. The flowers still bloom, the sun still shines, the mountains still exude their strength and beauty, the leaves still beautify the trees. God does not change. His mercy and goodness last forever.

Is it a struggle for Him to give me mercy when I least deserve it, as it is for me to give kindness and mercy to my cat when she least deserves it? Does God's heart also pierce with pain like mine? And does He make the decision in that moment just as I make with my cat, that even though this creature has disappointed yet again and has done an unacceptable deed, she cannot be just thrown away?

Perhaps I too need a bell to prevent me from repeating my actions. In His love for me, God provides hedges and barriers in my path for me to bump into. These obstacles force me to think through what I am doing, hopefully realize my sin, and turn back.

How about you, dear reader? Do you also find God merciful to you despite the times you've disappointed Him? Are you thankful for the "bells" and obstacles He puts in your path to guide you and direct you in the way you should go? As 2011 draws to a close and a new year begins, may you realize more deeply the enormous love God has for you, and may the hedges and obstacles in your life continue to steer you towards repentance and a new heart that will fit you for heaven.





cont. from page 11

over government bailouts of big banks, corporate bonuses, and economic inequality.

The Vatican document was likely to be welcomed by the demonstrators who critics say lack clear objectives.

"The economic and financial crisis which the world is going through calls everyone, individuals and peoples, to examine in depth the principles and the cultural and moral values at the basis of social coexistence," said the Vatican document.

It condemned what it called "the idolatry of the market" as well as a "neo-liberal thinking" that it said looked exclusively at technical solutions to economic problems.

"If no solutions are found to the various forms of injustice, the negative effects that will follow on the social, political and economic level will be destined to create a climate of growing hostility and even violence, and ultimately undermine the very foundations of democratic institutions, even the ones considered most solid," it said.

The Vatican called for the establishment of "a supranational authority" with worldwide scope and "universal jurisdiction" to guide economic policies and decisions.

Such an authority should start with the United Nations as its reference point but later become independent and be endowed with the power to see to it that developed countries were not allowed to wield "excessive power over the weaker countries".

To read more visit: http:// uk.reuters.com/article/2011/10/24/ vatican-economy-idUKL5E7LO1LS20111024

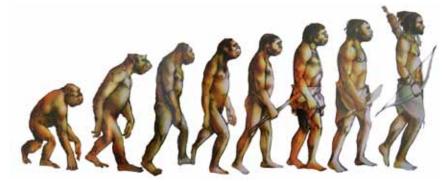


# **Heavyweights Move to Ban Creation**

October 24, 2011 by Dominic Statham

In May of this year, CMI-UK's Philip Bell addressed some pupils at a Religious Education study day at a Church of England school in Exeter. As a result, the self-styled 'British Centre for Science Education' (BCSE) launched its 'Creationism In Schools Isn't Science' (CrISIS) campaign, supported by the

National Secular Society. This took the form of a letter to the UK Secretary of State for Education, signed by a number of prominent scientists, demanding that action be taken to prevent creationism being taught in schools as having any kind of scientific validity.



This week, the British Humanist Association (BHA) joined the party, making their bid to silence all who would seek to inform children of the scientific short comings of evolutionary theory and to present them with an alternative view of origins. Supported by a much more impressive group of scientists than those co-opted by the BCSE, the BHA has launched their 'Teach Evolution, not Creationism!' campaign. Backed by over twenty Fellows of the Royal Society, including Sir David Attenborough (pictured above) and Prof Richard Dawkins, they are calling for "enforceable statutory guidance that [creationism and intelligent design] may not be presented as scientific theories in any publically funded school."

To read more, visit: http://creation.com/cmi-in-british-schools

# California City Closes Down Bible Study in Private Home

September 21, 2011 by Kurt Nimmo

## In Orange County, California, it is illegal to hold a religious meeting in your home.

This is what Chuck and Stephanie Fromm, of San Juan Capistrano, discovered when they were fined \$300 earlier this month for holding a Bible study class on their property.

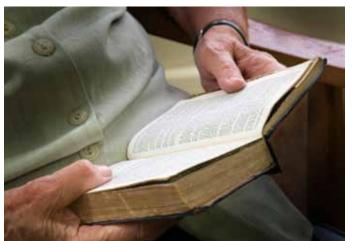
Officialdom in the county said the couple were singled out because it is considered illegal to hold "a regular gathering of more than three people" on private property. Officials stated that the Fromms require a license to hold meetings in their home.

San Juan Capistrano authorities claim home Bible study is not allowed because it is a "church," and churches require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) in residential areas.

The Fromms face additional fines of \$500 per meeting for any further "religious gatherings" in their home, according to the Pacific Justice Institute.

The city's action is a brazen violation of the First Amendment, which guarantees free worship without government intervention.

To read more, visit: http://www.infowars.com/california-city-closes-down-bible-study-in-private-home/



# Geocentricity:

# lt's Time to

n his useful little book *Better Thinking and Reasoning*, Ron Tagliapietra gives a good introduction to how one should approach evidence and draw reasonable conclusions. But he unwittingly gives an even better example of how one can be completely misled by starting with erroneous information to reason about.

There are two topics in particular, dear to the hearts of secular humanist scientists, which have been used repeatedly to "refute" the Bible—topics on which it is difficult to find genuine, unbiased, undistorted information. Unfortunately most Christians have not taken the trouble to search out the truth in either case, possibly because they have never realized they had been fed red herrings instead of real meat.

The solar system is a recent concept which Copernicus never mentioned. Neither did Galileo, Ptolemy, or any of the other players in the drama.

#### **Evolution**

The prime example is, of course, evolution, which was no more than a dubious hypothesis when Darwin popularized it.

It has needed to be repeatedly propped up by half-truths, fraud and self-deception—as peddled by Ernst Haeckel, Teilhard de Chardin, Henry Fairfield Osborne, and numerous others—to maintain that status. It is being supported today by refusal to face hard facts of well established science such as the second law of thermodynamics, of informatics, and astounding findings of microbiology.

Such difficulties are brushed over with red herrings. A favorite these days is variation within a kind; that is, dark or light peppered moths, fish with this or that color gills, or change in allele ratios.

Variation within a kind has little or nothing to do with evolution in the sense that we are led to think of—the progress of molecules to men. It also has nothing to do with what the Bible tells us—creatures are to reproduce "after their kind," while little is said about how much variation is possible within each kind.

Evolution, in the sense that we are supposed to accept, teaches reproduction from one kind to another, which is a process totally unknown to science.

#### **The Copernican Revolution**

It is even more difficult to find the truth when it comes to the second favorite topic, the story of the Copernican revolution. It was such an important milestone in the fight against the Bible that few secular humanists are keen to allow the facts to actually emerge, and all is usually so skillfully disguised by half-truths, ridicule and obfuscation that even reasonably serious scholars like Ron Tagliapietra have been kept from even suspecting the reality. We see the first red herring in the very first sentence of his discussion:

Copernicus is credited with the heliocentric theory. He proposed that the sun is the center of the solar system.

Now, the solar system is a recent concept which Copernicus never mentioned. Neither did Galileo, Ptolemy, or any of the other players in the drama. The solar system is irrelevant to the discussion. The Bible makes no mention of the solar system. It is a concept which could only be proposed once Newton's theory of gravity made such an idea possible.

The solar system can be thought about, but never actually isolated. One can write equations about it, but nothing absolute can



be verified about their conclusions. One can make models of it, but they are deficient models, they ignore the vastly more massive and gravitationally important remainder of the universe.

Biblically it is foolish to talk about the "solar system" as any kind of reality since we know that Jesus is "upholding all things by the word of his power" (Hebrews 1:3). To examine the solar system and see how it would work on its own we would have to take that part of creation out of His hands. From a purely "scientific" point of view it might well collapse if it could be removed from the surrounding universe.

One can, however, convince oneself quite easily that in a purely hypothetical mathematical model of the solar system (where the rest of the universe is of necessity ignored completely) the sun would be at its center and the rest of the system, the earth included, would revolve around it.

Why is the irrelevant solar system sneaked in to the Copernican discussion at all?

Copernicus held that the sun was the center of the entire universe, as did Galileo and the rest of the protagonists.

Scientists assuredly do not believe that today. To admit that the heroes of the fight against Biblical inerrancy were wrong would not be good for the cause.



The next and equally popular deception passed off upon us comes in Tagliapietra's next sentence:

The competing geocentric (or Ptolemaic) theory that the earth is the centre of the solar system.

Now not only was Ptolemy concerned with the entire universe (not the solar system), but his system is not, as implied, the one and only model for geocentricity. Several have been proposed, some have never been refuted. It was Aristotle's

We know that Jesus is "upholding all things by the word of his power."

model which Galileo sought successfully to refute, it was Tycho Brahe's against which Galileo was called to defend the Copernican. Galileo was unsuccessful, he could not demonstrate any fatal flaw in Brahe's model, nor superiority in that of Copernicus.

Two further deceptions about Ptolemy's method are found in the rest of the discussion. First, Copernicus' model was neither more accurate, nor less complicated than Ptolemy's. Copernicus had to use considerably more epicycles than Ptolemy. What those who would pull the wool over our eyes do is to compare an early version of Ptolemy's method of calculation not against that of Copernicus, but against that of Kepler and Newton after improvement by many years of research and refinement.

Second, Ptolemy and his epicycles are not the primitive and outdated objects of fun the humanists would have us be-

lieve. The most convenient means of calculating planetary positions today is still Ptolemy's, though his method has been modernized into "Fourier analysis", and his "epicycles" are now "terms in an infinite series." The most improved versions of Kepler's method are still not superior in accuracy and convenience.

#### Is the Bible True?

Now most Christians, Ron Tagliapietra included, are sidetracked by the red herring of the solar system (where the earth clearly cannot be stationary at the center), fail to look any further, assume that the geocentric position is utterly untenable, and search for ways to "excuse" the Bible for its "mistaken" stand and interpret it to say something different.

Copernicus said, "surely it is more reasonable to assume that the earth rotates once each day than that the entire universe rotates around it." But to the Bible-believers of Copernicus's day there was simply no doubt about the Bible's geocentricity.

Calvin countered with, "The heavens revolve daily; immense as is their fabric, and inconceivable the rapidity of their revolutions" (commentary to Psalm 93:1) in deliberate scripture-based contradiction.

Luther, speaking of Copernicus's idea said, "Even in these things which are thrown into disorder I believe the Holy Scriptures."

Galileo was so confident that the Bible puts the earth stationary at the centre of the universe that to disregard it he had to say, "In matters concerning the natural sciences Holy Writ must occupy the last place."

Why were they so certain of the Bible's stand?

Well, for one thing, Genesis 1 tells us that God created the

To the Bible-believers of Coper-

nicus's day there was simply no

doubt about geocentricity.

unformed watery waste of the earth on the first day. On day two He separated the waters above from the waters below by an expanse called the "firmament," and on the fourth day He set the sun moon and stars in this firmament. Where is the possibility for the day-one-created earth to be

circling around the day-four-created sun?

And why should the Bible say, "He...hangeth the earth upon nothing" (Job 26:7), if in fact the earth is not hanging on

nothing, but whirling around at a hundred thousand kilometres per hour on the end of a gravitational cord of billions of tons of attraction from the sun?

And again Psalm 19 says of the sun, he "rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it." This gives the sun a circuit round which to run, not the earth.

It is fairly clear why the Bible believers of the era saw Copernicus, Galileo, and their heliocentric theory as a challenge to Biblical authority. What is not so clear, until one looks a little deeper, is why

today's supporters of heliocentricity have to resort to red herrings and an avoidance of the truth. Unfortunately for their case many experiments were performed specifically to demonstrate and measure the motion of the earth around the sun.

To everyone's surprise and grief all of them gave the speed of the earth's movement through

space to be a stunning zero. No significant movement could be measured at all. The most famous of the experiments was



done by Michelson and Morely. Typical of comments on their results are those of Bernard Jaffe:

The data were almost unbelievable. There was only one other possible conclusion to draw, that the earth was at rest. This, of course, was preposterous.

As "preposterous" as the measurements of Arago, Trouton and Noble, Airy, Thorndyke and Kennedy, Theodore de Coudres, and several others. They also found the earth to have a zero velocity through space.

One of South Africa's most highly respected scientists, world-renowned cosmologist Professor George Ellis, noted this:

I can construct you a spherically symmetrical universe with Earth at its centre, and you cannot disprove it based on observations.<sup>1</sup>

Nor can you prove it by observations. As with every Biblical question it is a case of "the just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17). To disbelieve the Bible's geocentric stand takes just as much faith as to accept it—it cannot be disproved by any known observation. The only way to know for certain would be to stand on some fixed point outside the universe and look in. Unfortunately none of us is able to do that.

But we may chose to believe the testimony of the One who can.

This article by Dr. Philip Stott can be found at reformation.edu. Purchase his book *Vital Questions* from Reformation Media at gorcm.org.



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# **Protein in the Vegan Diet**

by Dr. Reed Mangels



Some Americans are obsessed with protein. Vegans are bombarded with questions about where they get their protein.

Athletes used to eat thick steaks before competition because they thought it would improve their performance. Protein supplements are sold at health food stores. This concern about protein is misplaced.

Although protein is certainly an essen-

Only one calorie out of every ten we take in needs to come from protein.<sup>1</sup> Athletes do not need much more protein than the general public.<sup>2</sup> Protein supplements are expensive, unnecessary, and even harmful for some people.

How much protein do we need? The RDA recommends that we take in 0.8 grams of protein for every kilogram that we weigh (or about 0.36 grams

of protein per pound that we weigh).<sup>1</sup> This recommendation includes a generous safety factor for most people.

Only one calorie out of every ten we take in needs to come from protein.

tial nutrient which plays many key roles in the way our bodies function, we do not need huge quantities of it. In reality, we need small amounts of protein. When we make a few adjustments to account for some plant proteins being digested somewhat differently from animal proteins and for the amino acid mix in some plant

proteins, we arrive at a level of 1 gram of protein per kilogram body weight (0.45 grams of protein per pound that we weigh).

Since vegans eat a variety of plant protein sources, somewhere between 0.8 and 1 gram of protein per kilogram would be a protein recommendation for vegans. If we do a few calculations we see that the protein recommendation for vegans amounts to close to 10% of calories coming from protein.

For example, a 79 kg vegan male aged 25 to 50 years could have an estimated calorie requirement of 2900 calories per day. His protein needs might be as high as 79 kg x 1 gram/kg = 79 grams of protein. 79 grams of protein x 4 calories/gram of protein = 316 calories from protein per day. 316 calories from protein divided by 2900 calories = 10.1% of calories from protein.] If we look at what

<sup>1.</sup> Food and Nutrition Board, Institute of Medicine, *Dietary Reference Intakes for Energy, Carbohydrate, Fiber, Fat, Fatty Acids, Cholesterol, Protein, and Amino Acids* (Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 2002).

<sup>2. &</sup>quot;Nutrition and athletic performance—Position of the American Dietetic Association, Dietitians of Canada, and the American College of Sports Medicine," J Am Diet Assoc 100 (2000): 1543-56.

<sup>3.</sup> V. Messina, R. Mangels, M. Messina, The Dietitian's Guide to Vegetarian Diets second edition (Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers, 2004).

## Table 1: Protein Content of Selected Vegan Foods

FOOD	AMOUNT	PROTEIN(gm)	PROTEIN(gm/100
Tempeh	1 cup	41	9.3
Seitan	3 ounces	31	22.1
Soybeans, cooked	1 cup	29	9.6
Lentils, cooked	1 cup	18	7.8
Black beans, cooked	1 cup	15	6.7
Kidney beans, cooked	1 cup	13	6.4
Veggie burger	1 patty	13	13.0
Chickpeas, cooked	1 cup	12	4.2
Veggie baked beans	1 cup	12	5.0
Pinto beans, cooked	1 cup	12	5.7
Black-eyed peas, cooked	1 cup	11	6.2
Tofu, firm	4 ounces	11	11.7
Lima beans, cooked	1 cup	10	5.7
Quinoa, cooked	1 cup	9	3.5
Tofu, regular	4 ounces	9	10.6
Bagel	1 med.(3 oz)	9	3.9
Peas, cooked	1 cup	9	6.4
Peanut butter	2 Tbsp	8	4.3
Veggie dog	1 link	8	13.3
Spaghetti, cooked	1 cup	8	3.7
Almonds	1/4 cup	8	3.7
Soy milk, commercial, plain	1 cup	7	7.0
Soy yogurt, plain	6 ounces	6	4.0
Bulgur, cooked	1 cup	6	3.7
Sunflower seeds	1/4 cup	6	3.3
Whole wheat bread	2 slices	5	3.9
Cashews	1/4 cup	5	2.7
Almond butter	2 Tbsp	5	2.4
Brown rice, cooked	1 cup	5	2.1
Spinach, cooked	1 cup	5	13.0
Broccoli, cooked	1 cup	4	6.8
Potato	1 med.(6 oz)	4	2.7

vegans are eating, we find that between 10-12% of calories come from protein.<sup>3</sup> This contrasts with the protein intake of non-vegetarians, which is close to 14-18% of calories.

So, in the United States it appears that vegan diets are commonly lower in protein than standard American diets. Remember, though, with protein, more (than the RDA) is not necessarily better. There do not appear to be health advantages to consuming a high protein diet. Diets that are high in protein may even increase the risk of osteoporosis and kidney disease.<sup>4,5</sup>

Table 1 shows the amount of protein in various vegan foods and also the number of grams of protein per 100 calories. To meet protein recommendations, the typical adult

#### Sources:

USDA Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 18, 2005 and manufacturers' information.

The recommendation for protein for adult male vegans is around 56-70 grams per day; for adult female vegans it is around 46-58 grams per day (see text).



<sup>4.</sup> D. E. Sellmeyer, K. L. Stone, A. Sebastian, et al., "A high ratio of dietary animal to vegetable protein increases the rate of I the risk of fracture in postmenopausal women," *Am J Clin Nutr* 73 (2001): 118-22.

<sup>5.</sup> E. L. Knight, M. J. Stampfer, S. E. Hankinson, et al., "The impact of protein intake on renal function decline in women wi function or mild insufficiency," *Ann Intern Med* 138 (2003): 460-7.



male vegan needs only 2.5 to 2.9 grams of protein per 100 calories and the typical adult female vegan needs only 2.1 to 2.4 grams of protein per 100 calories. These recommendations can be easily met from vegan sources.

It is very easy for a vegan diet to meet the recommendations for protein. Nearly all vegetables, beans, grains, nuts, and seeds contain some, and often much, protein. Fruits, sugars, fats, and alcohol do not provide much protein, so a diet based only on these foods would have a

However, not many vegans we know live on only bananas, hard candy, margarine, and

good chance of being too low

in protein.

beer. Vegans eating varied diets containing vegetables, beans, grains, nuts, and seeds rarely have any difficulty getting enough protein as long as their diet contains enough energy (calories) to maintain weight.

What about combining or complementing protein?

Doesn't that make the protein issue much more complex?

It is very easy for a vegan diet to meet the recommendations for protein

Let's look at a little background on the myth of complementing proteins.

Protein is made up of amino acids, often described as its building blocks. We actu-

ally have a biological requirement for amino acids, not for protein. Humans cannot make nine of the twenty common amino acids, so these amino acids are considered to be essential.

In other words, we must get these amino acids from our diets. We need all nine of these amino acids for our body to make protein.

Some people say that eggs, cow's milk, meat, and fish are high quality protein. This means that they have large amounts of all the essential amino acids. Soybeans, quinoa (a grain),

and spinach also are considered high quality protein.

Other protein sources of nonanimal origin usually have all of the essential amino acids, but the amounts of one or two of these amino acids may be low. For example, grains are lower in lysine (an essential

Table 2: Amounts of Foods Providing Recommended Amounts of Essential Amino Acids

Try	Thr	Iso	Leu	Lys	Met + Cys	Phe + Tyr	Val
350	1400	1330	2940	2660	1330	2310	1680
443	2521	2521	6777	2660	1820	5326	3616
760	1768	1963	2940	2951	1365	3946	2743
780	2045	2480	3808	3298	1333	4112	2530
899	2573	2960	5766	2666	2418	6231	4108
	350 443 760 780	350 1400 443 2521 760 1768 780 2045	350 1400 1330 443 2521 2521 760 1768 1963 780 2045 2480	350 1400 1330 2940 443 2521 2521 6777 760 1768 1963 2940 780 2045 2480 3808	350     1400     1330     2940     2660       443     2521     2521     6777     2660       760     1768     1963     2940     2951       780     2045     2480     3808     3298	+ Cys         350       1400       1330       2940       2660       1330         443       2521       2521       6777       2660       1820         760       1768       1963       2940       2951       1365         780       2045       2480       3808       3298       1333	+ Cys     + Tyr       350     1400     1330     2940     2660     1330     2310       443     2521     2521     6777     2660     1820     5326       760     1768     1963     2940     2951     1365     3946       780     2045     2480     3808     3298     1333     4112

Source: USDA Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 18, 2005.

Notes: Amounts of amino acids are in milligrams.

Try=tryptophan, Thr=threonine, Iso=isoleucine, Leu=leucine, Lys=lysine,

Met+Cys=methionine+cysteine, Phe+Tyr=phenylalanine+tyrosine, Val=valine



<sup>6.</sup> F. M. Lappe, Diet for a Small Planet (New York: Ballantine Books, 1971).

<sup>7.</sup> V. R. Young, P. L. Pellett, "Plant proteins in relation to human protein and amino acid nutrition," *Am J Clin Nutr* 59 (1994): 1203S-2011S.

<sup>8.</sup> A. R. Mangels, V. Messina, V. Melina, "Position of The American Dietetic Association and Dietitians of Canada: Vegetarian diets," *J Am Diet Assoc* 103 (2003): 748-765.

amino acid) and legumes are lower in methionine (another essential amino acid) than those protein sources designated as high quality protein.

Frances Moore Lappe, in her book *Diet for a Small Planet* advocated the combining of a food low in one amino acid with another food containing large amounts of that amino acid. This got to be a very complicated process, with each meal having specific amounts of certain foods in order to be certain of getting a favorable amino acid mix.

Many people got discouraged with the complexity of this approach. Actually, Lappe was being overly conservative to avoid criticism from the "Nutrition Establishment." She has since repudiated strict protein combining, saying, "In combating the myth that meat is the only way to get high quality protein, I reinforced another myth. I gave the impression that in order to get enough protein without meat, considerable care was needed in choosing foods. Actually it is much easier than I thought." 6

We recommend eating a variety of unrefined grains, legumes, seeds, nuts, and vegetables throughout the day, so that if one food is low in a particular essential amino acid, another food will make up this deficit.<sup>7,8</sup>

Even if you ate only one food and not the variety of foods typical of a vegan diet, you would probably get enough protein and essential amino acids. Remember, almost all protein sources of non-animal origin contain all of the essential amino acids. You would have to eat a lot of the protein source (if there was only one source of protein in your diet) to meet essential amino acid needs.

Table 2 shows the amounts of various foods an adult male would have to eat if he relied on a single food source for his protein needs. Females would need about 20% less of each food due to the lower protein recommendation for women.

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