

Help! We've Fallen and We Can't Get Up.

Chapter One - The Human Condition

There is the belief by some that we are constantly progressing on our own through our individual and societal power to change; hence the term "Progressives." These "believers" need no god but society's elite and enlightened. The "lemming" followers of this worldview are, more often than not, those bitten by the prestige serpent who insist that the progressives must be right because they are rich and famous, powerful and pugnacious. All the traits the lemmings have dreamed of being, but never have become. One of their worldview watch-phrases is "you can be anything you want to be." Or, "if you can dream it you can become it." They victimize their children with this lie and perpetuate it in story and song. (Often, these same progressives wouldn't dare plague their children with the myth of Santa Claus.) Progressives think they are gaining great ground in the war against being an ape, while carnage is wrought by a generation who believes everything is relative and without God. As their children grow up realizing that, indeed, they cannot really be anything they want to be and their promised dreams are dashed against other more powerful dreamers who are pursuing their promised dreams, they become bitter and untrusting. We have only one question for Progressives. "How's that working out for you?"

Let's let a best-selling author, Simon Sinek, give us an example of how it's working out:

"In our pursuit to advance, we have, without intending to, built a world that is making it harder and harder for us to cooperate. The symptoms of this cruel irony are easy to feel in the developed world. Feelings of isolation and high stress have fueled industries that are profiting from our search for happiness. Self-help books, courses and any number of pharmaceuticals make up multibillion-dollar industries designed to help us find that elusive happiness, or at the very least to reduce our stress. In only a few decades, the self-help business alone has grown to \$11 billion. The biggest thing the self-help industry seems to have helped is itself. Our search for happiness and connection has also led us to seek professional advice. In the 1950s, few of us went to weekly sessions with a therapist. Today in the U.S., according to the Hoover Institute, there are 77,000 clinical psychologists, 192,000 clinical social workers, 105,000 mental health counselors, 50,000 marriage and family therapists, 17,000 nurse psychotherapists, and 30,000 life coaches. The only reason the field continues to grow is because of increasing demand. The more we try to make ourselves feel better, the worse we seem to feel.

Baby Boomers are killing themselves in greater numbers than ever before. According to a 2013 study by the Centers for Disease Control, suicide rates among Baby Boomers rose nearly 30% percent during the past decade, making suicide one of the leading causes of death in that age group, behind only cancer and heart disease...In 1960, the number of notable school shootings,

was one. In the 1980s there were 27. The 1990s saw 58 school shootings, and from 2000 until 2012 there were 102 school shootings. This may seem crazy, but that's an increase of more than 10,000 percent in just over fifty years.”¹

Add to this list the facts of war and third world, government induced famine in the 20th Century, compiling statistics of the deaths of more people than any other century in the history of mankind. One can see the sure and steady progress since the world has shirked the oppressive ways of Christian belief, right?

I hope the reader can understand that I am not denigrating the need for good counseling. The quote above gives simply the facts of the number of professional consultants needed in the U.S. because people feel in need of them. However, it is an indicator that our problems have not “progressed” out of existence as much as the secular humanist elite would have wished. When the curtain is pulled back, the honest observer realizes that our human condition is not relegated to the back roads of America but is thoroughly ensconced in progressive and elitist cities of the left as well.

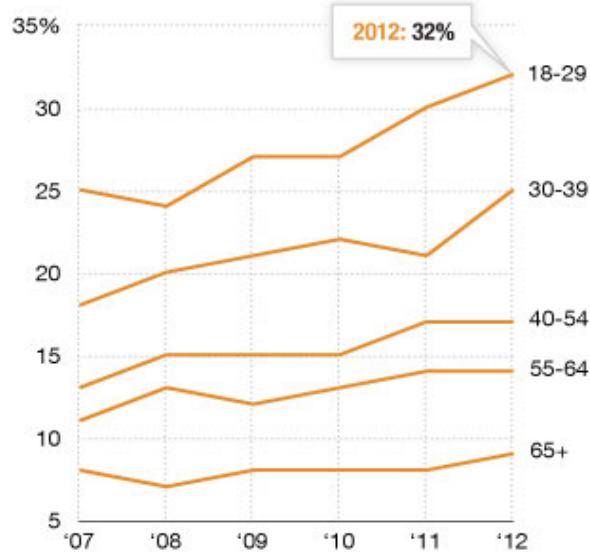
Work-based Religions

A second group of lemming-lurers are those who take the view that we best progress as we “work” toward God and bring “offerings” of ourselves to Him for his inspection and approval. This worldview is designed to allow us (mankind) to come before God with our heads held proudly high. These “religious beliefs” are spiritually killing us because they allow us to deny the reality that is all around us. They argue that we are coming toward God through these means, when they are actually taking us farther from Him. It is more heinous than progressivism because it preaches, guilts, and actively evangelizes toward the religious lie. It's insidious. Many who have previously been victims of the religious establishment have voted with their feet, walking away from religion.

Recently, a moniker of the “nones” has been given to about 20% of the American population. (Nones are those who profess no religion.) The “nones” are on the rise. Until the year 1972, this category was less than 5%; a rise of 15% within one generation. Other studies by Pew Research show that one-third of Americans under age 30 have no religious affiliation. This group of nones is mostly comprised of atheists and agnostics, but some say that they are spiritual and pray every day. However, they are not looking for an organized religion. Many are looking for answers religious and secular society cannot provide.

Unfortunately, many have stopped looking for the true answer and are simply living as best as they can from day to day. The materialistic world of Hollywood, Park Avenue and the military-industrial complex, have taken center stage.

Percentage reporting no religious affiliation, by age



Source: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, Credit: Matt Stiles/NPR

National Public Radio has been abuzz with the topic in the last few years:

"Young people today are not only more religiously unaffiliated than their elders; they are also more religiously unaffiliated than previous generations of young people ever have been as far back as we can tell," Smith tells NPR *Morning Edition* co-host David Greene. "This really is something new." But why? According to Harvard professor Robert Putnam, who writes about religion, this young generation has been distancing itself from community institutions and from institutions in general.

"They're the same people who are also not joining the Elks Club or the Rotary Club," Putnam tells Greene. "I don't mean to be casting that as a critique of them, but this same younger generation is much less involved in many of the main institutions of our society than previous younger generations were."

The trend, Putnam says, is borne out of rebellion of sorts. "It begins to jump at around 1990," he says. "These were the kids who were coming of age in the America of the culture wars, in the America in which religion publicly became associated with a particular brand of politics, and so I think the single most important reason for the rise of the unknowns is that combination of the younger people moving to the left on social issues and the most visible religious leaders moving to the right on that same issue."²

We are forced to realize that the human condition has not changed or progressed. Yes, the sciences, industrial manufacturing and the information revolution have brought us to an easier physical existence, but socially, psychologically and emotionally, our existence is the same generation after generation. We are trapped in our worldly condition until we agree with God

that we need a Savior and that living successful lives depends on following his modeling in the Bible.

Truth

And so, we introduce the biblical doctrine of Mankind's Total Depravity and salvation only through the grace of God. If you got a twinge of emotional pain just now as you read the words "Mankind's Total Depravity" that is exactly what we are talking about. Our "fallen" spirits hate the fact that we might be "depraved." It's like a slap in the face. Our pride won't have that kind of talk from anyone! But, if we will humble ourselves and listen to God, he will gently tell us that recognizing our "depravity" is the only way that we could ever come to him and that journeying through the truth of "depravity" allows us to become part of his Holy Spirit.

Let's allow a moment for explanation. God is autonomous. He makes his own decisions freely and willfully. He, in his great, mysterious sovereignty decided to make creatures with the free will to come to him and want to be with him; want to love him. However, in order for that not to be a farce, he created us with a free will too; in his image. We have a free will to reject him or accept him. Why did he do it this way? We can't know this, else we would be God, and it doesn't really matter. What matters is that, even from the very beginning, from the "foundations of the world" he also made a way for us to be with him through the process of redemption. Depravity is not a bottomless pit, wherein we fall forever. Depravity means that our spirits, made in the image of God, cannot "un-ring the bell" by ourselves and fellowship wholly with him because we, mankind, chose to be on our own. Ever since Adam and Eve fell, we humans constantly feel as though, somehow, there is a way to stand ourselves up from our fallen condition, but, hard as we try, we just can't do it,- we're deprived of the ability to do it because of where we are and who we now are. This booklet is about that human condition of depravity and the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

The Biblical Christian Premise

Christians believe that God made the universe. It is a UNiverse, all one. We believe that the universe was made by God for the world, the world for man, and man for God. Let me say that again with a little different emphasis. The universe was made to serve the world, the world to serve man, and man was made to serve God. This is the Bible's worldview. Some would say that it is naïve to hold such a belief today. Yet, it is surprising how much of what we know that can be smoothly, reasonably, and excitingly woven into such a worldview. Indeed, for the true Christian, Jesus could not have come and been the object of our redemption if Adam and Eve had not been born into a world exactly like this. The central theme of the Bible is redemption of mankind. The central story in the Bible is the story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. The crucifixion of Jesus was not an isolated event, but an apex event. It had to be

appropriately witnessed within a legal code, within a society prophetically prepared, and into an empire with a common language, culture and setting. The world had to be created just as it was for redemption to occur two-thousand years ago.

As we begin our explanation of the Bible-based history of the world, the reader may, at first, think that this is a book about science, however, as we get further into the discussion, we will find that it is all too human,- and relevant to our situation today. Here's an example of what we mean by relevance:

Generation "Y" or the Millennials, is defined as people born between 1978 and 1989. Many of these are in college or beginning in jobs today. When a research group recently gave them a broad list of "God-qualities" to choose from, most of the students selected the words; mysterious, indescribable and unknowable. Other popular choices were; everywhere, nowhere, transcendent, nothing, and metaphoric. Most of the students surveyed described themselves as free-thinkers and agnostics. The Millennials, as a group, knows not God while living within His most favored nation, formed and fashioned by His own hand. (The reader is encouraged to refer to the author's book, Killing the Bible, for a complete historical treatise on this.)

Even in some conservative, southern colleges there is a distinct void of biblical truth being communicated to our young adults. During the last few years, (2009-2011) Louisiana College, a Christian college, administered a Belief Assessment of Spiritual Essentials (BASE) exam to incoming freshmen in order to determine how well they understood the doctrines of the Christian faith. The questions were not intricate and the answers not complex, from a theological point of view. Here were some of the discoveries:

- 78 percent believe that all people are basically good and have no need of a savior.
- 65 percent cannot identify a simple definition of new birth in a multiple choice question. They think being born again means reincarnation.
- 54 percent think that faith in Jesus is unnecessary for salvation. In their view, as long as a person believes in a god and has fallen in love with him, her or it, he is right with God.
- 42 percent believe that people go to heaven because of their personal morality rather than because of Jesus' sacrificial death.
- 32 percent do not know that Christianity affirms the Deity of Jesus Christ.
- 25 percent do not know that Christianity claims that Jesus literally rose from the dead.

All of this despite the fact that 90 percent of the college's incoming class claim to be Christians and nearly 60 percent of them grew up attending Louisiana Baptist churches.³

Based upon current national surveys from the Barna Group; 11 percent of religious Americans believe that God is “a state of higher consciousness that a person may reach,” 8 percent define God as “the total realization of personal, human potential,” and 3 percent believe that each person is God. That’s 22 percent OF PEOPLE WHO CALL THEMSELVES RELIGIOUS. Moreover, the actual percentages of non-Christians are thought to be even higher than the poll records; actually more than one-third to as much as one-half. There are many members of supposedly mainline religious groups who also embrace a unitarian vision of God; God is one, but Jesus isn’t God.

How could America, a nation built on Christian principles get to this point? How could our latest generation not know and believe in our biblical heritage and what is the “true-truth.” We believe it is because both the progressive movement and the religious movements have failed to bring the truth. This has broken trust with up to half of all Americans. But there is a remedy and a trust-builder available. Let’s start at the very beginning of any discussion about us humans, the truth of God. A very good place to start.

Can God Exist

How likely is it that a planet such as ours is a random product of a “Big Bang” without a Creative Designer behind such an effort?

In answer to this, I am going to do something that I rarely do in my books. I am going to quote a rather lengthy, scientific explanation, but one well said by Dr. Gerald Schroeder in his book God According To God. Dr. Schroeder calculates the likelihood of our planet being specially created. Below are the factors, by percentages that science tells us must be available for the earth as we know it to exist at all. If the reader can get through the list of science-speak, there will be a well-made point at the end:

1. The frequency of isolated spiral galaxies is about one galaxy in ten, or 0.1.
2. The fraction of stars in the galaxy located in a region of low local density of stars, that is, between the spiral arms and far from the galactic center, 0.001.
3. The fraction of stars in the galaxy located in a region of high local density of metals, 0.01.
4. The fraction of stars with a mass similar to the sun’s mass, 0.05.
5. The formation of a stellar system around the remnants of a second or third generation supernova within a few billion years of the most recent supernova, 0.1.
6. The fraction of planets that are metal-rich planets, 0.5.
7. The fraction of planets that have low carbon content, 0.3.

8. The fraction of planets that have low water (relative to asteroid composition) content, 0.3.
9. The fraction of planets that have a molten iron-rich core, 0.2.
10. The fraction of planets with mass (gravity) able to hold an oxygen-rich but not hydrogen-rich atmosphere, 0.2.
11. The fraction of planets with continent-forming plate tectonics, 0.1.
12. The fraction of planets with a nearly circular orbit, 0.5.
13. The fraction of planets approximately 150 million kilometers from a sun-like star, 0.1.
14. The fraction of planetary systems with huge outer planets, 0.01.
15. The fraction of planetary systems with no huge inner planets, 0.1.
16. The fraction of planets with a period of planetary rotation on the order of days, 0.5.
17. The fraction of planets with a moderate tilt to the planet's axis of rotation, 0.2.
18. The fraction of planets with a large moon, 0.05

Multiplying these admittedly gross, but nonetheless conservative estimates, which are based on the conditions observed within our life-supporting galaxy and solar system and on our life-nurturing earth, the likelihood of finding anywhere in the entire universe a stellar system with a planet able to support complex intelligent life is one chance in 10 to the eighteenth power. The estimated number of stars in the entire visible universe is on the order of 10 to the twenty-second power. This indicates that in the entire universe there may be approximately 10,000 earthlike planets circling a sun-like star. These 10,000 potentially earthlike planets would be distributed among the 10 to the eleventh power or 100,000,000,000 galaxies in the entire visible universe. That comes out to be one earthlike planet for each ten million galaxies.

Of course this estimate relates only to the possibility of finding conditions that would nurture life once it started. We learn nothing here concerning the properties required for the inception of life. Considering the uniqueness of our home in space, chances are that we are alone in our galaxy and possibly alone in the universe. One fact is certain. We live on a very special planet that circles our star in a very special way, in a universe that has all the markings of being the product of design.”⁴

The Designer

Based on these calculations, no other planets that we can ever hope to discover during our lifetimes has the special qualities of earth. The formation of this proven (to our experience) unique planet by a “Great Designer” has to be a point of consideration by any thinking individual.

The Progressives at NASA are more than willing to spend billions of tax dollars perpetuating the belief that we may find life within our solar system or Milky Way Galaxy. According to science, this is a pipe-dream at least and, in reality, a sinister and inordinate tax on Americans by “depraved,” government salaried pseudo-scientists. Why do I comment so negatively? Let me give just one of many examples of this sort of pipe-dream mentality.

The Reality of Light Years

Recently, there was a story on one of the major news stations, propounded by NASA, that scientists had discovered a new planet. The description was of a planet similar to the earth in diameter that rotated around a sun-like star. Here was the laughable moment. The commentator said, “And, this new planet is only 39 light years from earth.”

Thirty-nine Light Years! Really. Well, that’s just right around the corner isn’t it? For those unschooled in the physics of Light Years here are a few scientific explanatory facts. Please forgive the “science-speak” but definitions are crucially important.

According to special relativity, the energy of an object with rest mass m and speed v is given by γmc^2 , where γ is the Lorentz Factor. When v is zero, γ is equal to one, giving rise to the famous $E = mc^2$ formula for mass–energy equivalence. The γ factor approaches infinity as v approaches c , and it would take an infinite amount of energy to accelerate an object having mass to the speed of light. The speed of light is the upper limit for the speed of objects with positive rest mass, and individual photons cannot travel faster than the speed of light.

What this means within the realm of physics is that, as far as we can contemplate, people and rockets cannot ever travel faster than the speed of light. So, how fast is the speed of light? It is 186,000 miles per second or 11,160,000 miles per minute or, at most, (in the vacuum of space) 671,000,000 miles per hour. To give some perspective, light travels from the moon to the earth in 1.3 seconds. In round figures, a light year is nearly 6 trillion miles. Proxima Centauri, the closest star to Earth after the Sun, is around 4.2 light-years away. Currently, our space rockets travel at approximately the speed of 17,000 miles per hour to reach space but, conceivably, they can travel at about 36,000 miles per hour in space. We will need to improve our MPH rate by over 18,600 times in order to reach light speed. In other words, it is also impossible for a rocket with people in it to reach light speed by any means that we can currently imagine. At our max speed, we might travel 31 billion miles in 100 years. But, we’ve already established that light travels 6 trillion miles in a year. And, for a rocket with men inside to travel 39 light years?...my calculator broke! However, it is safe to say that men in such a rocket would have been dead for thousands of years before reaching this “new planet.” If the rocket should have reached this planet after thousands of

years, the planet might not be there because, calculating by the speed of light, we are “seeing” light from the planet as it was hundreds of years ago, not now! Finally, if men could get there, they would never get back and their transmissions would be travelling less than the, you guessed it, speed of light. So, we would not know it for hundreds of years, so would they still be alive and what difference would it make? And we, who saw the rocket launch, would have been dead by a thousand years. See how silly the thought of us reaching another earthlike planet is?

How thrilling to think that, if the words of the Bible are true, God who created it all, has planned for us to be able to travel with him eternally in the heavens and know no bounds within his plan of creating the new heaven and the new earth, with transport that defies current realities. However, separate from him, it is a worldly pipe-dream.

In the Book of Hebrews, the Apostle Paul tells us;

“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” Hebrews 11:3

Scripture makes it plain that the universe was created from the voice of God.

What About Evolution?

The same factual reasoning, concluding with the fact of our world’s most probable singularity in the universe, is even more necessarily true of the earth’s biosphere and the complex world of plants and animals on the planet. Organic evolution has been unsuccessful in outlining any mechanism competent to produce the “missing link” crucial to its theory. The best it can do is to give us the geologic column and “mutation” explanation. Evolutionists tell us that mutations over millions of years prove the probability of the theory. A mutation is defined as a definite change in genetic structure. Mutations have been recorded as not only quite rare, but found primarily harmful to the gene pool of the affected animal. Nevertheless, Dr. Francisco J. Ayala (an evolutionist) tells us:

“Mutation provides the raw materials of evolution.” And,

“It is probably fair to estimate the frequency of a majority of mutations in higher organisms between one in ten thousand, and one in a million, per gene per generation.”

This means that evolutionists believe (have faith) that, of the rare and mostly harmful mutations which have occurred throughout time, all the species on earth, across the board, have magnificently overcome the harmful effects, making mutations helpful and progressive over millions of years.

This theory of “slow progression” becomes obvious as only a wild theory when one realizes that the stability of all species has remained the same during all of recorded and geologic history. Since mutations are rare events, mostly observed as harmful to the species and take place in higher organisms over millions of years, it is impossible to prove that Darwinian Trans-specific Evolution takes place. How convenient! Evolutionists ask us to believe that their theory is fact because it can’t be disproved, but they laugh at creationists when we ask them to do the exact same thing. And Creationists are considered by them to be unreasonable and unscientific in asking for actual scientific evidence that evolution is taking or has taken place and we are seen as kooks for considering the fact of a Creative Designer for all species. Well, we ask, who’s the kook?

The various geologic ages, about 5 billion years each, with their associated fossil records are commonly known as the geologic column. Within this system, life is theorized to have evolved from non-life about 3 billion years ago. (Another time period so far back as to not be able to be proven scientifically.) Even allowing this premise, the fossil record cannot prove evolution.

The fact that one species followed another in a geologic period is hardly proof that one evolved from another. Open-minded geologists have conclusively found clear-cut gaps and inconsistencies between the assemblages of fossil rock. If there has been uniformity and consistency, as evolution pre-supposes, there should be no such gaps. Also, if evolution is a universal and natural process of transformation, we should see forms of life in one age that are completely different from those in another. However, what we do see is that animals and plants which exist in the present are easily identified as living together in the fossil record very far back in supposed “geologic time.”

A couple of years after Charles Darwin published *The Origin of Species*, he wrote the now famous letter to American biologist Asa Gray, wherein he doubted his own theory. He said, “The eye to this day, gives me a cold shudder. It is an organ of perfection.” Darwin could see that the eye of every human being could not have formed through random chance mutations.

One of the greatest problems facing evolutionists is explaining how random mutation produced the eyeball and its functionality. Here’s why. None of the hundreds of thousands of evolutionary mutations could survive until the completed system of sight was in place. Even Darwin lost sleep considering how this could work within his theory. He should have been honest and written to all the unlearned lemmings beginning to follow him, that the other conclusion could have been that God instantly created the fully developed human eye.

Pugnacious Progressives

Despite the fact that there have been over 150 years where tens of thousands of professionals and dedicated amateurs have scoured the earth for proof, there has never been any true evidence of even one missing link of evolution. Oh, they point to supposed skeletal remains that may fill one tiny portion of the gap, but none have proven valid.

However, the progressive elite are ever vigilant in their insistence that double-talk makes sense. Let's see one example from James Redfield and Michael Murphy from their 2002 book, God and the Evolving Universe, The Next Step in Personal Evolution. After quoting many statements from Theory of Evolution scholars whose chorus sings that evolution can be seen in the super-slow, gradually evident fossil record so completely that scientists see it as a fact, they state thus:

“The meandering course of evolution from the Big Bang to living species to the appearance of humankind has created the inorganic, biological, and human worlds, which can be seen to comprise three evolutionary stages or domains. In this progression, evolution itself has evolved, first when matter gave rise to life, and second, when life produced Homo sapiens. The evolutionary theorists Theodosius Dobzhansky and Francisco Ayala have called these two watershed events instances of “evolutionary transcendence” because in each of them there arose a new order of existence. “Inorganic evolution went beyond the bounds of its previous physical and chemical patternings when it gave rise to life,” Ayala said. “In the same sense, biological evolution transcended itself when it gave rise to man.” The appearance of life and the emergence of humankind marked the beginnings of new evolutionary eras. They were made possible, though, by countless changes that preceded them...We believe humankind is also evolving by minor and major steps toward another epochal change. To our way of thinking, the evidence suggests that a new evolutionary domain is tentatively forming in the human race. This emerging domain, like the emergence of life from inorganic matter and humankind from animal species, has been made possible by countless advances large and small, from the birth of spiritual awareness among our ancient ancestors to recent scientific discoveries about our still mostly untapped capacities for extraordinary life. But given human ignorance, free will, and perversity, this advance is not guaranteed.”⁵

Allow me to translate and summarize what we believe this statement is saying. These so-called experts insist that evolution remains within the geologic column time-table of millions of years (so as to justify that the apparent gaps in evolutionary transition, the missing links), but also allow for “evolutionary transcendence” where, inexplicably, between inorganic sludge and life, a miracle happened to bring life out of it. Then, millions of years

later, it happened again and animal life transcended evolution to produce mankind. Convenient, but certainly not science. Finally, there is the postulation that we are now on the brink of another miracle of transcendence wherein mankind will become super-ordinary, becoming a better moral agent than ever in history. But the caveat quickly follows that we might not make this leap of evolution because we are ignorant, have free will and are perverse. Well, that's not evolution at all, is it?

Later in their book, Redfield and Murphy embark on a study of what they call Luminous Embodiment wherein they call to mind Christian theologians from Origin to the Apostle Paul to Thomas Aquinas, in order to establish the fact of human glorification. They use the sayings about glorification that are in the Bible and Christian writings to say that God may have made it possible for humans to become glorified through spiritual transcendence. The question for Progressives should be, "Does God exist or doesn't he? Either Darwinian Evolution is true or creation is true. It cannot be both.

Progressives should be recorded so that they can hear the gibberish coming out of their own mouths. When it makes their point, the geological epoch and fossil record is true by assuming millions of years of gradual progress. When "gaps" in their theory occur, they invent a "transcendence" above normal evolution to justify their thoughts without a shred of evidence. How convenient. Then they have the audacity to say that humanity is about to "transcend" into untapped capacities but there is no guarantee because humans are so ignorant and perverse. They seem to make the case that we can choose to evolve by will. Is this a joke? If it is, the joke is on the Progressives.

What Does the Practicing Christian Know

Some say that we must keep the primary things primary and let the secondary things become un-emphasized. They say the "The Gospels are primary and that Creation is a secondary theological issue. At least for Jesus, nothing could be further from the truth.

Jesus said,

"Don't assume that I came to destroy the Law of the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For I assure you: until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass from the Law until all things are accomplished."

Matthew 5:17

"But from the beginning of Creation God made them male and female."

Mark 10:6

“As the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be. For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah boarded the ark. They didn’t know until the flood came and swept them all away.”

Matthew 24:37

“-From the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the alter and the sanctuary.”

Luke 11:51

“But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to drop out.

Luke 16:17

“And he told them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you- that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

Luke 24:44

“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, because he wrote about Me. But if you don’t believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”

John 5:46

Not only does Jesus confirm the historical account of Genesis, but the actual words confirm it. In the writings of the Old Testament, the Hebrew word “**yom**” can mean a literal 24 hour day as in I Samuel 31:8, or it can be a year or a thousand years, according to what the writer was trying to get across and whether the writing was Law, Prophesy or Poetry. In the collection of Hebrew writings, most of the time the word refers to a literal 24 hour day. The way to tell the difference is in the context of what is being said and by the pictorial qualifiers which precede or follow the word.

From Genesis 1 -

AND THE **EVENING AND THE MORNING WERE THE FIRST DAY. (yom)**
EVENING AND THE MORNING DAY.

**EVENING AND THE MORNING
EVENING AND THE MORNING
EVENING AND THE MORNING
EVENING AND THE MORNING**

**DAY.
DAY.
DAY.
DAY.**

Why did Moses, through the Holy Spirit, add these qualifiers?

Because there would be those who would doubt whether the Hebrew really meant a 24 hour day and He wanted there to be no doubt. We could spend a very long time denoting proof texts in the Bible for Creationism, but we must move on with some very scholarly works noted as references.

In his ground-breaking work, Many Infallible Proofs, Dr. Henry Morris states;

“Not only does the Word of God teach that the earth was specially designed for man, but the earth itself, with its uniquely suitable environment, proclaims the same thing.” (p. 233) Many Infallible Proofs remains one of the best books to read in answer to the many questions non-believers ask about science and the Bible.

Also, the book The Lie, and another book, Evolution and Creation, Remarkable Evidence of God’s Design, by Ken Ham and Grant R. Jeffery respectively are great references for the defrocking of evolution and the coronation of Creation Theory. Finally, Rose Publishing has several excellent short, fold-out pamphlets for quick and easy reading about the subject. They may be found at www.rose-publishing.com.

It is the responsibility of every Christian to refuse to “roll over and play dead” when the conversation ensues as to the credibility of an intelligent design and an Intelligent Designer and the incredible “faith” it takes to believe in a spontaneous and independent “big bang” and subsequent evolution.

God and Man

Christians believe that everything, including man (mankind) was created by God, the Intelligent Designer. However, practicing biblical Christians also believe that man is not now how God originally made him. Man is a fallen creature. Man, far from having ascended from something inferior to an ape, has descended from the elevated and honorable position in which God first placed him. Man has fallen and he can’t get up,- on his own. This doctrine has been called the Doctrine of Total Depravity.

Dr. Donald Bloesch, author of the book Essentials of Evangelical Theology, explains this Doctrine of Total Depravity as best as we have ever heard it done:

“In the perspective of biblical faith total depravity can be thought of as having four meanings, all of which are valid. First, it refers to the corruption at the very center of man’s being, the heart, but this does not mean that man’s humanity has ceased to exist. Second, it signifies the infection in every part of man’s being, though this is not to infer that this infection is evenly distributed or that nothing good remains in man. Third, it denotes the total inability of sinful man to please God or come to him unless moved by grace, though this does not imply that man is not free in other areas of his life. Fourth, it includes the idea of the universal corruption of the human race, despite the fact that some peoples and cultures manifest this corruption much less than others.”⁶

So many teachers and preachers of religions today tout the fact that we, humans, are noble creatures who have evolved into our nobility. They believe that we are entirely victims of, or beneficiaries of “our up-bringing and experiences.” They hold to the faith that if we simply help others who have been victimized by their nurturing and their environment, those victims will progress to becoming noble and giving, nurturing individuals; wonderful citizens for the rest of their lives. This is the very “faith” that insists on the redistribution of wealth which actually teaches that the “authorities” choose a block of people and deem them “nurture-poor,” and chose another block of people and deem them “nurture-rich” and, by government fiat, reverse their fortunes little-by-little until the two are equal. They believe in a “social justice” that will bring harmony to earth through human engineering. This is the age-old tenant that, if there is a God, the grace of God assists mankind in bringing in the kingdom of God. It is a classic cart before the horse mind-set; a man-centered theology which salves our collective conscience as fallen creatures. This is one of the fallacious tenants of the church called Roman Catholic.

While there is some evidence that helping to bring the less fortunate into a state of more fortunes puts them on a footing where they can excel in life, there are thousands of examples of “mankind” from the entire spectrum of our populations and the entire record of our histories wherein that is not only not true but that the effort actually does great harm. The reason it fails, though tried time and time again, is answered in the Doctrine of the Total Depravity of Man.

Theologian Charles Hodge revealed our human condition from a biblical standpoint:

“Every man (and woman) should bow down before God under the humiliation consciousness that he is a member of an apostate race; the son of a rebellious parent; born estranged from God, and exposed to His displeasure.”⁷

Let us contend that the other major religious bodies of the world, namely Judaism, Catholic Christianity and Islam believe in the validity of this theological statement. However, they

err when they attach to it a works-based religion of their own making which develops it away from a total depravity theology and into a “human-friendly” (prideful) systematic theology.

For instance, Catholicism teaches that human nature was only wounded during the fall of mankind and is susceptible to healing through works toward God. This is the essence of the Islamic Faith, as well. (In this case, Islam is a “next-stage” human-centered perversion of Catholic Doctrine.) As Catholic orthodoxy developed, the religious leadership of that church re-engineered their theology to say that “original righteousness” is lost in the fall, but a “natural justice” remains in mankind.

This brings the conclusion that, “if man has a natural justice within him, he can use that nobility to convince God that he is worthy of God’s love.” In the Catholic faith, this is done through the many acts of following the precepts of the Roman Church and in Islam it is done through following the precepts of the Quran (Koran) and the Imams. Both are non-biblical and place mankind in a position to think he can bargain with God through good deeds and be a factor, himself, in rising out of depravity.

In the biblical Christian church, our view is that the essential nature of man is good, since it is created by God in the image of God, but his existential nature, his being in the world, is corrupted completely. It is the difference between what we call ‘intrinsic worth’ and ‘inherent goodness’. Intrinsic worth means that we all have value and are worthy of respect, but inherent goodness means that we will automatically choose the moral good because it is in our nature to do so. If we simply remember what has happened in our own lifetimes, we will plainly see that mankind is not inherently good on his own. Even in America, where our laws and society were based on Christianity, we have much degradation of the human spirit.

The reason that we have so many laws and regulations, and so many lawyers to interpret them, is because mankind is so creative in coming up with ways to skirt the law in our own interest. Why make a law or regulation if it is not needed because someone cheated in the past? Because of our existential nature of depravity, we all have to watch each other and protect ourselves by laws with the threat of “I’ll call my lawyer.”

Mankind’s humanity remains. Just as an eye is still in its socket after a poisonous insect destroys its sight, but the eye can’t currently function. Mankind, as the reflection of the “being of God,” is defaced today and unable to work toward Him, but is not destroyed. We are ineffective. This is an important distinction. It causes our moral work to be seen differently, either we see ourselves as a humbled personage, totally empowered by God through Jesus Christ by the grace of God alone or a prideful mankind working his way to

God through religious practice which spirals downward hopelessly through inquisitions and jihad to make sure that “face is saved” by worthy God-workers endeavoring to be acceptable to heaven and life eternal.

The Bible tells us that, while the core of sin is unbelief, its chief manifestation is pride and sensuality. Look at these evidences through history within Catholicism and Islam. Though their words say one thing, their “manifestation of pride and sensuality” is undeniable. They seek to control God to their own ends. This was one of the primary movers of Martin Luther’s split with the established Roman Catholic Church of his time. Luther said that, *“man is free in the realm of things below him but not toward God or in the kingdom of God.”* He meant that man can make decisions which are good and proper about living right on this earth, if he wants to, but, he cannot come before God by himself; no matter the good works he does. That is exactly the Bible’s view.

The Bible’s view is that mankind’s surrender and obedience to Christ are to be NOT from his natural free will but due to the new freedom birthed in him by the grace of God through the movement of the Holy Spirit sent by Christ upon his ascension to the right hand of God in heaven. (John 3:19-20, Romans 2:5, Romans 7:14-23, Romans 8:7) And, this movement can best be realized through the conviction brought on by the reading and contemplation of the Bible. To continue to use our eyesight analogy, the New Testament teaches us that in the person of Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we Christians have a surgeon who repairs the poisoned eye to, once again, receive its spiritual sight; and this time, even better than before The poisonous fall; 20/15, better than 20/20.

In the Genesis story of Adam and Eve, mankind is moved to prideful self-assertion which causes their fall. The saga in the first three chapters of Genesis concerns not only a first fall and first man but a universal fall of man. Adam and Eve are not private persons, but the head of the human race. Human nature sins in the Genesis narrative, and not simply the first man. He (and we) also suffer the penalty of spiritual death through our own sin. (Genesis 3:17-19)

Bondage to sin (continued rebellion through selfish pride) means captivity to an allowed anti-god power, the prince of darkness. This prince, called Satan, is inferior to God but superior to man on earth by God’s allowance, and man can only gain freedom from this spiritual force of wickedness through faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior from sin. The good news is that Christians have eternal life because we are connected to Christ through faith. He is the representative head of the new humanity, and his righteousness is counted as our righteousness because of our connection with Him. (Romans 6:5)

In contrast to this, the Roman Catholic Church basically sees our condition as worthy humans living in a “B-minus world” where all persons are able to work their “studies, prayers and confessions” into an “A” before God. The Islamic world believes the same thing except that Muslims only are in the “B minus” category, and so-called “infidels” (all the rest of us who are not Muslims) are in the “F” category, unworthy of life toward God unless they accept Islam. And the jihadists take it to the base level of eradicating us Christian infidels in order to honor Allah and produce an “A” report card in heaven. This collects for them the 72 beautiful and willing damsels of paradise.

Bible-believing Christians, confident in the biblical revelation of original sin and total depravity, say that this is an “F world” (Fallen), universally corrupted by sin and under the wrath of God, however, under the grace of God through the belief in Christ Jesus, Christians hold an “A” status within a fallen world. Being “A” students is not an end, but a place to begin to see; to realize that only God is good and that we must, because of our “grade status” not in order to get it, do works that help others as Christ helped them.

BIG DIFFERENCE!

Bringing Depravity Up-to-Date

In the beginning, God created mankind in His image to be His representatives and children on earth. He entrusted humans with a special task; that we serve as God’s representatives. We were, and are, to reflect the nature of God. The Bible tells us that all persons are in the “image of God” yet the New Testament writers apply the concept of the divine image particularly to Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15, etc.) Christ Jesus is seen as the clear representation of the character and glory of God. By extension, those who are united to Christ share in his role as the “imago dei,” the true image of God.

In the beginning of the human race, we were innocent, not perfect. Innocents, with no provocation, cannot choose to be a part of God. Innocents have no choice to make. So, God gave us a choice situation by introducing Satan. Making the choice to move from a created-child of God would have brought the true imago dei, however, each action of our first parents, Adam and Eve after the fall, was definitive of how their descendants would subsequently conduct themselves. They chose to be as God instead. That choice was impossible for created beings in a state of innocence-come-rebellion. The depravity began.

Afterwards, when they discovered they were naked, that is, had lost the covering of their original purity and glory in the image of God, they tried to cover up the truth of their situation. Then, they tried to hide from the One they now feared. The very thought of a face-to-face meeting with their Sovereign made them quake in their fig leaves. (That is one

reason why the Bible is so neglected today; because in it God is heard speaking and we inherently know we are spiritually naked.)

All of Adam and Eve's "seed," from then on, have attempted, from the earliest toddler age, to conceal our real character and hide our sins. We are more afraid of being detected in sin than committing it and more concerned about appearing well before our friends and the authorities than about obtaining the right relationship with God. Our chief objective as we get older is to quiet our guilty consciences and to stand well with our neighbors. Hence, we put on the fig-leaves of religion.

Arthur W. Pink, the esteemed British theologian of the mid-twentieth century, said it this way. When asked about the reality of our human situation and when we can be said to be truly called to salvation by the Holy Spirit, he wrote;

"When a sinner is truly awakened, humbled and broken before God, he realizes that he deserves to be damned for his vile rebellion against God, and freely acknowledges that he is what he is voluntarily and not by compulsion.

He realizes that he has had no love for God, nor any desire to love Him. He admits that he is an enemy to Him in his very heart, and voluntarily so; that all his fair pretenses, promises, prayers, and religious performances were mere hypocrisy, arising only from self-love, guilty fears and mercenary hopes.

He feels himself to be without excuse and owns that eternal judgment is his just due. When truly convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit, the sinner is driven out of all his false refuges and owns that his inability is a criminal one, that he is guilty.

Since man is totally depraved it necessarily follows that if ever he is able to be saved, it can be only by divine grace and power. Grace is a truth which is peculiar to divine revelation. It is a concept to which the unaided powers of the human mind can never stretch. Proof of that is found in the fact that where the Bible has not gone, it (grace), is quite unknown. But grace is not only taught in God's Word; it is given great prominence there. Holy Writ declares that salvation is by grace, it is perfected by grace. Divine grace is bestowed on those who have no merits, and from whom no recompense is demanded. More than that, it is given to those who are full of demerit and blame... Unless men are saved by grace they cannot be saved at all. It is equally true that the salvation of sinners must be by divine power. Here is the frightful climax of The Fall:

Man is suicidal- he has destroyed himself.

He is homicidal- his evil influence destroys his fellowmen.

He is guilty of deicide- he wishes he could annihilate the very being of God. But the sinner does not regard himself as being so vile. He does not consider himself to be the implacable and inveterate enemy of God. He has a far better opinion of himself than that. Consequently, if he hears or reads anything like this, he is filled with objections: "I do not believe I am such a dreadful creature as to hate God. I do not feel such enmity in my heart. I am not conscious that I harbor any ill will against Him. Who should know better than myself?... He loves and respects his friends, he is fond of their company, he is anxious to please them and promote their good. Is this his attitude toward God? If he is honest with himself, he knows it is not. He has no respect for His authority, no concern for His glory, no desire for fellowship with Him. He gives God none of his time, despises His Word, breaks His commandments, rejects His Son. He has been opposed to God all his life."⁸

So, we, mankind, **have fallen and we can't get up** except through the grace of God in the belief on His Son Jesus Christ, the perfect bridge God made for us to travel over to reach imago dei, as children of God. The Bible specifically states that on the cross, Jesus bore all the guilt of all our sins, including past, present and future ones. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, God crossed out all our debt against us in His account books and closed the "sin account." Because of this, God asks us to do nothing to earn forgiveness – no striving to measure up, no self-punishment, no prolonged remorse, no deeds of repentance. Grace through faith in Jesus Christ as God's Son has taken care of that.

In the Bible's book of Colossians, the Apostle Paul warns believers, "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ." (Colossians 2:8) Paul was right in thinking that the great truth of Christianity under a sovereign Christ would protect us from traditions that do not cherish His supremacy. And, he was right to warn the church.

The next chapter shows us the ultimate practical proof of our vain attempt to find salvation otherwise and how this is shown in our world today.