

LENEXA EDIFIER

“and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)

November 6, 2022

CORINTH: THE CHURCH OF GOD

Paul's work in Athens was not entirely profitable; still, some were favorably inclined to his message about the Unknown God. The notion of a final judgment and resurrection from the dead caused some to mock; others wanted to hear more. Paul's work in larger, urban cities of the first century is interesting. It has only been in the last two hundred years or so that the world has been populated with cities of over one million citizens; rural cultures have given way to large metropolitan centers of influence. Corinth was one of the larger cities in New Testament times; in first century population is hard to determine; 200,000 would be a good guess. Volumes have been written about Corinth. Its history, influence, commercial appeal, and debauchery provide clues as to its prominence. The hosting of the Isthmian Games every two years made Corinth a center of attraction.

Paul had been hounded out of city after city. Still, he continued his quest for souls. We are not surprised to find him reasoning *“in the synagogue every Sabbath”* and persuading *“both Jews and Greeks”* (Acts 18:4). Paul met a couple, Aquila and Priscilla, Jews who had recently left Rome. The association of these three Christians now becomes a frequent aspect of Luke's history. Paul was glad when Timothy and Silas arrived from Macedonia; they had stayed behind to work with the Christians in Thessalonica (1 Thessalonians 3:2). Paul's preaching produced some good results.

Paul challenged the intellectual climate of Corinth with his message about Jesus. Later, he wrote to the Corinthians saying: *“And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified”* (1 Corinthians 2:1,2). The collective wisdom of the ages, the sage teachings of Greek philosophers, and the supposed ability of “man” to know more than God, stood in stark contrast to the *“foolishness of God.”* Yet it is this message that fell into the good and honest hearts.

“Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the

Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized” (Acts 18:8). First in the synagogue and then in private homes, Paul spread the word. Crispus, a Jew along with his household (those who could understand and needed to respond to the gospel) *“believed”*. That is, they accepted by faith the gospel of Christ and obeyed the Savior. *“Many Corinthians”* did the same. This would surely would have included Gentiles.

First Corinthians begins this way: *“Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours”* (1:1,2). What is the church of God? It is people who hear, believe, and obey God's word. The Lord told Paul to be bold in preaching; there were many in Corinth who would accept the message of salvation. He continued working for eighteen months. If Paul did what he did in Corinth, could the same thing be done in the city where you live?

Randy Harshbarger

If the Creation Account is a Myth...

According to a study by Pew Research Center referenced in Christianity Today, more than half of Protestant church-goers selected “Humans have evolved over time due to processes that were guided or allowed by God” when asked about man's origin. This moderate view is not surprising. In the name of finding common ground, lines in the sand are often erased and redrawn endlessly, until eventually one takes no stand at all.

Rather than trying to scientifically prove matters pertaining to faith, let's look at the creation account through the lens of our title above, as this is the assertion that many make about the Genesis account. If **Gen. 1-10** (from Adam to Noah) is just a story, then... **There is no real design for the family** – Jesus defined marriage using **Gen. 2 (Matt. 19)**. The designed roles in

the family (**1 Cor. 11**) reference **Gen. 2 and 3**.

Polygamy, divorce, gender-role rejection, and other issues; It is little surprise that these issues are issues when people fictionalize creation.

Man has no dominion and is no better than an animal – **Gen. 1:26** states that man was made in the image of God and was given dominion over the animals. This verse and evolution cannot coexist. They are saying 2 very different things. If evolution is true, man was not created in God's image.

Aspects of worship make no sense – As roles in worship were prescribed for men and women, it is little surprise that once again we find Genesis being used (**1 Tim. 2**). Do you see the direction this is heading?

God's judgments are unjust, and perhaps also unreal – Jesus references the blood of Abel in the destruction of Jerusalem (**Matt. 23:35**). If God's wrath was based in part on nothing more than a story, God is very unfair. More than once, future judgment in Scripture has as its basis the flood (**Matt. 24, 1&2 Pet.**). If the world that existed did not perish, perhaps the world today will not either?

There are other issues with the creation account being only a myth. If the account is allegorical, why is it allegorical? Man's inability to understand? If man could believe that he came from dust, surely he could believe if he came from an animal? What is the difference between the 2? One requires belief while the other requires invention. If **Genesis 1-5** is fiction, where does reality start? **Gen. 11**? Why couldn't it all be fiction? Also, what is the point of the genealogies in **Gen. 5**?

Those genealogies appear again in the gospels. Where does the lie end and the truth begin? Let us be careful. **Moderates** easily become **modernists**, suddenly calling into question Jesus Himself, the resurrection, heaven and hell, and so many issues involving the family, the church, and the faith altogether (**Heb. 11:1-7**).

25th Street Bulletin

ONE OF GOD'S CHILDREN

A seminary professor was vacationing with his wife in Gatlinburg, TN. One morning, they were eating breakfast at a little restaurant, hoping to enjoy a quiet, family meal. While they were waiting for their food, they noticed a distinguished looking, white-haired man moving from table to table, visiting with the guests. The professor leaned over and whispered to his wife, 'I hope he doesn't come over here.' But sure enough, the

man did come over to their table.

'Where are you folks from?' he asked in a friendly voice.

'Oklahoma,' they answered.

'Great to have you here in Tennessee,' the stranger said.. 'What do you do for a living?'

'I teach at a seminary,' he replied.

'Oh, so you teach preachers how to preach, do you? Well, I've got a really great story for you.' And with that, the gentleman pulled up a chair and sat down at the table with the couple. The professor groaned and thought to himself, 'Great ... Just what I needanother preacher story!'

The man started, 'See that mountain over there?' (pointing out the restaurant window). Not far from the base of that mountain, there was a boy born to an unwed mother. He had a hard time growing up, because every place he went, he was always asked the same question, 'Hey boy, Who's your daddy?' Whether he was at school, in the grocery store or drug store, people would ask the same question, 'Who's your daddy?'

He would hide at recess and lunch time from other students. He would avoid going in to stores because that question hurt him so bad. 'When he was about 12 years old, a new preacher came to his church. He would always go in late and slip out early to avoid hearing the question, 'Who's your daddy?'

But one day, the new preacher said the benediction so fast that he got caught and had to walk out with the crowd.

Just about the time he got to the back door, the new preacher, not knowing anything about him, put his hand on his shoulder and asked him, 'Son, who's your daddy?'

The whole church got deathly quiet. He could feel every eye in the church looking at him. Now everyone would finally know the answer to the question, 'Who's your daddy?'

'This new preacher, though, sensed the situation around him and using discernment that only the Holy Spirit could give, said the following to that scared little

boy. 'Wait a minute! I know who you are! I see the family resemblance now. You are a child of God.'

With that he patted the boy on his shoulder and said, 'Boy, you've got a great inheritance. Go and claim it.'

'With that, the boy smiled for the first time in a long time and walked out the door a changed person. He was never the same again. Whenever anybody asked him, 'Who's your Daddy?' he'd just tell them, 'I'm a Child of God..''

The distinguished gentleman got up from the table and said, 'Isn't that a great story?'

The professor responded that it really was a great story!

As the man turned to leave, he said, 'You know, if that new preacher hadn't told me that I was one of God's children, I probably never would have amounted to anything!' And he walked away..

The seminary professor and his wife were stunned. He called the waitress over & asked her, 'Do you know who that man was -- the one who just left that was sitting at our table?'

The waitress grinned and said, 'Of course. Everybody here knows him. That's Ben Hooper. He's governor of Tennessee!'

Someone in your life today needs a reminder that they're one of God's children!

'The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of God stands forever.' (Isaiah 40:8)

YOU'RE ONE OF GOD'S CHILDREN!!!

Author Unknown

(Received from J D Tant Jr.)

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE?

Do you believe what Science has confirmed and taught about the world in which we live? That is, do you believe the facts that pertain to the sustenance of our planet and life on it?

Do you, for instance, believe in gravity? Of course you do. Otherwise your thoughts about leaping from a tall building would be far different than they are.

Do you believe the earth revolves around the Sun to create the seasons that bring with them those things necessary to the sustenance of life on earth? Of course you do. We have learned many things about the planet on which we live over the history of man. Many of these things have been verified for us by courageous men risking their lives. Explorers of all generations have suspected and verified and have simply discovered things previously unknown. We plan our lives daily based on such knowledge.

Do you believe the Bible is the word of God? Do you believe it when it says you are saved by grace through faith in Christ (**Eph. 2:8,9**)? Do you believe it when it says Christ authorizes salvation to those who obey Him (**Heb. 5:8,9**)? Do you believe it when it says all those who know not God and fail to obey the gospel will suffer eternal punishment? And finally do you believe it when it says, *"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.* (**Mark 16:16**)

To answer yes to all the questions except for the last one is to be inconsistent at the very least and is possibly hypocritical since the same Lord Jesus Christ authored every one of those statements cited in the Bible.

If we wish to go to heaven when this life is over, we must believe and obey all that He says.

Jim Stauffer

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- ***We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.***

Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

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Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study
Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

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1,2,3 JOHN - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS:

EXODUS TO SINAI - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON: **UNDENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIANITY**

[REMEMBER TO FALL BACK TO STANDARD TIME](#)

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10