

What's Wrong with the World?

We're NOT going to begin with a bunch of statistics or current news stories to demonstrate the degradation of the world, or how inhumane humans can be to one another. You know these things already, and being reminded of them through common or extreme examples is just depressing.

Instead let's talk about *Cause(s)* and *Solutions*. *Problems* are usually not hard to see or identify. But *solutions* are often another matter entirely- especially if the *cause* is not comprehended, or is perhaps misidentified (sending one in the wrong way for solutions that won't work). That's kind of where we are in the world right now. Everyone can see that there are *problems*, but we are hugely divided over the *cause(s)* of them, so the proposed *solutions* vary widely and seldom offer any real progress. What to do? Identify, as best we can, the real *cause* of our problems, and the *solution* becomes easier to see and implement.

Question: What is the most important sentence (verse) in the Bible? John 3:16, because it manifests both God's love for us and Jesus' sacrifice to provide our salvation? Heb.11:1, because it defines the substantive nature of man's relationship with God? Matt.7:21 because it stresses the importance of man's obedience to God and His willingness to punish those who are non-compliant? Or is it Matt.22:37,39, because Jesus said "*the whole Law and Prophets*" depend on these two commands? Perhaps even Matt.7:12, since it is said to be the "Golden Rule" of life? And what about the *wise man's* stated conclusion regarding the meaning of life in Eccl.12:13? Is that it? Let's leave that question for a moment...

Do you know who **Ravi Zacharias** is? He is an Indian-born Canadian-American (which I assume means *dual-citizen*) Christian apologist. He has written several highly-praised books on evangelical Protestantism, hosts the radio programs *Let My People Think* and *Just Thinking*, and is a much-respected lecturer and debater mostly in the field of Judeo-Christian theology and philosophy. Recently I saw a video clip of him answering a Yale student's question regarding why Christianity views itself so exclusively as containing the answer to life and pathway to heaven (is Christian *faith* the exclusive means to truth?). Zacharias emphasized four important questions that Christianity (God through Christ saving man) alone answers. They were **Origin, Meaning, Morality, and Destiny**. I'd like us to see how these same four considerations intertwine to answer our title question:

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- 1. We got *origin* wrong.** We ignored Gen.1:1 (the answer to our introductory question, for all else that follows in the Text depends on and stems from this one principle) and fulfilled Rom.1:18-23 (for precisely the reasons state there). Because of this first misstep,
- 2. We got *meaning* wrong.** As mere *higher animals* originating from *non-living* materials by *explosion, chance* and *evolution* instead of being *purposefully* created by an *Intelligent Designer/Creator*, how could we not

miss the *meaning of life* (Rom.1:21b-22)? Instead of *fearing God* and *keeping His commandments* (Eccl.12:13), we began to *worship and serve self* (and even other *created creatures*), Rom.1:24-25. Because of this,

3. We got *morality* wrong. Without the proper understanding of *origin*, *meaning* was relegated to purely *temporal* and *self-serving* pursuits (Rom.1:18,24b). This inevitably influenced *morality* in a *regressive* rather than *progressive* way, Rom.1:26-31. This is why so many are more concerned about slaughtered or abused animals than preborn humans, or the *rights* of deviant behavior which is destructive *personally* and *societally*. Because of this,

4. We got *destiny* wrong. How could we not? After missing the boat on *origin*, and thus failing to grasp *meaning*, which in turn corrupted *morals*, how could wind up “right” on *destiny*? Lamentably, we couldn’t, and can’t. Without that proper foundation on which to stand, we can only fall and fail when it comes to eternal *destiny*, Rom.1:24a,26a,28a,32; Rom.6:23a instead of Rom.6:23b.

So, how do we make things right in the world? Solutions to problems often become obvious once the *cause(s)* is correctly diagnosed.

1. Get *origins* right, **Gen.1:1; Rom.1:20; Heb.11:1-3,6; Ps.19:1-6.**
2. Get *meaning* right, **Eccl.12:13; Rom.1:21a,23; Ps.19:14.**
3. Get *morality* right, **Mic.6:8; Rom.1:31; Matt.22:37,39; 7:12.**
4. Get *destiny* right, **Rom.1:16-17; 5:1-2; 6:23b.**

Conclusions:

In my opinion, Charles Darwin (and others of like mind and influence) has done as much to *destroy* the world, through this futile effort to *explain* it without God, as any person in history.

Without the proper understanding of *origins*, nothing else makes sense-or matters, and is doomed to destruction. Thus, man is left only to his own ideas to not only *explain* the Universe, but to *live* in it as is “*right in his own eyes*,” cf. Jud.17:6; 21:25.

But with a proper understanding of *origins*, man’s *meaning*, *morality*, and *destiny* all come into clear view, and more importantly, into possible reality.