



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ OCTOBER 2019 ❖

O Lord My God

When I in awesome wonder
Consider all
The works Thy Hand hath made,
I see the stars,
I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout
The universe displayed.

When through the woods
And forest glades I wander
I hear the birds
Sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down
From lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook
And feel the gentle breeze.

When Christ shall come,
With shouts of acclamation,
And take me home,
What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration
And there proclaim,
"My God, how great Thou art!"

Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

-- Carl Boberg; Stuart K. Hine, translator

Amazed by Such Great Faith

But the centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I, too, am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled, and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel." Matthew 8:8-10

GREAT FAITH

Jesus marveled at the great faith of the centurion because the man believed that He had the power to heal his servant just by speaking a command. **That's great faith!**

Great faith is marvelous but only if it is well supported. The centurion's faith is shown to be supported by fact. *And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed."* *And the servant was healed that very moment.* Ibid 8:13

Faith that is based on theories or "believe it to be true" is devoid of any support.

Today there are many instances where individuals (and groups of individuals) believe something to be true without any basis.

Just what do I have in mind? – SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 2.

Amazed by Such Great *Unsupported* Faith

I stand amazed at the great faith of those who believe that life came from dead matter without any evidence to support this event.

I stand amazed at the great faith of those who believe that lower forms of life evolved into complex organisms by random mutations with only theories to support such happenings.

I stand amazed at the great faith of those who believe that these evolving creatures had the ability and power to design and develop ears to hear sounds it didn't know existed; eyes to capture visible light rays it couldn't know existed; vocal cords to make sounds it had never heard.

I stand amazed at the great faith of those who believe that the "gaps" in the evolution chain can be easily explained but haven't been.

I stand amazed at the great faith of those who believe that dead matter produced life eons ago, but such an event hasn't happened since.

I stand amazed at the great faith of those who believe the hypotheses of why some species became more complex while others did not, and that the "balance (i.e., symbiotic relationships)" found in nature happened to develop accidentally.

What an Organism!

If evolution is correct (that life began with single cell organisms that evolved into the life forms of today), that single cell organism had powers and intellect that far exceeded any creature today, including mankind.

Consider: This one-celled organism transferred from dead matter had these inherent or developed abilities:

- recognized the need to reproduce before dying, because it knew it had a brief life-cycle;
- knew how to reproduce itself;

- was able to reproduce itself; and in so doing was able to pass on all of its attributes;
- it's offspring had the desire (or felt the need) to evolve into something more complex;
- was able to determine what to change; and had ability to effect the desired change.

One other explanation could be that the dead matter had the right DNA before some cosmic event caused it to spring to life (or the event produced the DNA). *Amazing faith!*

Marvel

I marvel at some intellectuals' acceptance of all the hypotheses, but rule out creation.

I marvel that some believe "adaptation" is an example of "evolution."

I marvel at the degree of faith the evolutionists have, albeit a faith based on theories.

I marvel at the fact evolutionists say those who believe in creation are the ones who have blind faith, yet creation is seen in all nature.

I may not know all the facts, but I refuse to believe these unsupported ones. I recognize them for what they are: Theories, well thought out, but still unproven.

Nothing New Under the Sun

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

Romans 1:20

The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, "There is no God."

Psalms 10:4

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

Psalms 14:1

BEEN THERE — DONE THAT

*Learning from the mistakes
and successes of others.*

PETER'S POOR DECISION

BACKGROUND: PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL IN ANTIOCH

So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

PAUL AND BARNABAS AT ANTIOCH

And he [Barnabas] left for Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

DECREE SENT TO ANTIOCH

The Council at Jerusalem set out letters carried by Paul, Barnabas, Judas, and Silas, stating that Gentiles who believed in Jesus were not required to observe the customs of Moses.

So when they were sent away, they went down to Antioch; and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. When they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.

[Excerpts from Acts 11:19-26, 30-31]

LATER PETER WITHDRAWS

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. Galatians 2:11-13

WHAT WE LEARN

Why did Peter act the way he did? The scriptures say he “feared the party of the circumcision.” He had not changed his view of the resolution sent out to the churches. (Acts 15). It was fear of trouble to himself. In trying to avoid confrontation with some of the brethren from Jerusalem, he caused a split in the church at Antioch.

How devastating it must have been for the Gentiles in Antioch who were part of those “called Christians.” They had received the letter (Acts 15:23-29) with joy and encouragement. Now this happened. How tragic.

Thank God, that Paul had the courage and fortitude to oppose Peter. Had he shirked his responsibility, the consequences would have been widespread and catastrophic. When Peter acted improperly, Paul had no recourse but to openly charge him with hypocrisy. Peter had set a bad example that Barnabas and the others Jews had followed.

TAKE AWAY — KEY FACTS TO BE REMEMBERED

- ① Always be aware that others may follow your example.
- ② Know that seeking to please or appease friends out of fear only breeds trouble among brethren.
- ③ Opposing a brother is never pleasant. Yet, sometimes it is necessary. When anyone is acting improperly and causing problems it must not be overlooked. Be it an elder, deacon, preacher, or member. To allow it to go unopposed only causes a wider breach among brethren.



Ponder
This

**Thou
Shall
Not!**

“Thou Shall Not” seems restrictive (and it is). But it also can be protective. The “Thou Shall Not’s” in the Bible are given to keep us out of trouble, to keep us from harming ourselves. We should not loathe them but rather embrace them as crucial restrictions.

Today we embrace many “thou shall not’s” (we call them “do not’s”) that limit our activities while being protective.

A FEW ‘THOU SHALL NOT’S’

- Do not fool around with a loaded gun.
 - Do not ride a bicycle on the freeway.
 - Do not walk alone through a crime-infested area at night.
 - Do not give out your PIN number.
 - Do not open email attachments unless you know it is safe to do so.
 - Do not try beating a train to the crossing.
 - Do not count on the lottery for your retirement.
- (And many, many more.)

QUESTION?

Why should one chafe under God’s “Thou Shall Not’s” that are given for our protection? We need to thank God for them!

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

1 John 5:3

**“Thou shall not” must be heeded.
Ignoring it is foolhardy.**

REMEMBER
NEVER FORGET

Some things we need to remember!

Do Good to All

We are encouraged to do good (not harm) to others. And each disciple will at times have unique opportunities to do so. Seize the opportunity. Be aware because the opportunity to do good can happen at any time, anywhere.

So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Galatians 6:10

“In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

Acts 20:35

NOTE

“...especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

A+O=R

Ability+Opportunity=Response

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