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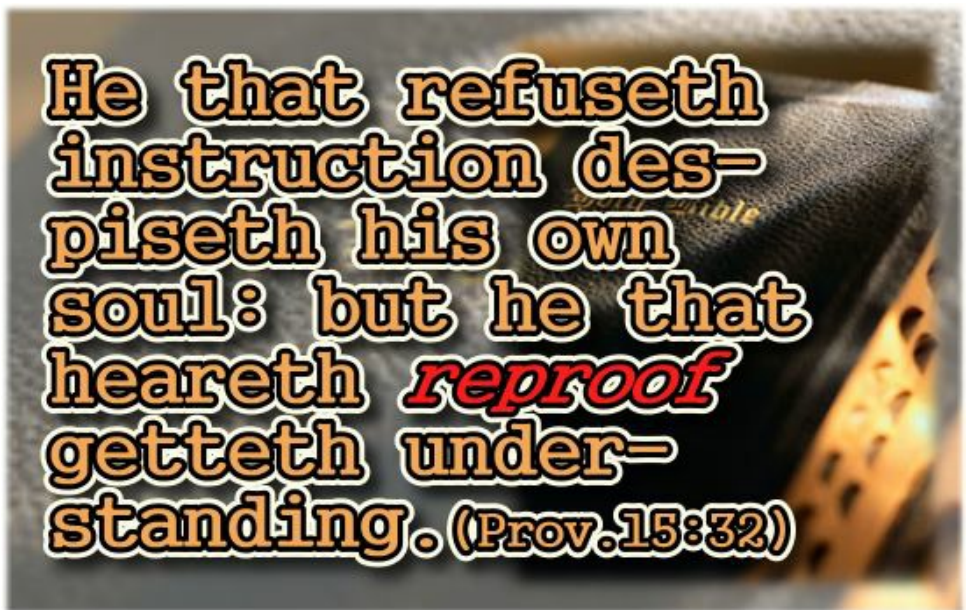
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## FEATURE ARTICLE - A SHOUT IN THE DARK! - By Bro. Buddy Smith



### BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR -

Whatever you do, don't ever pray for biblical evidence regarding public reproofs of error. No, that doesn't sound quite right, does it?

Let me try to clarify what I am trying to say. I will start over.

If you subscribe to the belief that a Christian should never publicly reprove or rebuke another, and you are committed to that viewpoint, then don't ever seriously, sincerely, honestly ask God to show you from the Bible the verses that teach that born again Christians must reprove others if and when it is needed.

Don't look in a Bible concordance for verses on reproving others. Because if you do, you'd better put on a hard hat, pull on your safety boots, strap on a set of shin guards, and ...ummm, and even climb into the biggest army tank you can find.

And don't forget to close the lid on the turret.

### THE VERSES ON REPROOFS IN PROVERBS ALONE -

**Proverbs 9:8 Reprove** not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

## Heads Up!

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**Proverbs 10:17** He *is in* the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth **reproof** erreth.

**Proverbs 12:1** Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth **reproof** is brutish.

**Proverbs 13:18** Poverty and shame *shall be to* him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth **reproof** shall be honoured.

**Proverbs 15:5** A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth **reproof** is prudent.

**Proverbs 15:10** Correction *is* grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: *and* he that hateth **reproof** shall die.

**Proverbs 15:31** The ear that heareth the **reproof** of life abideth among the wise.

**Proverbs 15:32** He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth **reproof** getteth understanding.

**Proverbs 17:10** A **reproof** entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

**Proverbs 19:25** Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and **reprove** one that hath understanding, *and* he will understand knowledge.

**Proverbs 25:12** As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, *so is* a wise **reprover** upon an obedient ear.

**Proverbs 29:15** The rod and **reproof** give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.

#### VERSES ON REPROOFS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT -

**John 16:8** *And when he (the Comforter) is come, he will **reprove** the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

**Ephesians 5:11** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather **reprove** *them*.

**2 Timothy 3:16** All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for **reproof**, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; **reprove**, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

#### AND WHAT ABOUT VERSES ON REBUKE? -

**Leviticus 19:17** Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise **rebuke** thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

**Proverbs 9:8** Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: **rebuke** a wise man, and he will love thee.

**Proverbs 13:1** A wise son *heareth* his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not **rebuke**.

**Proverbs 13:8** The ransom of a man's life *are* his riches: but the poor heareth not **rebuke**.

**Proverbs 27:5** Open **rebuke** *is* better than secret love.

**Ecclesiastes 7:5** *It is* better to hear the **rebuke** of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

**Luke 17:3** *Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, **rebuke** him; and if he repent, forgive him.*

**1 Timothy 5:20** Them that sin **rebuke** before all, that others also may fear.

**2 Timothy 4:2** Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, **rebuke**, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

**Titus 1:13** This witness is true. Wherefore **rebuke** them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

**Titus 2:15** These things speak, and exhort, and **rebuke** with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

**Revelation 3:19** *As many as I love, I **rebuke** and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.*

#### WHAT ABOUT THAT SHOUT IN THE DARK? -

The 26th chapter of I Samuel tells of Saul's last campaign to slay David. His jealousy and hatred toward David burned hotter and hotter until he was consumed by it. The very last attempt Saul made to eliminate his successor is here described in fine detail. What surprised me when I read it recently is how clearly this chapter defines and defends public reproof of wrongdoing. Consider verses 12 to 25,

*"So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster; and they gat them away, and no man saw it, nor knew it, neither awaked: for they were all asleep; because a deep sleep from the LORD was fallen upon them. Then David went over to the other side, and stood on the top of an hill afar off; a great space being between them: And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who art thou that criest to the king? And David said to Abner, Art not thou a valiant man? and who is like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord. This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster. And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king. And he said, Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand? Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering: but if they be the children of men, cursed be they before the LORD; for they have driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods. Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD: for the king of Israel is come out to*



*seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains. Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly. And David answered and said, Behold the king's spear! and let one of the young men come over and fetch it. The LORD render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the LORD delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed. And, behold, as thy life was much set by this day in mine eyes, so let my life be much set by in the eyes of the LORD, and let him deliver me out of all tribulation. Then Saul said to David, Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail. So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.*

#### **THERE ARE TWO PUBLIC REPROOFS OF WRONGDOING RECORDED -**

##### **1. Abner's failure to protect the king is exposed and rebuked -**

- His exceptional valour is brought into question since David and Abishai were able to slip into the camp under cover of darkness and carry away Saul's spear and his cruse of water. Abner's failure to guard his master would have been a capital crime and he and his soldiers worthy of death if his failure had occurred in legitimate warfare.

##### **2. King Saul's folly in pursuing David is shouted from the "mountain tops" -**

- Saul's misguided motivation is displayed before the entire army (Surely, if Abner is awakened by David's shout in the dark, the entire army heard the reproofs of David and the admission of guilt by the king!) *"Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant?"*
- The total absence of evidence that David was guilty of treason is exposed. *"what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand?"*
- An appeal to justice is laid out before all, *"Now therefore, I pray thee, let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If the LORD have stirred thee up against me, let him accept an offering:"* and, *"Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth before the face of the LORD:"*
- Saul's dependence on wicked talebearers like Doeg is rebuked, *"but if they be the children of men ("that have stirred thee up"), cursed be they before the LORD;"*
- The dreadful spiritual repercussions of Saul's persecution were told for all to hear, *"for they have*

*driven me out this day from abiding in the inheritance of the LORD, saying, Go, serve other gods."*

- And in conclusion, David shouts out for all to hear the rebukethat the reigning monarch, the Anointed of God, has despised and degraded his office, has squandered the kingdom's riches, and set his armies to frivolous pursuits, *"(T)he king of Israel is come out to seek a flea, as when one doth hunt a partridge in the mountains."*

#### **Saul confessed his sin and went home, but David had no confidence in his "repentings." -**

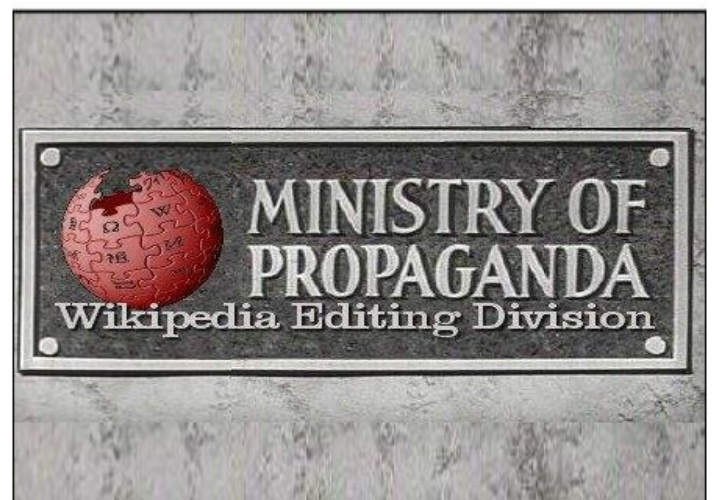
- *Read the words of the king who had no rule over his spirit, "Then said Saul, I have sinned: return, my son David: for I will no more do thee harm, because my soul was precious in thine eyes this day: behold, I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.... Blessed be thou, my son David: thou shalt both do great things, and also shalt still prevail."*

#### **WHAT AN EXAMPLE OF THE RIGHTNESS OF PUBLIC REPROOFS OF WRONGDOING! -**

The leaching out of courage over the past 50 years has paralleled the incremental surrender of the faith once delivered to the saints. We watch in amazement every day and see that the wicked are the only ones who care not what the public say or think. ISIS and their sympathizers care not at all what good men think. Isn't it strange that good men have, for the most part, become timid men?

David was head and shoulders above Saul when it came to faith and integrity, and was what God calls a "valiant man." So he shouted in the dark and publicly reproved Saul's public wrongdoing. Just like God said we are to do, **"Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."** 1 Timothy 5:19-20

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## DEACON TRUE SEZ -

I bumped into ol' brother Jimmy Mack down the street last week. Him and me went to school together from the first grade to the tenth grade when we both left school and went to work. He did more for the Civil Rights movement than Martin Luther King. Best quarterback we ever had on our high school football team, long, lean, and lanky, fast as a greyhound, agile as a tomcat, he'd jump over would-be-tacklers like a deer. And he was black as the ace of spades. He was my best friend. Why? We both got saved in the same revival meetings when we were in grade 8. From then on you couldn't split us apart with a broad axe. We both carried our Bibles to school. Told all our friends about the Lord. Most of 'em laughed. Some of 'em listened. And a few nodded their heads and started hanging out with us. We both got our licenses when we turned 14, and bought \$50 cars, and (over)loaded 'em with the football team and anybody else that wanted to go campin' or swimmin', and actually saw some of them come to the Lord. In those days, nobody'd even heard of marijuana or being gay. We all lived outdoors every spare minute. My folks soon got used to having 25 to 30 boys sleeping in the back yard on Friday nights. Those were good days to be young and strong and saved.

Jimmy's dad was a carpenter, so he left school at 16 and went to work for his dad till he could join the army and go off to fight in 'Nam. My dad ran the feed store and when I left school he hired me to drive the delivery truck. I worked at the feed store till dad got old and then I bought him out. Jimmy served in the army for a couple of tours, made sergeant and became an instructor. We both married the best girls God ever made and had kids.

We lost contact with each other for some fifteen years till one day I was head down, tail up, stitchin' closed a bag of feed, and saw out of the corner of my eye a long, lean,

lanky shadow fall across my feet. I never even looked up, just said, "Howdy, Jimmy Mack! Whereya been, you long tall drink of water?" I finished the bag and gave him the best handshake I had, musta lasted five minutes.

It turned out Jimmy had been back in town for a week or so, gettin' his family settled and workin' out with his dad the fine details about takin' over the building business so's he could retire. I asked Jimmy if he wanted to come to church with us, but he said they were already settled in the old church he grew up in. It is a black church with the same old pastor Jimmy knew from childhood. Within a few weeks they voted Jimmy in as a deacon. Jimmy and I started meeting every Monday morning for breakfast and talkin' over the sermons from yesterday. I reckon our little white church oughta take lessons from Sandy Creek Abyssinian Baptist, where Jimmy goes. Well, in most things, anyhow.

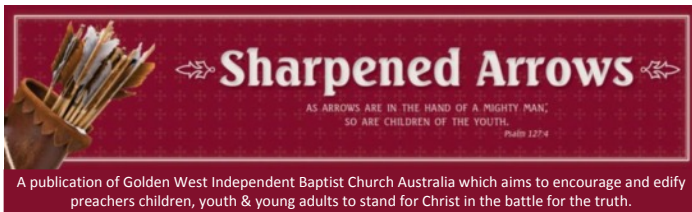
I do think we got 'em beat when it come to the length of the sermons. Jimmy's preacher never preaches shorter than an hour and has been known to go for two. Ours keeps it under an hour.

So I asked him how he handles sittin' for that long?

And he told me what his preacher says to his critics, "We are s'posed to endure sound doctrine..."

Never heard that interpretation before.

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**Sharpened Arrows**

AS ARROWS ARE IN THE HAND OF A MIGHTY MAN,  
SO ARE CHILDREN OF THE YOUTH.  
Psalm 127:4

A publication of Golden West Independent Baptist Church Australia which aims to encourage and edify preachers children, youth & young adults to stand for Christ in the battle for the truth.



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# THE WORDS GOD CHOSE TO USE BLEPO, THEOREO, EIDO

By Pastor Tom Hill



Sometimes the most familiar words, according to the context of a passage, have some of the most significant of meanings. It is in the gospel according to John, in the 20th chapter, that we find such a truth. This is John's account of the events that surrounded the Resurrection.

Beginning in the 5th verse, John writes, *"<sup>5</sup> And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. <sup>6</sup> Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, <sup>7</sup> And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed."*

The Holy Spirit led the Apostle to use three different words that generally mean "to see." In v. 5, John SAW, in v. 6, Peter SEETH, and in v. 8, John SAW.

In verse 5, the Holy Spirit selected the word **BLEPO**. This is the same word used in v. 1 of Mary Magdalene seeing the stone taken away from the sepulchre. There are several meanings associated with the word. It can mean to discern or to gaze. Much of the time when the word is used, it speaks of a seeing with the eyes (*Bullinger*). That would be indicative of something like a quick glance. John **BLEPO**, he saw with his eyes the linen clothes lying. John makes a quick survey of the tomb where the body of Jesus had laid from outside of the entrance.

Immediately, while John is stooped, seeing with his eyes the strips of linen cloth, lying flat, but appearing as if a body had come through them, Peter runs inside. John tells us that Peter **SEETH** the linen clothes lie. This is the word **THEOREO** from which we get our English word "theory." It means to view something attentively. It carries the thought of theorizing about the object while attentively viewing it.

Peter begins to "theorize" all of the evidence before him. The strips of linen cloth are lying where the body was, and the face napkin was wrapped in a place by itself. The napkin was what was known as a facecloth. It was used to swathe a corpse's head. This had been used to cover over the face of the Savior. Strips of linen would have been used to hold it in place around the head. This was lying in an area away from the strips of linen. Peter's mind is actively trying to figure out

and theorize what happened based upon these all-important pieces of evidence.

Then John steps inside. He tells us that he SAW. The word that the Holy Spirit uses is the word **EIDO**. **EIDO** means "to perceive, to apprehend, to discern something that is viewed, to pay strict attention to something." John stares at the site. The grave wrappings are lying flat. The facecloth is laying to the side. Who would go to so much trouble? If someone took the body, why in the world would they take the body out of the wrappings? That meant that the body would have been unwrapped. Then they would have had to re-wrap essentially air in the shape of a body, with legs and arms. That would have been quite a feat. John discerns that is not what happened.

Do you see what John's mind did? His look was with EYES OF FAITH. Mary did not have that yet, nor did Peter. But John did. And John came up with the only possible solution to the mystery. We read that HE BELIEVED. The word believed here means "to be persuaded". John was persuaded beyond any shadow of doubt based upon the evidence that he was discerning. There was only one conclusion from the pieces of evidence that he beheld that morning: the stone that had covered the tomb was tossed off the track, the strips of cloth looked as if they were still holding a body, and yet they were flat, and the facecloth was lying to the side by itself. You can almost hear him say to Peter, "Peter, Peter do you not see? Peter, do you not understand? Peter, do you not remember His words? Peter! Peter – there is only one conclusion – HE IS ALIVE! He is alive just as He said!"

John, the son of thunder (Mark 3:17), the one who wanted to call fire down upon the unbelievers, the one that wanted to be set in the place of greatness, the one that had been so blessed by being allowed to see so much, the one who had been humbled, was the first of the disciples to BELIEVE!!! John did not have to see the risen Savior. He **EIDO** the evidence and John believed.

Today, we look with eyes of faith at the perfectly completed Scriptures. We see the evidence as did John. In essence we also **EIDO** and the only conclusion to which we arrive is what John did – we too believe. He is risen just as He said.

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# Gold From Ophir

## Shepherd of the Sheep - Psalm 23

By Jerry Wilhite



Growing up on a farm, we had sheep, but not very many and not for very long. And why? Because raising sheep was a lot of work and the profit margin was small. My busy father didn't have time for them, and we boys were too irresponsible. When my father committed to my brothers and me the care of the sheep we seldom looked after them and once we let them wander through several holes in the fence and neighbours' pastures until they were a good 2-3 kilometres away. Sheep need shepherds. Psalm 23 is perhaps the most well-known portion of Scripture, but Psalms 22, 23 and 24 need to be viewed as a unit. Jesus is the believer's past Saviour (Ps 22), present Shepherd (Ps 23), and prospective Sovereign (Ps 24). He was on the cross suffering (Ps 22), carries the crook shepherding (Ps 23), and will wear a crown subjugating (Ps 24). We see him crying and dying (Ps 22), leading and feeding (Ps 23), making and breaking (Ps 24). He died on the earth (Ps 22), walks through the earth (Ps 23), and will rule over the earth (Ps 24). In Psalm 23 alone we find the LORD shepherding (v1), solacing (v2), succouring (v3), stepping (v3), securing (v4), spanking (v4), supplying (v5), safeguarding (v5), salving (v5), and showering (v5). What a great Shepherd we have! That is, if you know Christ as your Saviour (Jn 10:26-29). While in the Free State of South Africa several hours south of us, we noticed many fenced fields of flocks. No shepherds--just fences, grass, and watering holes. Now, that may work in the earthly realm, but it doesn't work in the spiritual realm. Fences (like godly standards) are good and do offer some protection from wandering away, but standards without a shepherd have their limitations. Where is the life? Where is the love? Where is the look? Where is the leading? Where is the loyalty of a shepherd? Yes, a shepherd is imperative for the Lord's sheep. Don't get me wrong—we have standards in our family, but we must point our children to the Shepherd. Likewise, our churches have standards, but we do lift up the Saviour as the One folks need as a Leader, Feeder and Interceder.

Likewise, missionaries are sheep. We need to be laid (v2), led (vs2,3), lifted (v3), loved (v4), leveled (v4), and looked after (v5) in our labour for the Lord. I suppose some think they really don't need a shepherd, but this missionary sure does. As foreigners in the field it is good to have the technology that we have for us to keep in touch with our under shepherds (pastors) back in our sending churches for we do need those types of shepherds. Likewise, many of us in our respective places, though doing the work of an evangelist, still fill the role of an under shepherd to those we see come to Christ and need discipling. But let us never forget our personal need for Christ--the good Shepherd (Jn 10:11), chief Shepherd (1Pe 5:4) and great Shepherd (Heb 13:20). We will wander from our direction, duty and doctrine without Him hiding us, guiding us and providing for us.

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## NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES

- With these facts before you and with the command of the Lord Jesus to go and preach the gospel to every creature, you need to ascertain whether you have a special call to stay at home. ~ *William Carey*
- Whether he'd claim it or not, Chris Tomlin is a prophet. As quickly as he records an album, it becomes the lyrical theology of our generation. His songs are sung in churches around the world, sculpting our doctrine and shaping our ideas about God" ~ (*Relevant Magazine* - "Chris Tomlin: Paving the Way," June 24, 2008).
- "Show me a church's songs and I'll show you their theology." ~ *Gordon Fee*
- "Charles Darwin was an evolutionist until April 19, 1882. He died that day and has been a creationist ever since."
- "I'd rather walk in the dark with God than go alone in the light; I'd rather walk by faith with Him than go alone by sight." ~ *Mary G. Brainard*
- "The compromisers say 'lighten up,' but what we ought to do is to 'let our light shine,' and really 'light things up'!

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# Open Doors

By Linet Binstead - Editor of "Lilies of the Field"



*(I have been pondering for a while whether to fit in a column for Christian mothers and daughters. Linet Binstead is one of our grown up granddaughters who writes and publishes an e-Mag newsletter for Christian young ladies. She is so kind to let her grandpa borrow (mooch, steal, pilfer, and lift) her articles from Lilies. So I am looking for a good name for the new Ladies Column in Heads Up. Any suggestions? - Ed.)*

I am not going to be everyone's favourite person after they read this. So, if you are feeling sensitive at all today, leave off reading it till later, because I have some serious things to say.

My dad made a passing comment the other day which I haven't been able to stop thinking about. He said, "You know, Disney has really made witches and wizards a cool and acceptable thing in society, hasn't it?" (I sense that I've lost some of you already, just by using the word 'Disney!')

The thing that probably led him to that thought, was that a few Sunday's ago, our pastor in one of his sermons pointed out that Elsa, from the popular movie 'Frozen,' is indeed, a witch.

Don't start getting defensive just yet, I mean, think about it! Yes, Elsa can sing; yes, she is pretty; and yes, all the little girls love her!! But when you narrow it down, Elsa is a witch and we idolize her.

Yes, idolize her. We watch her, listen to her, sing along with her, and it would seem that half of the female population under the age of 5 has an Elsa costume!

I always cringe slightly when I see little girls dressed up as witches. We gasp at the idea of dressing our children up in tatty, black dresses and pointy hats and giving them a broom and a black cat; but it's ok when the witch has a sparkly blue dress on, and is going by the name of Elsa?

I once heard a Christian mother say that she and her husband didn't allow their children to watch the movie

'Mary Poppins' because in reality, Mary Poppins was a witch. An 11yr old me thought that was a bit extreme! Mary Poppins was pretty, she could sing, and she was a

lot of fun! Just like Elsa.

It's not just Elsa and Mary Poppins. All of the Disney Princess movies have some kind of magic and sorcery in them - Enchanted, Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, Pocahontas, Mulan, Brave, Snow White,

Tangled, Cinderella....the list goes on and on.

[An interesting side note about the movie Cinderella is how they call the witch a 'fairy godmother.' If she was called a witch, would we watch the movie? Less likely. But Fairy Godmother sounds much less scary, and, uh, demonic. So we accept it.]

I'm not saying that I'm perfect. I'm definitely not. And I'm not saying that at times in my life, I haven't watched and enjoyed these movies, laughed at them, and sung along to them. It's an eye-opener to me too, that these movies which have been accepted in my life for so long, are a way that Satan has been using to bring little bits of himself into my home. We sometimes wonder, "How did that get into my home? Where did that piece of language come from? What influenced them to say/do that?"

And we never realize, that instead of barring our doors against the world and Satan's influences, we have left our doors wide open for them, even inviting and welcoming them in; and many of them remain in our house - in our dvd cabinet.

Another Hollywood production that I would like to mention is the trilogy 'Lord of the Rings.' I don't understand how any Christian can look blindly past the sorcery in this series, mainly because there is no covering up by using 'innocent' names - wizards are called wizards, orcs are called orcs, sorcery is called sorcery, enchantments are called enchantments and so on. In the case with Disney princess movies, perhaps we can be excused for being ignorant and naive. But with Lord of the

Rings, I'm afraid that the excuse of naivety will not be accepted. *"And the soul that turneth after such as have*

*familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people."* Leviticus 20:6

There is an article available for reading on the internet, written by a man who was a former witch, but was miraculously saved out of it by the Lord Jesus. He has written an incredibly interesting and convicting article, exposing the magic and sorcery in the Lord of the Rings movies. Here is a segment of what he had to say about it:

"The Lord of the Rings trilogy was the work of John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, who did his writing during the midnight hours. He worked for 12 years and released his story in the 13th year. Tolkien became known as the "Master of the Middle Earth." This was a land inhabited by hobbits, elves, mortal men, wizards, dwarves and orcs or grotesque goblins. The hero of the story is a hobbit or halfling only 3 ½ feet tall named Frodo Baggins. Frodo carries a cursed object with him. The cursed object is a golden ring invested with terrible powers that must be destroyed by casting it into a fiery abyss at a great distance. If Frodo would fail, the ring would fall into the hands of an evil wizard called Sauron, and the entire world would pass into eternal darkness under the dark lord. Sauron's world is a land of shadows called Mordor. The ring has an inscription on which is written a message in the witchcraft language of runes. We must remember that these runes are real and are used in the occult. The runes on the ring are interpreted as follows: "One ring to rule them all, one ring to find them, one ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them."

J.R.R. Tolkien was born in South Africa where his father, Arthur, managed a bank. When his father died, his mother, Mabel, returned with her children to Birmingham, England, where she converted to Roman Catholicism.

J.R.R. Tolkien said, "I desired dragons with a profound desire." He soon became a prodigy and was speaking German, French, Latin, and flawless classical Greek. In speech, he would sometimes break out in Gothic, an ancient form of German. He would also speak medieval Welsh and Anglo-Saxon. Tolkien even developed new languages. One of them he called Elvish. He went on to say that the entire story of The Lord of the Rings came to him as a result of the new language that he invented. He was a professor at Oxford University as all of this was happening and as

the story of elves, wizards, trolls, and hobbits poured into his mind. While it became a manuscript under his pen, he said, "My work has escaped from my control, I have produced a monster."

Tolkien, the devout Catholic and "Master of Middle Earth", converted his colleague C.S. Lewis and spent much time with him at the Oxford pub or tavern. They claimed to have "kindred spirits."

There is much rank blasphemy in Tolkien's works, such as the death and resurrection of the wizard Gandalf, who falls into the pit and descends into hell but comes back transformed and stronger than ever. Deceived Christians say that this "good wizard" is a type of Christ! Tolkien even translated the Lord's Prayer into the Elvish language.

I can say most assuredly that The Lord of the Rings trilogy comes from the pits of hell and is a clever instructional course in witchcraft disguised as fantasy and entertainment. Part one was released in movie form on December 19, 2001, shortly after the two towers of the World Trade Center came down. It was called "The Fellowship of the Ring." Part two was called "The Two Towers" and was released December 18, 2002. Part three is named "The Return of the King" and was released December 17, 2003, and is breaking all records for ticket sales. All three movies were released at the time of the witchcraft sabat of Yule!"

*[The name of the author of the above segment wasn't given and so I was unable to find out where he stands doctrinally. I do not endorse him if he is of a different religion or has different beliefs, but for the benefit of this article I believe it to be helpful. To read the full version of their article, look up 'A Former Witch Looks at The Lord of the Rings' on the internet. - <http://www.lasttrumpetministries.org/tracts/tract11.html> - LB]*

I found this very disturbing. Not only are we letting this into our homes with welcome arms, we are being encouraged to become involved with it! Many jewelry catalogs today have look-alike rings from the Lord of the Rings series. If the runes inscribed on these jewelry shop rings are truly used in occult as the above article said, would you really like one of them adorning your finger? Or hanging from your neck?

What did the God-fearing men of the Bible do in regards to sorcery? I Samuel 28:3b, *"...And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land."* II Kings 23:24, *"Moreover the workers with familiar*



*spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law...."*

So, does God really care if we're watching and enjoying things like this? How did He react in Bible times? II Kings 21:6, *"And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger."*

II Chronicles 33:6, *"And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger."*

And last, but not least, Deuteronomy 18:10-13, *"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth*

*divinations, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God."*

I don't mean to offend anyone by writing this, and I know that it's not my normal kind of gentle conclusion. But I just want to know, are we incredibly naive or just incredibly stupid to let these kinds of things into our houses? Take things apart and start looking at them as they really are. A fairy godmother is a witch. An enchantress is a witch. Sparkly, 'innocent' magic is not innocent, its sorcery.

There is a song in the movie Frozen that has the catchphrase, 'Love is an open door.' No, it's not. Naivety and stupidity are open doors. And we're the ones holding them open.

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## MY FATHER'S FINGERPRINTS - THE KANGAROO'S HOP

(Friday Church News Notes, March 6, 2015, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143)

The following is from CreationMoments.com, February 25, 2015: "Those who believe that all living things are the product of millions of years of evolution tell us that living things develop features that aid their survival. They are quick to point out how some unusual feature of a plant or animal aids in its survival. That's why it's noteworthy that evolutionists cannot explain why kangaroos hop. The kangaroo has several special designs built into it that make hopping its most efficient form of transportation. For example, every time it hits the ground, 70 percent of the kangaroo's downward energy is stored in its tendons to be released for the next hop. By contrast, a running human only stores 20 percent of this energy. Also, kangaroos are designed in such a way that it is actually easier for them to breathe when hopping than when standing still. With each hop, the kangaroo's organs move within its body, pushing air out of its lungs. It uses its muscles only to inhale. Add all these features together and the faster a kangaroo goes, the less energy it uses for the same distance! If the kangaroo didn't have these special designs, hopping wouldn't be an advantage to it. At the same time, if the kangaroo originally didn't hop, its special design features would be of no value. In other words, the kangaroo is a complete package of special designs that had to come into existence all at the same time ... just as it left the hands of a wise Creator."

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### HARDLY ANYONE SEES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTIANS USING SECULAR POP MUSIC FOR WORSHIP MUSIC IN CHURCHES.

A friend sent me a link to a video showing a little Chinese girl singing You Raise Me Up as a worship song. It showed the typical hand-waving response of a charismatic CCM "worship" event. It actually came across as a talent show, with all the applause and cheering, etc. The accompanying comments purported to present it as evidence that there is a great revival happening in China.

A sister in Christ attended a church several years ago which used the song as a worship hymn. She later expressed surprise that it was sung in a church. Since I do not follow pop music and had never heard of the song I looked it up. Needless to say, Google had almost 3,000,000 webpages that popped up when I typed in a query as to the meaning of the lyrics of You Raise Me Up. Browsing the origins of the song confirmed what I guessed. The song has no Christian roots, but was adopted for use by churches as a religious song. Since I listened to it the first time and several times since, the following conclusions came to mind.

- 1) It is a melodious secular song with a catchy tune that sticks in your mind once you hear it.
- 2) It differs greatly from most of the tuneless drivel being performed in churches at present so it is easy to see how it might appeal to churchgoers.
- 3) The lyrics are semi-religious even if they did not originate from a Christian composer. (Very much like Amy Grant's music 25 years or so ago, when she determined to perform what she called "cross-over" music to appeal to her non-Christian fans and thus enlarge her audience and market. In this case, the composer did not openly court a Christian audience. He just composed a secular song to sound a bit religious. And of course, unthinking Christians bought it.)
- 4) Since the lines were already blurred between secular and sacred music, You Raise Me Up is quite acceptable to "worship leaders and praise teams."
- 5) It especially appeals to the churches that are trending toward Emergent "worship." (to understand the Emergent movement, read books like Gary E. Gilley's book *This Little Church Stayed Home*. He describes three perspectives on history, Pre-Modern [from Creation to 1700 AD], Modern [from 1700 to 1950], and Post-Modern [1950 to the present].

(If you are interested in a summary of Post-Modernism, and the Emergent "Church", please let me know and I will forward to you a short article on The Great Emergent-cy of the Post-Modern Church.)

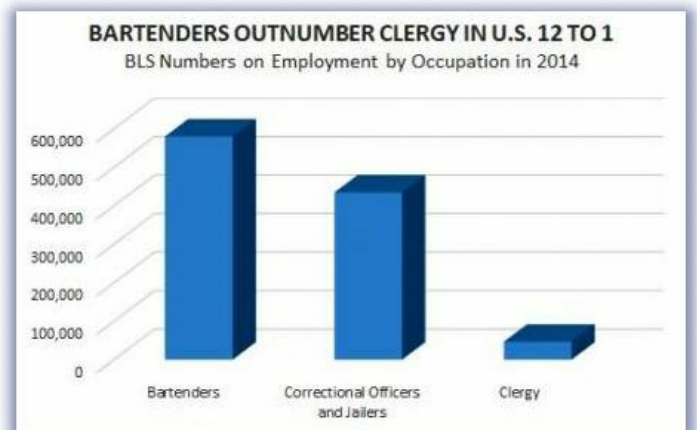
In conclusion, I do believe that those who know Christ as He is presented in the Holy Scriptures ought to be concerned when secular, unconverted, unsaved, unspiritual composers write the music that is sung in churches. This is a symptom of apostasy, perfectly consistent with megachurches seeking their methods and message from big business rather than from our Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

### I WONDER WHY? - BARTENDERS IN U.S. OUTNUMBER CLERGY 12 TO 1

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/>

By Rudy Takala - March 26, 2015

**(CNSNews.com)** – According to annual employment data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on Wednesday, bartenders in the United States outnumber clergy 12 to 1. According to the report, there were 46,510 individuals working as members of the clergy as of May 2014, compared to 579,700 working as bartenders. Clergy made an average salary of \$47,730.



The BLS report defines clergy as those people who "[c]onduct religious worship and perform other spiritual functions associated with beliefs and practices of religious faith or denomination. Provide spiritual and moral guidance and assistance to members."

The 434,420 employed as correctional officers and jailers also outnumbered clergy, as did the 86,810 employed as probation officers and correctional treatment specialists.

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<http://www.denisonforum.org/cultural-commentary/1416-a-new-religion-in-silicon-valley>

*(This article goes well with the sermons by Pastor Dave Mallinak on Technolatri which we linked to in Heads Up recently - see <http://www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au/PDF/Heads%20Up%2006-02-15.pdf>)*

*So what is the new religion? It is the making of technology into a god. But as with all idolatrous religions, it is a sham. It pretends to do for its worshippers all that God Almighty has done, is doing, and will do. It deceives its worshippers into believing that their technogods can create worlds, impart life (and extend it indefinitely), impart infinite wisdom, answer prayers, keep you company at night, reveal truth to its initiates, and know all you do. It is all powerful.*

*One of the hidden facts about the new religion is that its worship is costly. In fact, it costs much more than it ever provides to its followers. No, we are not thinking of the electricity bill going through the roof, or even the price of the various gizmos needed to progress upward in cyberworship. It costs its adherents the love their families need. It costs them the fellowship of God. It costs them the rewards they could have had in Heaven.*

*In most cases, it costs them Heaven itself. And what do they get in return? An eternity in Hell with the Devil and his angels. Hmmmmm, costly worship, this technolatri.*

*Oh, and don't forget to plug your god in at night. He depends on you recharging him often. It's part of the liturgy of technolatri. - Ed)*

Tim Cook unveiled the long-anticipated Apple Watch yesterday. The CEO called the device "a comprehensive health and fitness companion."

It will also display boarding passes in airports, show a live feed of a person's home and garage door, and run most of the iPhone apps. One hotel company plans to use it as a room key. According to Cook, battery life will be 18 hours with regular use; costs range from \$349 to \$10,000, which includes an 18-karat gold body.

There's everything from GoPro cameras for your head to SmartSoles for your feet (their GPS sensors monitor location and physical performance). I'm not sure what constituted the first wearable technology (a small sundial or hourglass hanging around one's neck?), but there's no question such science is here to stay. Will it change our lives as significantly as many predict?



In a recent New York Times article, Ross Douthat discusses the popular belief that scientific progress holds the answers to humanity's greatest problems. As an example, he cites Israeli historian Yuval Noah Harari's claim that technology, not religion, offers us the most hope. According to Harari, "In terms of ideas, in terms of religions, the most interesting place today in the world is Silicon Valley, not the Middle East." There people are "creating new religions" built on technological advances, and these religions "will take over the world."

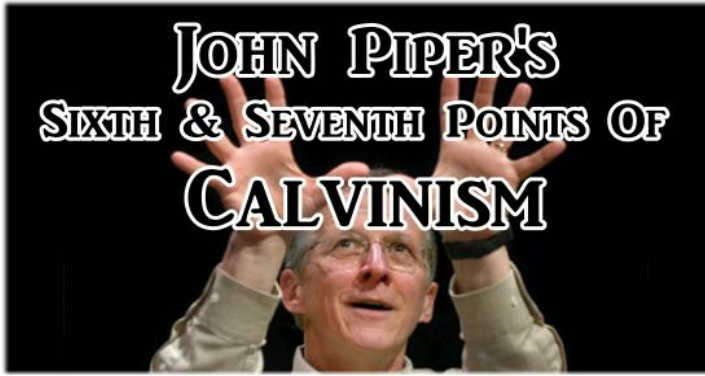
Douthat isn't convinced. He points to the Industrial Age, a historical antecedent to the current Information Age, and agrees that "new ideas, rooted in scientific understanding, did help bring societies through the turbulence of industrialization." But then he observes, correctly, that "the reformers who made the biggest differences—the ones who worked in the slums and with the displaced, attacked cruelties and pushed for social reforms, rebuilt community after it melted into air—often blended innovations with very old moral and religious commitments."

He adds: "When technological progress helped entrench slavery, the religious radicalism of abolitionists helped destroy it. When industrial development rent the fabric of everyday life, religious awakenings helped reknit it. When history's arc bent toward eugenics, religious humanists helped keep the idea of equality alive." In fact, the 19th century "scientific" alternatives to traditional morality and religion were fascism and Marxism. We know how those experiments turned out.

The Apple Watch can give me the time, but it can't give me more of it. ([Tweet this](#)) Unfortunately, I have more problems with the latter than the former. Science will continue to advance, but human nature remains the same. The world's greatest challenges today require transformation no technology can produce. The gospel is still the answer to every eternal question. ([Tweet this](#))

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*(I've wondered for a while what John Piper meant when he told his adoring followers that he believes in seven points of Calvinism. So I asked Dr. Google, and surprisingly, it was one of the things he had stashed away in his filing cabinets. Here is an excerpt from Tim Challies' blog entry on the subject. - Ed.)*

While most Calvinists hold to the five points of Calvinism as summarized by the acronym TULIP, there are some who refer to themselves as six or seven-point Calvinists. One person who is known to identify himself as a seven-point Calvinist is John Piper. He does so half-jokingly but does so to communicate a truth that the five points of Calvinism are not exhaustive in a consideration of God's sovereign saving grace. The Desiring God web site says, "Piper isn't seeking to add two more points, but is simply calling attention to his belief in the traditional five points (total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, and perseverance of the saints) in a way that also points toward two additional 'Calvinistic' truths that follow from them: double predestination and the best-of-all-possible worlds." Double predestination is widely considered the sixth-point. It is simply the other side to predestination, that just as God sovereignly chooses those whom He will save, in the same way he chooses those whom He will not save. There are some Calvinists who reject this idea, saying that God chooses His elect while everyone else makes their own choice to be condemned. A six-point Calvinist though, believes that God chooses some for salvation and some for perdition and that He does so not on the basis that some people are better or worse than others, but simply through His sovereign choice.

The seventh-point of Calvinism, at least according to John Piper (and I'm uncertain whether others regard this as the seventh point) is the best-of-all-possible worlds, which "means that God governs the course of history so that, in the long run, His glory will be more fully displayed and His people more fully satisfied than would have been the case in any other world." Yet even someone who is willing to extend Calvinism beyond the five points is not "hyper." A seven-point Calvinist is not a hyper-Calvinist." - Tim Challies

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## THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

A lawyer and an engineer were fishing in the Caribbean.

The lawyer said: "I'm here because my house burned down and everything I owned was destroyed by the fire. The insurance company paid for everything."

"That's quite a coincidence," said the engineer. "I'm here because my house and all my belongings were destroyed by a flood, and my insurance company also paid for everything."

Puzzled, the lawyer asked, "How do you start a flood?"



Ad seen on the bulletin board in a nursing home -

I can usually remember Monday through Thursday. If you can remember Friday, Saturday and Sunday, let's put our two heads together.



Golfer walks into the pro shop at the local course and asks the golf pro if they sell ball markers.

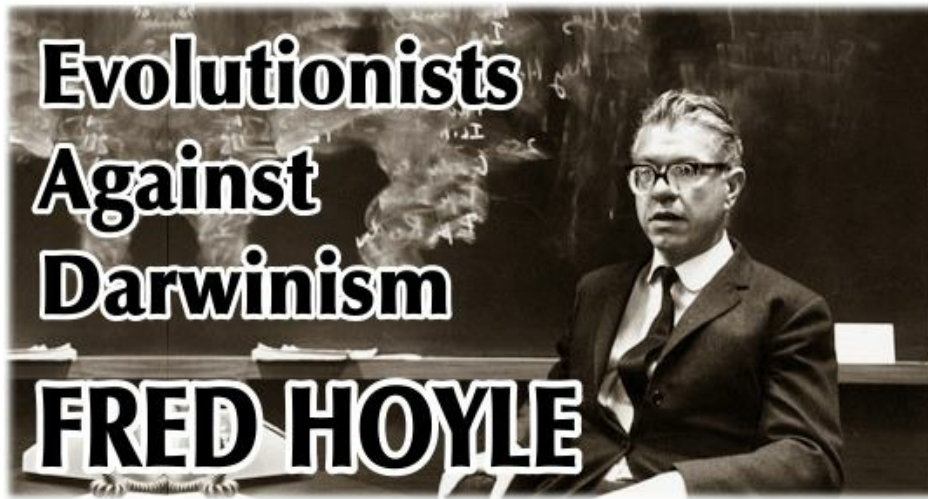
The golf pro says they do, and they are \$1.00.

The guy gives the golf pro a dollar.

The golf pro opens the register, puts the dollar in, and hands him a dime.

FYI: This is the same business model that is used by the U.S. Federal Government.

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March 19, 2015 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143)

Fred Hoyle (1915-2001) was the director of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge University. He was the recipient of the Royal Medal (1974), the Klumpke-Roberts Award (1977), the Crafoord Prize (1997), among others. He was snubbed for the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1983 when his co-worker was awarded while his original contribution was overlooked. Hoyle rejected Darwinism but believed in evolution driven by alien intelligence.

Hoyle came to the conclusion that Darwinian evolution could not be true, because the universe is too complicated and orderly and the Darwinian theories aren't supported by the evidence.

"If one proceeds directly and straightforwardly in this matter, without being deflected by a fear of incurring the wrath of scientific opinion, one arrives at the conclusion that BIOMATERIALS WITH THEIR AMAZING MEASURE OR ORDER MUST BE THE OUTCOME OF INTELLIGENT DESIGN. No other possibility I have been able to think of" ("Evolution from Space," Omni Lecture, Royal Institution, London, January 12, 1982).

"A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a superintellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question" (Fred Hoyle, "The Universe: Past and Present Reflections," *Engineering and Science*, November 1981).

"The fossil record is highly imperfect from a Darwinian point of view, not because of the inadequacies of

geologists, but because the slow evolutionary connections required by the theory did not happen. Although paleontologists have recognized this truth for a century or more, they have not been able, in spite of their status as the acknowledged experts in the field, to make much of an impression on consensus opinion. ... Darwinian evolution is most unlikely to get even one polypeptide right, let alone the thousands on which living cells depend for their survival. This situation is well-known to geneticists

and yet nobody seems prepared to blow the whistle decisively on the theory" (Hoyle and Wickramasinghem, *Evolution from Space*, 1981, pp. 147, 148).

"... we hit a difficulty that knocked the stuffing out of us. No matter how large the environment one considers, the life cannot have had a random beginning. Troops of monkeys thundering away at random on typewriters could not produce the works of Shakespeare ... The same is true for living material. As our ideas developed, a monstrous spectre kept beckoning. Just as the brain of Shakespeare was necessary to produce the famous plays, so prior information was necessary to produce a living cell" (*Evolution from Space*, p. 148).

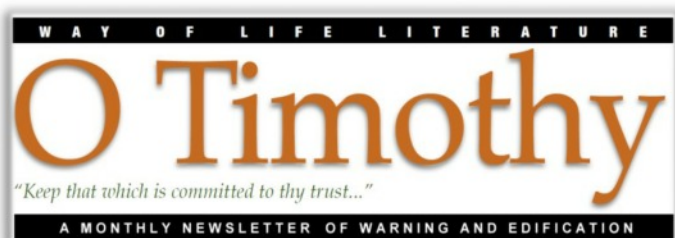
"It is understandable that the biologists of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries did not appreciate the extreme chemical complexity of living systems. Without doing serious violence to the evidence it was then possible to think in terms of processes leading to the origin of life that were not much more subtle than those which take place naturally in the Earth's crust, as for instance the geochemical processes which led to the formation of metallic ores. ... This was the situation in 1924 at the time of the work of A.I. Oparin, work that was widely acclaimed as putting the final nail in the coffin of the older religions. All of life (and death) could be seen, it was claimed, to spring from natural causes. With the development of microbiology in the second half of the twentieth century it became overwhelmingly clear that the truth is quite otherwise. Biochemical systems are exceedingly complex, so much so that the chance of their being formed through random shufflings of simple organic molecules is exceedingly minute, to a point indeed WHERE IT IS INSENSIBLY DIFFERENT FROM ZERO" (*Evolution from Space*, p. 3).

"Anyone with even a noodling acquaintance with the Rubik cube will concede the near impossibility of a solution being obtained by a blind person moving the cube faces at random. Now imagine 10 to the fiftieth power blind persons (standing shoulder to shoulder, these would more than fill our entire planetary system) each with a scrambled Rubik cube and try to conceive of the chance of them all simultaneously arriving at the solved form. You then have the chance of arriving by random shuffling (random variation) of just one of the many biopolymers on which life depends. The notion that not only the biopolymers but the operating program of a living cell could be arrived at by chance in a primordial soup here on Earth is evidence of nonsense of a high order. Life must plainly be a cosmic phenomenon" (Hoyle, "The Big Bang in Astronomy," *New Scientist*, November 19, 1981, p. 527).

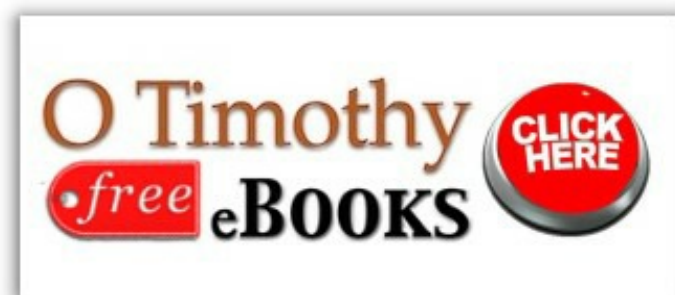
For these views, Hoyle was persecuted and ridiculed by the Darwinian establishment and is still treated as a nutcase. His intelligent design statistics, showing that the possibility of life evolving from nothing is comparable to a tornado sweeping through a junkyard and assembling a Boeing 747, has even labeled "Hoyle's Fallacy." The *Wikipedia* article on "Hoyle's Fallacy" claims that Hoyle failed to "grasp how powerful a force natural selection can be." Indeed, it must be exceedingly powerful to create everything out of nothing.

[http://wayoflife.org/index\\_files/evolutionists\\_against\\_darwinism.html](http://wayoflife.org/index_files/evolutionists_against_darwinism.html)

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## POEMS THAT PREACH -

### The Dialogue

Death is a dialogue between  
The spirit and the dust.  
"Dissolve," says Death. The Spirit, "Sir,  
I have another trust."

Death doubts it, argues from the  
ground.

The Spirit turns away,  
Just laying off, for evidence,  
An overcoat of clay.

*Emily Dickinson*

### Hope is the Thing

Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune without the words,  
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chillest land,  
And on the strangest sea;  
Yet, never, in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me.

*Emily Dickinson*

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# EDDY-TORIAL

## Why I Believe In War

By Bro. Buddy Smith

On my desk I have a little Gideon's New Testament given to me by an ex-soldier. It was the British army Bible issued to him in March, 1958. He said he used it to read over his fallen comrades when they fell in battle. He left it to me in his will when he died, so I use it when I preach on being soldiers for Christ.

I knew Brian for twenty five years before he died, and spoke to him many times about his soul. He refused again and again to enlist in the Lord's army. After serving as a British soldier he sold himself as a mercenary to the highest bidder. When I preached Christ to him one day, he replied, "I could never become a Christian because I believe in war." You can imagine his amazement when I replied, "I believe in war, too. The Lord Jesus Christ will return one day to judge and make war in righteousness, according to Rev. 19:11."

I often think about that conversation. Every disciple of Jesus Christ ought to believe in war.

- We anticipate the triumphant return of Christ when He will defeat all His foes at Armageddon.
- We who know Christ are at war this very moment. Our conflict with the hosts of darkness is never ending; it is the conflict of the ages. We wrestle against principalities and powers as they war against the souls of men.
- We cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.
- We wear King Emmanuel's armour and wield the Spirit's sword in mortal combat with spiritual wickedness in high places.

At least we ought to do these things. But we don't.

Have you noticed how quiet the battlefield has become? The clash of arms has fallen silent. The sound of marching feet and heavy artillery has been replaced by the sound of snoring saints.

And the new style for armour looks awfully pyjama-ish, don't you think?

So how have we come to this apparent truce? Why the deathly hush at the front? Has our Age-old Enemy given up the fight, realising at last that it has a lost cause?

Or have we won the final victory and been mustered out of

the King's army to go home to sit under own vine and fig tree in peace? Have we conquered all the foes of God?

Not at all. It is the silence of a false peace. It's a synthetic truce brought about by the incremental surrender of the Christian faith. Piece by piece our pastors have negotiated away our armour. Little by little we have given ground to the Enemy and byte by byte we have swallowed the devious promises of the father of lies. Our churches are under attack as never before, not a frontal attack by our Enemy, but a subtle flanking manoeuvre with the assault coming mostly from the fifth column inside our churches. Church after church has been defeated by powerful new armaments, using weapons our forefathers never saw. Weapons like electric guitars, drum kits, amplifiers, synthesisers, and wielded by long haired, hard-faced youth playing carnal music to the glassy-eyed sleepy saints in the pews.

Once in a while I go looking for video clips of preachers that I hear are preaching heresy. I need to see for myself if it is true, and sadly, it often is. I recently watched a clip of Jack Schaap preaching and was grieved at its brazen and callous disdain for the Word of God. What shocked me even more than the powerless sermon was the look on the faces of the old men sitting on the platform behind Schaap. They leaned forward in their seats to catch every word, and listened ever so closely to the preaching of total and utter piffle! Old men, most likely all of them ex-preachers, the grizzled old war horses of yesteryear, approvingly lending their support to heresy, with never a word of protest! I cannot help wondering why they tolerate such tripe. Is it so they can still sit on the platform or are willing to sell their testimony for a ringside seat? Or is it that they are addicted to the lollies on their plates and fear losing them if they object to the lies they hear? Here in Australia a few years ago, I warned two pastors about Schaap's fractured morality. One ignored the warning and the other laughed and said he'd heard something about it, but it rang no alarms in his soul. When Clarence Sexton's IBFI kicked off, that same pastor preached back to back with Jack Schaap on Sexton's platform. Pastors without armour, why? Whatever their motivation, they need to resign their commission from the Old Boys Club, and re-enlist in the King's army, put on all the armour of faith again and go to war against the Enemy, wherever we find him. Outside the church or inside! Real Christians, and real preachers still believe in war!

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# Lifting Up The STANDARD

*"WHEN THE ENEMY SHALL COME IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF THE  
LORD SHALL LIFT UP A STANDARD AGAINST HIM" (ISAIAH 59:19).*

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**CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING GOD'S REMNANT TO REMAIN FAITHFUL**



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MALANDA

*On the Atherton Tablelands in Tropical North Queensland - Australia*

## Heads Up!

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