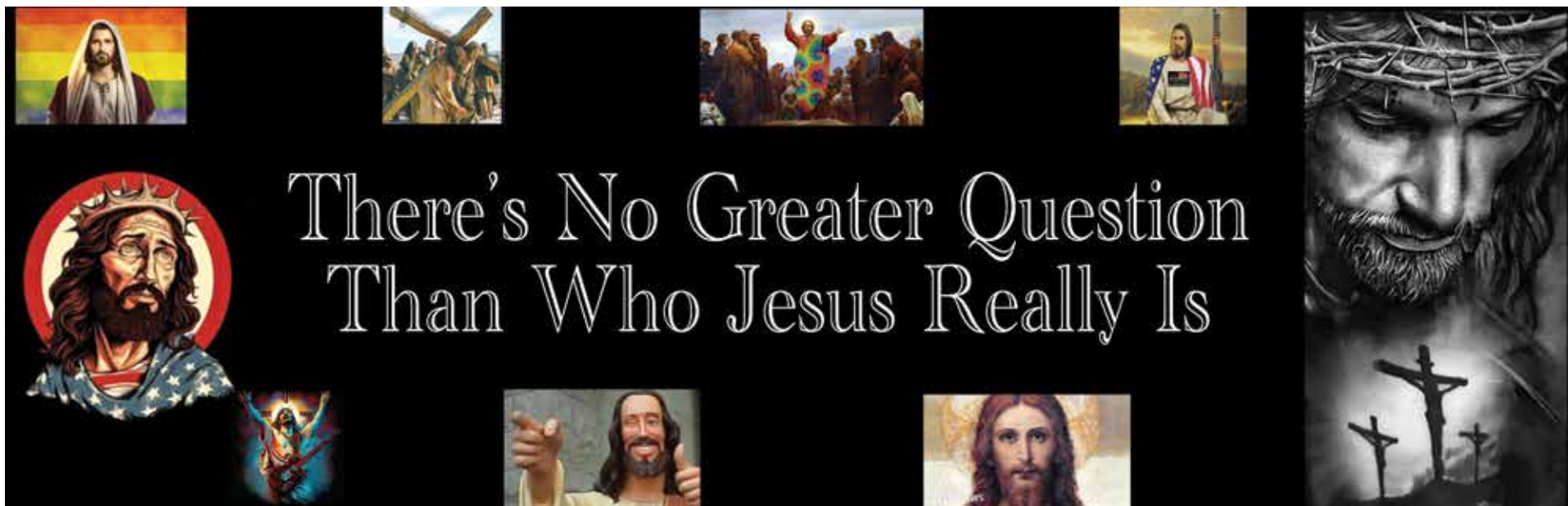


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There's No Greater Question Than Who Jesus Really Is

By Randy Alcorn

If you're told you're going to meet someone important whom your friends know, you naturally ask them, "Who is he? What's he like? Where did he come from? What does he do? Is he the real deal? Does he live up to expectations?"

Because no other historical figure is as widely known, multitudes live with the illusion that they really know Jesus, when in reality they simply have various impressions about Him. Impressions are not knowledge. They are a random collection of data picked up from family, friends, books, movies, articles, social media, and in some cases, experiences with churches or

professing Christians. Many of these sources are either completely wrong, mostly wrong, or mostly right but with significant errors.

"Thoughts flow the moment we hear the name Jesus Christ. The question is, which thoughts are true, and which are false?"

As a result, it is hard to imagine any subject more fraught with confusion, misinformation, and deception than the subject of who Jesus really is. And what a quandary! The most important person who has ever lived is also the most misunderstood. People often quote

Him—"Judge not," or "Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do," for instance—without understanding the context of His words, thereby entirely "missing" His meaning.

Thoughts flow the moment we hear the name Jesus Christ. The question is, which thoughts are true, and which are false? Even more important than His teachings on life and ethics is who Jesus actually claimed to be. As Kevin DeYoung has said, "Just about

everybody in America likes Jesus, but few like him for who he truly is."

The doctrines of the deity and humanity of Christ, with all their implications, are vitally important not only to sound doctrine but to loving our Savior and Lord by seeing Him more accurately. We are all theologians. The only issue is whether we're good ones or bad ones. Wouldn't you rather be a good one—especially when it comes to believing what's true about Jesus?

Sadly, many religious professionals deny Christ's deity, miracles, atonement, and/or resurrection and

CONTINUE ON PAGE 12



**Aaron Walrath -
New Director of Twin Cities
Rescue Mission**

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**Well Done!
Pastor Jim & Marilyn Clark**

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••• Guess Who's Coming To Dinner? •••

By Christy Boals

www.gracefilledpurpose.com

The question was raised recently, what if Jesus was coming to dinner at your house in ten days? I, of course, thought immediately of the massive cleaning that would need to take place. I don't think ten days would be enough! We also talked about how we would probably want to serve Jesus the best food we could. The physical preparations that we would make was part of the point of our conversation, but there is also a deeper message.

What if when Jesus arrived, it was a little awkward? "Oh, um, hi Jesus, haven't talked to you in a while."

Staying in touch is so important in a relationship. I love being able to text my friends, just to say hi or I'm praying for you. Sometimes, I will be texting my sister 15 minutes before visiting her at her house! While texting is easy, praying, or talking to Jesus is even easier. The hardest part is remembering to do it!

We get caught up in the formality of prayer, when really it can be very informal because Jesus is interested in everything about us. "That flower is so pretty Jesus, thank you for making it!" "Jesus, I was thinking of making soup for dinner. What do you think?" This may sound very strange, but if we can get into the habit of continually



praying, even about the small things, when the big things come we will immediately take them to Jesus.

When we are in relationships with people, we want to spend time with them. Believe it or not, Jesus loves to spend time with you. I pray that as you start to spend more time with Jesus, just talking, that your relationship grows deeper and deeper until if Jesus showed up at your house there would be no awkwardness at all.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20

Confidence

By Paula McBride

An attribute you will never see on my resume is confidence. I am in short supply of that trait even now as a senior adult.

It may have begun when, as a child, I could not kick a rubber ball during elementary P.E. Later, as a teen, I faked my way through high school orchestra by touching the keys of my instrument but not blowing through the mouthpiece. I was afraid the handsome senior boy sitting next to freshman me would hear my squeaks and squawks. During my midlife season, I was injured in a car accident that was not my fault but caused me to doubt my driving skills. To this day, although I am better, lane changes and merges cause panic, and I sing loudly, "Fear, you are a liar!"

It was a happy day when I realized that I could place my confidence in a source that wasn't fearful me. In fact, when I realized fear and mistrust are actually insults to a sovereign God who is absolutely good and reliable, I began the journey that led me out of panic attacks and into peace. And yes, it is a journey that continues. Fortunately, those who have put their trust in God have an instruction manual, the Bible. In its pages are many guideposts for a journey into confidence.

One guidepost encourages us to acknowledge that God is God and we are not. This may seem an overused

expression, but its truth is foundational to trust. King David, the most powerful leader of his day, depended absolutely on his Sovereign for protection, rescue, comfort, and guidance. He writes in Psalm 139:16 that "in Your book were written all the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them." In Psalm 71:5 David writes, "For You are my hope; O Lord God, You are my confidence from my youth."

On the journey to confidence, we acknowledge not only that God is sovereign, but He is good. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future," Jeremiah wrote (29:11).

Another signpost tells us that God is not through with us. Paul wrote in Philippians 1:6 "being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." I am assured that nothing happens to us that is not according to God's sovereign purpose.

That leads to the next signpost: our eternal destiny is secure. The apostle Paul has much to say about the future hope we have as believers. "Therefore, we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord," he writes in II Corinthians 5:6.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 15

THE AMBASSADOR

- ✍ **The Ambassador** is a free, monthly publication promoting unity and revival among the local Yuba-Sutter area Bible-believing churches
- ✍ **The Ambassador** has a circulation 3,700 - 5,500 and is distributed in local churches and businesses in the community.
- ✍ The purpose of **The Ambassador** is to pursue the great commission of Christ by making disciples and to encourage, inform, challenge and connect the local body of Christ.
- ✍ We believe in the inspiration and authority of the Bible as the written word of God. We believe that God exists as One, in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ✍ We believe that the atoning work of Christ (His death) on the cross and His resurrection is the ONLY means of salvation and the only way to Eternal Life in Heaven.
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New Director Welcomed at Twin Cities Rescue Mission

Submitted by the Board of Directors of the Twin Cities Rescue Mission

God's timing is always perfect. When we humble ourselves and look for His leading in all areas of our life, He meets us there and refreshes our soul. Isaiah 43:18-19 says, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." The staff and board of the Twin Cities Rescue Mission are excited to introduce Aaron Walrath to our Yuba Sutter community as our new Executive Director. Aaron's primary goal is to let the Rescue Mission shine the light of Jesus Christ into the darkest camps of homelessness and to be a beacon of hope that restores lives fully.

God has prepared Aaron for this work since childhood when Aaron's father died suddenly just after his 4th birthday in a head-on crash with a drunk driver. After his passing, life became harsh for Aaron in middle school. At age 12, his older brothers forced him to take meth by pushing it down his throat and his life quickly spiraled out of control. He went from gifted and talented education classes (GATE) and 6th grade class president to dropping out of school in



Aaron & Karen Walrath
New Directors of Twin Cities Rescue Mission

a few short years. As a young adult, his life centered around drug abuse and thievery. Truly broken and as low as one can possibly be... God met him there and called him out of that dark pit. At age 22, Aaron accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior and has served Him in that capacity ever since.

Today, Aaron has been married for the past 22 years and has two sons. He continued his education by completing high school and then went on to complete

an Associate's degree in psychology, before achieving a Bachelor's degree in Human Services Management. Aaron and his wife Karen live in Yuba City and they attend The Bridge church in Marysville, which is located near the Twin Cities Rescue Mission.

Aaron has personally experienced the darkness and hopelessness that can so easily engulf the life of many of the men entering the Rescue Mission. When considering taking on this new

role as Executive Director of the Twin Cities Rescue Mission, Aaron accepted the position because 1) He knows firsthand what drugs do to individuals and 2) He has also experienced the power and redemption of the Blood of Jesus Christ!

God also prepared him for the position more recently by being first on the scene after a driver struck a homeless person with their vehicle. This happened on two separate occasions. At these scenes, he found himself consoling people who were dying. At that moment, it didn't matter how they talked, looked, or smelled. What he saw was someone's child, mother, father, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, etc. Their past didn't matter at that moment, but there was a sense of urgency regarding where they would spend their eternity!

These life incidents have prepared Aaron with a more compassionate heart; the kind of heart needed for this Director's position. May God powerfully use him to welcome and reach as many as he can here at the Rescue Mission and not in the middle of the road. May his time here create a bright beacon of light drawing people to the hope and restoration found only in Jesus Christ.

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Praise Chapel Church 398 Aylor Ave.
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PRAYER FOR THE NATION - Every Tuesday Night 7PM - 8:30PM
Church of Glad Tidings
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GRIEF SHARE; GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - Wednesdays, 6:00pm,
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"My house shall be called a house of prayer." (Matt. 21:13). The church today is in an all-out war against the evils of darkness. The body of Christ is called to step up and be aggressive in their prayer life.

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- 1-Jan **New Year's Revival**- Pray that God would bring revival in 2024 and that New Year's resolutions would become repentance and spread to the nation!
- 2-Jan **Pastors**- That God would give them strength, courage and wisdom to speak the truth from the pulpit
- 3-Jan **Pray for China, Sudan, North Korea and other nations** that God would intervene and the leadership would restore civil rights
- 4-Jan **Homeless**- Safety, health and provision- Twin Cities Rescue Mission, other local homeless ministries. Safety from summer heat
- 5-Jan **World Affairs**- Pray about international activities that point to the Last Days
- 6-Jan **Israel**- Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem-and for an end to the war against in Gaza- the destruction of Hamas and the protection of civilians as well as limited Israeli casualties
- 7-Jan **Veterans**- Pray for all those who served our country and their families to get the assistance they need
- 8-Jan **Mental Health**- Pray for the millions of people who struggle with Mental Health/ Illness issues and suicidal thoughts, that they would receive support & treatment
- 9-Jan **The Economy**- Pray for the underemployed, unemployed and struggling small businesses- Pray for financial stability and resources
- 10-Jan **Global Revival**- Pray that our global chaos would lead multitudes to repent and follow the Lord!!
- 11-Jan **Local city/county leaders**- Wisdom for leading our community
- 12-Jan **Marriages**- Pray that relationships would grow and families would seek the Lord together
- 13-Jan **Local Ministries**- Pray for continued financial support and volunteers to meet needs (see page 3)
- 14-Jan **California**- pray for our Godly representatives (including James Gallagher and Doug LaMalfa) to fight against liberal and harmful state policies.
- 15-Jan **Pray that fathers would give Godly wisdom** and have a positive impact and influence on the lives of their children
- 16-Jan **Disabled**- that they would receive the assistance and support they need
- 17-Jan **Life**- Pray that abortion clinics would be shut down that people would choose life for their babies.
- 18-Jan **Human Trafficking**- Pray for the freedom, healing and restoration of survivors and for traffickers to repent
- 19-Jan **Addicted**- pray for those under the control of substances that they would surrender to the Lord pursue and receive the treatment they need
- 20-Jan **Discipleship**- Pray that believers would seek to follow Jesus and become more like Him every day!
- 21-Jan **President**- Pray that God would show Himself to Pres. Biden and he would radically change his life and leadership
- 22-Jan **Pray that children of fatherless homes** as well as those in foster care would feel loved and protected by adults as well as the Lord
- 23-Jan **Restore America!** Pray against the divisiveness and violence in this nation
- 24-Jan **Singles, Single Parents, Divorced, Widowed**- pray for those experiencing loneliness and overwhelming burdens
- 25-Jan **Race Relations**- Pray for Race relations in our nation. Pray for understanding and collaboration between races and an ease of racial tension
- 26-Jan **Pray for each of us** to be bold by the Holy Spirit to speak and act in accordance with God's Word and His Way!
- 27-Jan **Unity of Churches/Global impact**- Pray for churches to unite and influence the world!
- 28-Jan **Seniors and Elderly**- Pray for renewed physical and mental strength.
- 29-Jan **Pray for your neighbor**- for opportunities to serve them, pray with them and share the Gospel with them!
- 30-Jan **The Persecuted Church around the world.** Pray that believers would stand strong in the midst of brutal persecution
- 31-Jan **Pray for teachers, students and parent** to work together for a positive and productive learning environment



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- 1/9 - John Gaiser
- 1/16 - Sharen Cornils
- 1/23 - Cal Cornils
- 1/30 - Prayer

*Schedule subject to change

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CELEBRATING A MINISTRY WELL DONE

Saying Goodbye to Pastor Jim & Marilyn Clark

Pastor Jim Clark's ministry to the Yuba Sutter community spanned more than 32 years at Crossroads Community Church, but his impact for the Lord is Eternal!

Beginning in 1991, a small body of believers, in Yuba City, had a desire to be a spiritual hospital for those who were hurting along with a desire to win the lost for Christ. At that time, Pastor Jim was a part-time Pastor in Sacramento – a Godly man ministering in that area while also running a business to buy, refurbish, and sell old school buses.

Eventually, Pastor Jim was invited to preach at Crossroads Community Church --- and this quickly led to him becoming the church's first full-time Pastor. Jim and his bride, "Miss Marilyn", relocated to Yuba City and they quickly saw the many needs of the people.

Not only did folks need to hear the saving Word, they needed many basic life needs such as food and clothing. Pastor Jim spent many days walking in the neighborhood of the church, knocking on doors and inviting adults and children alike to church.

Responding to the neighborhood and

community needs, he helped the church to establish a Clothes Closet to provide free, donated clothing to all in need. In addition to clothing, Pastor Jim led the church to begin providing free food to the homeless and those in need. Both of these ministries have blessed thousands of families through the years.

The food ministry has taken on many forms, from providing basic groceries to individuals and families to hosting delicious BBQ meals to thousands who attend the July 4th BBQ and concert. The annual church picnic/BBQ at Sam Brannon Park also fed many community members with ribs, burgers, hot dogs and chicken – all while listening to a wonderful Christian concert.

Pastor Jim reached out to many of the nation's top Gospel singers. He always said "You won't know until you ask.." As a result, Crossroads Church became known in Northern California for hosting the top artists in Gospel music with FREE concerts for all who would come. Top artists were willing to travel across the country to sing and perform because they knew they were ministering to so many.

With his talent and vision for a visual depiction of the life of Jesus, Pastor Jim



along with the talent of Hugh Booth and others, led the church in designing and building a drive-thru story of the real-meaning of Christmas. It was on display in the church parking lot each Christmas with hundreds of people volunteering alongside live animals portraying the Salvation story for thousands to see. Pastor Jim and Miss Marilyn greeted each car as they passed through the story and provided Bibles with the Plan of Salvation for everyone.

Reaching out further, Pastor Jim helped to start and support an orphanage in Tanzania. Today, hundreds of infants and children who were abandoned as

infants call Samaritan Village home. Saved from sure death, they are raised in a loving Christian home and provided with education and medical care, while learning about Jesus who loves them and gives them hope and a future. Direction and financial provision, which comes through fundraising, is achieved through the ongoing work of the local board based at Crossroads Church.

Joshua House, a residential facility for men with addictions was started by Pastor Jim over 10 years ago. Pastor Jim along with the help of Dottie Wurm and others helped so many men to become addiction-free and to love and serve the Lord. To God be the Glory!

During the Clark's entire time serving at Crossroads Church, Miss Marilyn has ministered to the children – of all ages. Many children walk to the church, others are brought by family or ride the Church bus. Marilyn's gift of loving and welcoming each child and teaching them Bible stories and scriptures has equipped thousands of children with Jesus' Word in their hearts.

Pastor Jim has been a faithful supporter of the Gideon's International.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 15

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The Creation of the Universe: A Cosmic Accident or God-Created?

By Kelly J. Walters, DDS; author of "Truth and Proof for the Christian Worldview- A Comprehensive Summary of Christian Apologetics".

Many prominent atheist authors have labeled Christians as ignorant or delusional for having faith in a supernatural God and Creator. In answer to these unwarranted allegations, there has historically been a multitude of acclaimed Christian philosophers, theologians, and scientists who have contributed significantly to their respective fields. Sixty-five percent of all Nobel Prize winners in the fields of science and technology in the twentieth century were Christians -- science and Christianity certainly don't need to conflict. Essentially, science and mathematics is simply the method for examining and studying God's creation -- the universe and life. The purpose of this article is to contrast how contemporary Godless academia and scientific materialism answers the question regarding the origin of the universe and living organisms versus theistic (particularly Christian) scientists -- who, unlike atheistic scientism, can provide convincing scientific and logically valid philosophical arguments as evidence for an Intelligent Designed universe created by a logically necessary transcendent and intelligent mind/Being.

Since no one was around to witness the universe's beginning, both atheistic and theistic scientists and academic philosophers must rely solely on current scientific knowledge and observation, assumption, and a good amount of faith in their theories for the creation of the universe and living organisms. Both modern science and the Bible are in agreement that "nothing" was in existence prior to the



Big Bang creation of the universe -- no time, space, matter, energy, natural laws of physics, or any "somethings". Since the Law of Causality (Cosmological argument) states, "Anything that began to exist must have a rational cause"; we must logically ask how, what, or who caused the Big Bang creation of our observationally apparent designed and orderly universe from nothing, and the subsequent origin of life (OOL) on our unique planet from simple inorganic molecules.

Only two possibilities have been provided for the creation (beginning) of the universe and the origin of life. Either the universe was created by a hypothetical, and yet unexplainable and unprovable, "spontaneous creation event" by accidental random chance from nothing -- as proposed by modern naturalistic scientism -- or it was created supernaturally by an eternal, all-powerful, and intelligent mind/being, that many call God.

It proves illogical and disingenuous to theorize that "something" (the universe) can spontaneously "bang" itself into existence from the pre-universe Nothingness without a cause other than random chance -- as atheistic

scientism and academia propose -- without providing any convincing rational or empirical scientific evidence, or methodological proof. These proponents of the atheistic ideology of scientific materialism postulate an unexplainable and logically impossible "Spontaneous Creation Event" created by chance from the pre-Big Bang Nothingness -- which rests exclusively on highly speculative and unprovable quantum string theory, the multiverse theory, and the oscillating universe theory, just to name a few. Over the last couple decades, these proposed nonprovable theories have been debunked by most astrophysicists and cosmologists because of the current overwhelming mathematical proof that the universe had a "finite beginning" -- versus the universe being eternally past existent. Because the above listed pure materialistic theories require a "past-infinite" universe to be valid, as opposed to the proven reality of the finite beginning of our universe, these theories are proven false. This leaves atheistic/naturalistic scientism and academia without a logical or empirical scientific explanation for the "cause" of the universe.

On the contrary, the God Theory provides a logical and highly evidenced answer -- our universe and all life was created by an all-powerful, eternal, and intelligent mind/spirit which we Christians call the one true God of the Bible. The God Theory is supported by an abundance of historical, scientific, archeological, and philosophical evidence and proof -- in addition to multitudes of both fulfilled ancient Biblical prophecy and documented eye-witnessed miracles.

With regards to the existence of life on our planet, there is no convincing scientific proof or empirical evidence provided by contemporary science for any Godless pure naturalistic "abiogenesis" -- which is the term used to describe the hypothetical chemical creation and evolution of living organisms from simple non-living inorganic matter. Atheistic pure naturalism and materialism science has failed miserably in their efforts to provide any realistic empirical scientific evidence or method for the chemical evolution of life on our planet. They simply claim that "random chance" was the catalyst for the seemingly miraculous formation of living organisms from non-living simple inorganic substances. Even the simplest one-celled organism requires complex protein enzymes, information rich coded DNA, a complex protective cell wall, and numerous intra-cellular molecular nano-biomachines within the cell for it to properly function, metabolize, and reproduce as a true living organism. Mathematical probability calculations have repeatedly shown the odds are astronomically against abiogenesis occurring naturally -- essentially nil

CONTINUE ON PAGE 15



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: "THERE'S NO GREATER QUESTION THAN WHO JESUS REALLY IS"

view the Gospel accounts as myth and distortion. To them, "the historical Jesus" was merely a moral teacher and example that the church turned into a god, falsely claiming that he performed miracles and was superhuman. These skeptical scholars suppose the Gospel accounts and the New Testament letters to be a human invention and argue that the church elevated Jesus to a divine status He never claimed. (This raises the question of why all the apostles were tortured, and every one of them but John died for what they believed. No one endures that kind of suffering for what they know to be a lie.)

Scripture itself, however, presents Christ not as myth, but history. It emphasizes the role of eyewitnesses. Seeking the historical Jesus while denying the Bible is like seeking to know what happened at Gettysburg while denying the historical records from Gettysburg.

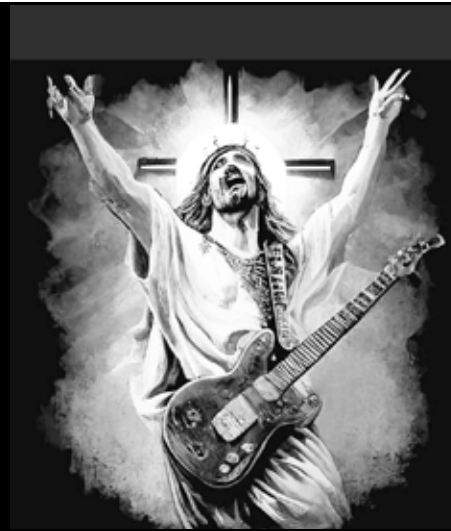
Our faith in Christ is only as good as the authentic reality of the Christ we believe in. It shouldn't surprise us, then, that Satan will attack us by promoting false and unworthy views of the person and work of Jesus.



Peter wrote sobering warnings about those who give false portrayals of Jesus (2 Peter 2:1-3). The worst and most dangerous heresies misrepresent Jesus Christ, denying the truths about Him and making Him out to be less than He really is.

The apostle John also warned about misrepresentations of the Jesus he knew so well:

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges



that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God (1 John 4:1-3 NIV).

Since nothing is more important than who Jesus is and what He has done, naturally there are no greater truths—and in turn, no more pernicious and destructive heresies—than those concerning Jesus. If Jesus did not live, if He was not God, if He was not the Creator but merely one of the created, or if Jesus was not really a man, the consequences would be devastating in the lives of literally billions of people who have believed the words He spoke and the Bible's teachings about Him.



Biblical Christianity is not simply a religion about Christ but a relationship with Christ. If we get it right about Jesus, we can afford to get some minor things wrong. But if we get it wrong about Jesus, in the end it won't matter what else we get right.

This is why I started section one of my book It's All About Jesus with the greatest question Jesus ever asked anyone: "Who do you say I am?" Because our answer to that question, whether silent or spoken, is the single most important answer we will ever give.

CONTINUE ON PAGE 14

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CULTIVATING JEALOUSY an essential attribute of Christian character

*Pastor Dan Prout
Sierra Ministries International
California Prayer Coalition*

Bald eagles are not bald as anyone who has seen an eagle can attest. Their heads are covered with snowy, white feathers. So why call them bald? Bald used to mean “white”. A bald-headed man was one with white hair. In the last 200 years, the meaning of the word migrated to mean “hairless” today.

Similarly, Envy and Jealousy show up in modern English dictionaries as synonyms but the words actually denote very different concepts. Envy means improperly desiring position, prestige, or possessions belonging to another. Jealousy means zealously protecting persons, relationships, or possessions which rightly belong to a person.

These definitions explain why God openly declares that his name is Jealous, Qanna in Hebrew (Exodus 34:14). God vigorously protects his children from false deities in requiring people to worship only him.

The Greek word for jealous is *zelos*, from which English derives *zealous*, and it appears in the New Testament as in James 3:14-16. By contrast, the Greek word for envy is *phthonos*. Unfortunately, the migratory merging of envy and jealousy in English allows modern translators to use interchangeably these now supposedly twin terms.

It is incumbent upon Christians to cultivate jealousy, properly



exercising God-given jurisdiction in relationships. For example, a husband or wife is to speak up if another relationship is appearing to be “too close” regardless of denials or accusations of the spouse being suspicious or insecure. A Christian parent must rise to ask where children are going, who is going to supervise, what is going to be presented, and so forth. Yes, it can be awkward but it is necessary and appropriate exercise of parental jealousy.

Further, jealous Christians must invest in moral and philosophical protection of our communities. We must be jealous for not only our households but also our society. The days now compel us to know what is happening within our schools, monitor what is available via social media, and engage in political decisions, as examples.

It can be awkward, even risky, but developing jealousy as an attribute of Christian character has never been more necessary.



Finding Freedom in God's Perfect Peace

If you would like to experience the peace and transformed life that God can provide through Jesus Christ and you are willing to commit your life to the only one who can truly set you free from your sin, you can pray to the Lord right now and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Because of what His Son, **Jesus**, did by dying on the cross, your sins will not be held against you by God anymore. You can experience freedom for the rest of your life on earth and then have a life in Heaven with God for eternity. God's part of the deal is already done. Your part is to confess your sins, repent (or change your ways) and believe that He is Lord. If your life is out of control, let Him take over control.

For help, questions, or more information, contact us at The Ambassador or any of the churches listed on page 3.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12: "THERE'S NO GREATER QUESTION THAN WHO JESUS REALLY IS"

Who Do You Say I Am?

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. "Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven." Matthew 16:13-17 NIV

If you find it hard to believe in God, I strongly advise you to begin your search not with philosophical questions...but with Jesus of Nazareth. John Stott

Who is Jesus Christ? You've never met him in person, and you don't know anyone who has. But there is a way to know who he is. How? Jesus Christ—the divine Person revealed in the Bible—has a unique excellence and a spiritual beauty that speaks directly to our souls and says, "Yes, this is truth." It's like seeing the sun and knowing that it is light, or tasting honey and knowing that it is sweet.

John Piper

Among the Jews there suddenly turns up a man who goes about talking as if He was God...Among Pantheists anyone might say that he was a part of God, or one with God: there would be nothing very odd about it. But this man, since He was a Jew, could not mean that kind of god. God, in their language, meant the Being outside the world Who had made it and was infinitely different from anything else. And



when you have grasped that, you will see that what this man said was, quite simply, the most shocking thing that has ever been uttered by human lips. C.S. Lewis

The claims of Jesus are so startling that they...challenge us to make up our minds about this most remarkable person. Was he just a great teacher or was he much more? Michael Green

Everyone who comes in contact with Jesus has rendered a judgment on him. Even ignoring him is a decision about his identity.

Kevin DeYoung

Reared in a carpenter shop... this young man gathered disciples about Him, and proclaimed Himself the Messiah. He taught and performed miracles for a few brief months and then was crucified; His disciples were scattered and many of them put to death; His claims were disputed, His resurrection denied and His followers persecuted; and yet from this beginning His religion spread until hundreds of millions have taken His name with reverence upon their lips and millions have been willing to die rather than surrender the faith which He put into their hearts. How shall we account for Him? "What think ye of Christ?" It is easier to believe Him divine than to explain in any other

way what He said and did and was.

-William Jennings Bryan

The real question is not what are we to make of Christ, but what is He to make of us? The picture of a fly sitting deciding what it is going to make of an elephant has comic elements about it. C.S. Lewis

It takes a fantastic will to unbelief to suppose that Jesus never really "happened," and more to suppose that he did not say the things recorded of him—so incapable of being "invented" by anyone in the world at that time...We must therefore either believe in Him and in what He said and take the consequences; or reject Him and take the consequences.

J.R.R. Tolkien

The most important question in anyone's life is the question asked by poor Pilate in Matthew 27:22: "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?" No other question in the whole sweep of human experience is as important as this. It is the choice between life

and death, between meaningless existence and life abundant.

Dale Evans Rogers

After six years given to the impartial investigation of Christianity, as to its truth or falsity, I have come to the deliberate conclusion that Jesus Christ was the Messiah of the Jews, the Saviour of the world, and my personal Saviour. Lew Wallace

The battle for human souls pivots on the issue of Christ's identity. He's the watershed, the dividing line between Hell and Heaven. Who do you believe, in your mind and deep in your heart, that he really is? Every person must give an answer—and whether our answer is right could not be more consequential or eternally significant. Randy Alcorn

No human has changed the world more than Jesus, as demonstrated by the many great statements written about him through the ages. In **It's All About Jesus**, author Randy Alcorn has compiled some of the most powerful and inspiring words ever said about the Son of God—words that will inspire, instruct, and encourage you to love, trust, and follow Him.

Randy Alcorn (@randyalcorn) is the author of over sixty books and the founder and director of *Eternal Perspective Ministries*.



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CONT'D FROM PAGE 4: "Confidence?"

There are endless signposts in God Word, more than enough to encourage us in this new year. When our trust begins to falter let's remember that we

can "approach God with freedom and confidence" (Ephesians 3:12.) Let's stand confidently on God's promises for 2024!

CONT'D FROM PAGE 8: "CELEBRATING A MINISTRY WELL DONE"

Each year a Gideon speaker shares how God is using His Word to reach people for Christ around the World. A good offering is received each year from this service and is used to purchase more Bibles for the Gideons to distribute world-wide.

All these activities and ministries to establish and further the Gospel of Christ and to meet the physical needs

of people in this area are part of the legacy that Pastor Jim and Miss Marilyn leave. Praise the Lord! We are truly celebrating a **MINISTRY WELL DONE. GLORY TO GOD!**

We know that God will continue to use this amazing couple wherever God takes them! Thank you, Pastor Jim and Miss Marilyn! We will miss you!

CONT'D FROM PAGE 9: "THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE..."

without a nudge from God. The father of modern astronomy, Sir Fred Hoyle, calculated that the odds of the most basic protein enzymes needed for the simplest life-form, a simple single cell, to arise from inorganic molecules by random chance was 1 in 1040,000! That is an inconceivably large number, which may be a theoretical probability but not physically or realistically possible; and that probability calculation does not include the probability for the random formation of the cell's DNA – which is much more complex!

With regards to the creation of the universe and life, the God

theory rationally wins the debate because of the abundant logical and convincing evidence which supports it -- as compared with the irrational and unsubstantiated atheistic materialism hypothesis of a chance spawned Spontaneous Creation Event from nothing.

Jesus is the answer to the proverbial philosophical question, "Why is there Something rather than Nothing?"

For questions and comments, please email Kelly Walters at walterskj81@gmail.com

10 Ways You Can Help The Ambassador Ministry

1. Pray with us and for us to not only sustain but to grow in impact. Pray for our health and for spiritual protection
2. Read it yourself – You will be enriched by reading it.
3. Share a copy or an article with someone- you will have someone in your life benefit from an article in every issue, cut it out and send it to them, or send them the whole issue
4. Leave a copy of The Ambassador when you're having coffee or a meal or waiting for your car. Use it like a tract. It may be less intimidation.
5. Monitor The Ambassador at your church: assure its presence and visibility

6. Subscribe for a friend or family member (or yourself)
7. Find new locations- ask businesses that you frequent to take some papers, deliver and monitor them
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10. Talk to your like-minded Christian friends, family, business associates and church leadership, about helping as well.

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The Boiling Cauldron of Chemical Abortion Life Legal Defense Foundation

As pro-life states, after the collapse of Roe, work to enact laws that protect human life by making brick-and-mortar murder mills illegal, the abortion syndicate and its allies in government are turning more and more to chemical abortion as a way of circumventing these protections. We at Life Legal have been fighting on this front and are preparing to expand our efforts in response to the challenge.

Clearly, chemical abortion is in itself nothing new. When the Hippocratic tradition and early Christianity formulated their opposition to the murder of the child in the womb, chemicals were the principal means of inducing abortion. The Hippocratic Oath specifies a pessary – or poison-soaked suppository—as the typical abortion method forbidden to practitioners. Many New Testament scholars believe that this is one of the practices condemned as “sorcery” (pharmakeia) in Scripture.

Those witch doctors are still around—and their homicidal brews are being promoted as never before.

The most popular abortifacient drug on the market right now is mifepristone, a steroidal compound also known as



RU486 and peddled under the trade name Mifeprex. It is normally used in combination with another medication known as misoprostol to induce abortion. If you’ve seen the movie *Unplanned*, you may remember that this procedure was used to terminate Abby Johnson’s child before she converted to a pro-life position. The horrible pain and bleeding endured by the mother in that scene are typical reactions to the drugs, and come as a shock to women who have been assured that they can just pop the pills and become magically unpregnant. Another common shock is passing the “mass of tissue” that looks uncomfortably like the baby that it is.

As of 2020, chemical abortion accounted for a clear majority of baby-killing in the U.S.: 54 percent.

But that’s nothing compared to what the impresarios of annihilation have planned. They are pulling out all the stops to make mifepristone easily available everywhere, including by mail. The Biden FDA has removed virtually every abortifacient safeguard and no longer collects data on adverse effects short of death—even though thousands of women have suffered bleeding, infections, blood clots, and other dangerous side effects.

The use of mifepristone, and of abortion drugs in general, is so fraught with danger that its French developer, Roussel-Uclaf, sidestepped the threat of U.S. lawsuits by licensing the product, free of charge, to the non-profit Population Council, which in turn licensed it to Danco

Laboratories. Danco’s sole concerns are manufacturing, and peddling mifepristone. It does not produce any other drugs.

Danco was especially founded to evade both boycotts and legal consequences, but its shadowy operators are not immune to the sort of legal action that is our specialty. Indeed, we have already achieved one success in this area.

In April of this year, we proved that Danco was not beyond consequences by winning a whistleblower lawsuit under the False Claims Act. Under considerable pressure, the abortifacient profiteer was persuaded to agree to a settlement of \$765,000. True to abortionist form, Danco had mislabeled the drug, which it imports from China, and avoided U.S. tariffs. Since Danco is the sole distributor of mifepristone in this country, the loss it suffered constitutes significant damage to this burgeoning branch of the child-killing industry.

Still, to us at Life Legal, this damage is only the beginning of a long-term campaign against chemical abortion.

NEW YEAR NEW START

“May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed.”

Psalm 20:4 (NIV)



Kug's Kolumn

There are many reasons to join the Yuba-Sutter CCN (they are found in our application for membership), but I want to focus on just one in this article. Your membership dues made it possible for the CCN to award \$8,000 to the following CCN member ministries! All Glory to God and thanks to all our CCN members as well.

One objection that we hear when we invite someone to join the CCN is, "I can't attend many lunch meetings because of my schedule." Though we encourage attendance, that should not be an obstacle to joining. Most of us support different organizations whether we can go to their meetings or not. We do so because we support the cause. We hope to double our membership for 2024 so we can bless more of our ministry members. We also have other plans to impact our community for Christ – more on that when we mail out our member

renewals in January. If you are a current member, thank you. We look forward to your renewal in 2024. If you're not a member, please consider joining us so that together we can "Build up Christians and Lift up Christ" (CCN motto) in the Yuba-Sutter area. Listed below are our 2023 member ministry recipients. Merry Christmas!

LifeLove \$300

Showing the love and provision of Christ by meeting someone's immediate needs.

Feather River Men's Center \$500

Storage Unit to provide more interior space. We are looking to add Transitional Living for 2 students who have graduated, but still need a safe place to re-enter society.

Mt Hope Bible Camp \$1,500

These funds would be used to repair a breezeway awning that was destroyed



during this year's storms and to build a deck under the awning.

REST: \$1,200

Currently in need of a couple laptops for our guests to use to access services, educational resources, and search for work.

Yuba Sutter Young Life: \$1,000

We have reopened our middle school program. We are hoping to take them to winter camp in February. Camp costs have gone up (due to inflation) so we want to be able to provide camp at a lower cost to them. Especially since a

majority of our students come from low income families.

Lydia's House \$1,000

3-day prayer retreat for the women and staff

Twin Cities Rescue Mission: \$2,500

As the new Director here, I can honestly say that the projects are too numerous to state on this form. We have broken plumbing, lighting issues and many other immediate needs to bring the facility up to par. However, we are humbled by any offer to help.

David Kugelman is the president of the Christian Community Network which meets each Tuesday at noon at various locations. Dave welcomes your questions or comments on this article at drkug@comcast.net

Just For Laughs...

PECANS IN THE CEMETERY

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree out of sight, and began dividing the nuts. "One for you, one for me" said one boy. Several dropped and rolled down toward the fence. Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me." He just knew what it was, so he jumped back on his bike and rode off.

Now just around the bend he met an old man with a cane hobbling along. "Come here quick," said the boy. "You won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery diving the souls." The man said, "Beat it kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk". When the boy insisted though, the man hobbled to the cemetery. Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you,..." The old man whispered, "Boy you've been telling the truth. Lets see if we can see the Lord". Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord. At last they heard, "One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done". They say the old man made it back to town a full five minutes ahead of the boy on the bike!



OP/ED

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WOKE & WOKE-ISM

By Jon Skillman

The word “woke” is being bantered about as being righteous, good and just. I have not, as of yet, seen just what the word “woke” actually means, so I set out to see if there was an actual definition. My Google search found that both the Oxford and Cambridge dictionaries define woke as: aware of social and political issues, especially racism and equality. My search also stumbled over a new ism...woke-ism. An ism is defined as: 1) A distinctive doctrine, cause or theory. 2) an oppressive and especially discriminatory attitude or belief such as racism. Hence, woke-ism is defined as: “Weaponized personal grievances, masquerading as a genuine social concern. It’s defined by its fraudulent nature, as being distinct from legitimate social grievances.” Ah... yeah...I guess.

As near as I can figure, woke-ism can be used to turn evil good and good evil (see Isaiah 5:20) while at the same time making those practicing woke-ism appear virtuous in their support and acceptance of that which is a perversion of God’s truth. So being woke (aware) of such things is okay until you, ism-ize your woke-ness by living, supporting or accepting them as truth.

In our current culture where actual truth has become relative rather than objective, there is no need for logic, reason or common sense where woke-

ism rules the day. I think this is telling us, as Christians, we can be woke (aware) of social issues as long as we don’t apply any isms that attempts to manipulates God’s Word. The truth of God cannot be manipulated because He never changes; “For I the Lord do not change...” Malachi 3:6. (side note) God does not lie either! “...it is impossible for God to lie...” Hebrews 6:18.

We cannot accept, condone or support anything that conflicts with the nature or God. So how are we to react to those who are caught up in the sins of woke-ism, i.e. the sins of abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism and a host of other sinful lifestyles that permeate our society today? Galatian’s 6:1 “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.” And, 1 Timothy 5: 22 says, “Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, nor take part in the sins of others; keep yourselves pure.” This is not easily done in an age of cancel culture, a culture Jesus warns us about in Mark 13:13, “All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”

I guess what I’m trying to say is: If you must be woke be woke to the Father, be woke to the Son and the Holy Spirit...then you will be practicing God-ism!

For questions or comments, contact Jon Skillman at jps9788@sbcglobal.net

A NEW YEAR, A NEW HOPE, A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!

2023 is behind us and 2024 is staring us in the face. To be honest, 2023 was a year I could not wait to say good riddance to. It was probably the worst year of my life, all things considered. And this is following years of Covid, vaccines, and so much more chaos. But 2023 began and ended with health issues (physical and mental), financial difficulties, and relationship turmoil.

I realize that these don’t suddenly disappear at the change of the calendar. Therefore, I need to put in the work to make the changes necessary. One of the most important changes is in the area of my thinking. Distorted thinking (technically known as cognitive distortion) has to do with perceiving things inaccurately. For example, making everything personal, jumping to conclusions, having all or nothing thinking, etc. It’s easy to fall into this but it takes work to climb out of it.

In light of my own experience, and understanding that depression and anxiety issues now affect about 1 in 3 people including those in church, I have begun a new Facebook page I’ve named “Helpful Tips for Christians Battling Depression & Anxiety”. I began posting tips, suggestions, and encouragement just before Christmas. If you could use some non-judgemental words that might help from someone who loves and trust Jesus and also



Seth Halpern - Editor

knows and experiences the life-damaging suffering that Depression & Anxiety can bring, then I hope you will Follow or Like that page. My goal is to bring life-giving words of hope and practical suggestions at least 3 times per week.

I also want to encourage you to either attend or watch online the Sound Mind series that Adventure Church in Yuba City will be starting on January 7th. I rarely promote a specific church in my editorials but I want to promote this series because it is aligned with my desire to see Christians free of Mental Health Struggles. For more info on the Sound Mind series, see p. 11.

Let’s pray that 2024 is a year of healing of struggles in mental health through seeking the Lord’s healing, our commitment, breaking stigma, and willingness to seek help without shame!

The Ambassador accepts opinions and editorials (op-ed’s) as long as they are well-written and less than 450 words. Op-ed’s will be published purely at the discretion of the editor. If you would like to submit your op-ed, please email it (written in MS Word) to editor@ambassadornewspaper.com.

The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month for the next issue.

PRAYER
changes everything.

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2024



I'm walking into 2024
with a clear heart and mind.

If you owe me – don't worry about,
you're welcome. If you've wronged me,
it's all good– lesson learned. If you're
angry with me, you won– I've let it go.

If we're not speaking, it's cool–
I wish you well. If have wronged you,
I'm sorry– it wasn't intentional.

I am grateful for every experience
I have received. Life is too short for
pent up anger, grudges, stress or pain.

Forgiveness is a gift you give to
yourself. Let's make 2024 a Year
of Forgiveness and a Season
of Positivity.

HERE'S TO A GREAT 2024!