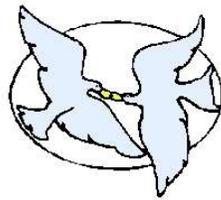


**EVOLUTIONISTS!**  
  
**CREATION**

*As Plain and Easy As It Gets!*



*Billy D. Thornton*

## Table of Contents

### Creation, as recorded in the Bible

1.	The Universe	5
2.	The Body	14
3.	The Missing Link	26
4.	The Sun	30
5.	The Truth	33
6.	The History	48
7.	The Law	57
8.	The God and Christ	63
9.	The Nature	77
10.	The Sport	88
11.	The Technology	99
12.	The Thanks	103
13.	The Life and Death	110
14.	The Holidays	111
15.	The Story of “Conquest”	119
16.	The Rest Conquest Articles	120

### The Book-Preamble

Has everything about creation and evolution already been said, and/or written? I've compiled these thoughts from out of my past and when I use items from other persons, I give credit to those persons wherever possible, who may not even be living by now.

If you call yourself an evolutionist, then probably you also consider yourself an atheist, and I must assume that you don't believe in God, nor do you believe that the book we Christians call the "Holy Bible" is the inspired word of God, and so is indisputable. And so, although I'll refer to it from time to time, my main mission is just to show with common sense that it's harder to believe that the universe came about by chance, rather than being created by God.

Although the book is divided into specific chapters, there are areas where a subject "spills over." It's not possible to divide subject matter totally, but naming the chapters help in case you want to look back for a thing you've read.

Much of my material is taken from articles I've written for a brief program I do (at this writing) on my radio stations, KMAM-AM and KMOE-FM, which aim at non-Christians, hoping that some word I give will cause a person to give his or her heart to the Lord. And so there are minor repetitions from time to time throughout the book. Forgive that. The writings I call "Conquest" began when I was writing for a Christian TV Station in Kansas City, Missouri. When it sold and changed formats, I kept on writing my "inspirational" articles, using the same name. I add the Conquest article I use on that program, to my website, which is [www.billthorntonconquests.com](http://www.billthorntonconquests.com) I also write songs and poetry. Nice hobbies, to keep me out of mischief.

I don't get too wordy nor too deep. I just talk in common sense terms. You take it from there.

## Creation as recorded in the Bible

Creation is mentioned throughout the Bible, from the very first verse of Genesis, through Moses' Deuteronomy, David's Psalms, and Solomon's Ecclesiastes. Also fifteen times by Isaiah and numerous times by Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos and Malachi, all in the Old Testament...

In the New Testament by Mark, by Paul to the Romans, the Corinthians, the Ephesians, the Colossians, to Timothy, by Peter, and by John in the last book of the Bible, the Revelation. And the creation is mentioned in many other places in the Bible under the words "made" and other synonyms

And all of these agree on the subject. None disagree. And all prophecies have happened, except some in the Book of Revelation that concern future events and the end of the world.

This is a remarkable concurrence. Read even two books on World War Two and you'll find areas where writers disagree.

As for evolution, if it could have been possible, how, and at what period of time did it decide that a female was necessary, to mate and increase mankind?

There is no room in any capacity for this, nor evolution itself, to have happened by chance. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1.)"

Thank you for considering the words written here.

*Bill Thornton*

### The Universe

Here's a question for my friends who believe in evolution: When did gravity begin. Who made the "Law of gravity," and where did the planet or star or whatever come from, for gravity to be needed. It couldn't have "developed" gradually.

We know that gravity's strength lies in the mass of the cosmos which causes gravity, so where did that mass come from. The earth's gravitational pull is six times stronger than that of the moon, because the moon is smaller. That's why our astronauts who walked on the moon weighed one-sixth of their weight on earth, and that's why the structure that lifted them off the moon and back to the orbiting spacecraft for the ride home, was so much smaller than the gigantic blowtorch that lifted them off the earth beforehand. It only had to lift a fraction of the load...a guesstimate is 1/20<sup>th</sup>, or about 5%...as it did in leaving the earth.

And if our world began through evolution, how did it arrange for oxygen to reach only to about 10,000 feet above the earth. And oxygen from leaves isn't a reason...it's the same over the Sahara Desert as it is over the millions of acres of green trees across our land.

We've wondered elsewhere in this writing about how it is that our sun has never-ending oxygen to continue burning, when scientific studies have shown that the sun and our earth are the only planets where that oxygen is found.

They still don't know how a giraffe's heart can continue pumping blood to that animal's head as it moves from ground-level to eighteen feet high in the air in a moment's time. And so the only conclusion we who believe in God, can come to...that He is the Creator. That nothing could have existed for millions of years while it evolved from nothing to the amazing specimens that plants, animals, humans and the universe itself without a Supreme Being speaking it into existence.

If you still question, study the Bible source. Many have done so and their eyes were opened. At this writing in 2008, my wife, Louise, has recently received a Cochlear Implant surgery so she could again hear. She had, over the years, lost all her hearing in the left ear, and about 75% in her right ear. After years of trying all kinds of hearing aids at the cost of thousands of dollars, a specialist told her that a Cochlear Implant was the only thing left to do.

This involves placing an item about the size of a half-dollar under the scalp near the deaf ear, then running a wire through the skull bone, going past the faulty ear parts, to a place where it was permanently connected inside her head. It took about an hour and a half, to hear again.

I'm telling you about this to point out that here was a man-made miracle. Of course God gave Man the knowledge to do this. And just a couple of hours before we headed for St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City to get this miracle done, our earth stopped its annual tilt that makes our seasons, and started tilting back the other direction, to bring spring to our land. How much greater was God's miracle than this little thing of making Louise hear again!

And here's my point: This plan was part of God's plan for the universe when He created it. And our earth has tilted back and forth, year after year, century, timed to the second, never failing. So constant that scientists rely on it without question in timing. And remember that the earth itself is spinning in perpetual motion to make our night and day, thanks to the sun He also created. And remember that this earth is circling the sun once a year, again so precisely that scientists can tell you the second it will be at a certain place, as far into the future as they want to check it with their computers. All by chance? No.

If neither creation nor evolution can be “proved,” why not at least be fair and let both be taught as “theories” in our schools.

But no; the evolutionists want no part of fairness. They want evolution taught as the one and only way the universe came about. They feel this is all the “proof” needed; that evolutionists want no one to question their belief...which only came about after Charles Darwin made a trip to the Galapagos Islands and in 1859 published the book “On the Origin of Species.”

Suppose the theory of evolution was true...how could it answer the indisputable facts of the order of the universe. How could all these precise-acting planets and stars have come about, atom by atom?

All by chance? Well, take a thing like an eclipse. For example, a solar eclipse is when the moon comes between the sun and the earth, shutting off the sun’s light for a brief period of time.

I don’t know all the stuff about lunar and solar and the other ways they may have eclipses figured out, but one thing is sure. They HAVE figured them out.

The people who study those things can tell you when the next eclipse will be, what kind it will be, where you can go on the earth to see it best...they know all that stuff for the next one, and all those for the next few hundreds of years. Who knows how far ahead they’ve figured them out.

And they can tell you to the second when a certain one will begin and when it will end. Isn’t that amazing? Our universe is set up so perfectly that scientists can tell us to the nth degree...precisely where a star or a planet will be at a certain time. Because SOMETHING...or SOMEONE...set up the plan, and willed it to stay that way.

Do you remember the movie, “A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court?” I don’t recall the details exactly, but I’ll get the idea across to you. Bing Crosby gets hit on the head and wakes up back in the days of King Arthur. They decide he’s a monster or something, and decide to kill him. But on the day he’s to be killed, he recalls that an eclipse is going to occur on that very day, at a certain hour, and just before it’s time, he tells them they’re going to be sorry if they don’t free him. And of course they refuse, and of course he mumbles and gestures and suddenly the sky starts to darken.

By the time he “allows” the sky to lighten again, they’ve decided that he’s one to be reckoned with, and he becomes someone special. But the point is, that in stories and in reality, eclipses are accepted, and no one questions it when they see in the paper or on TV, exactly when they can see the next one.

And take perpetual motion. Impossible. Except for the plan of the universe. The earth spins...oh, at around 25 thousand miles an hour at the equator. And as it spins, it moves around the sun. And as it spins and moves, it tilts. For six months it tilts one way, then at a precise moment, it stops and starts tilting back the other way. And that’s how we get our seasons, so farmers can know when to plow and when to plant and when to reap.

And the earth has been going through those three motions for as long as scientists care to guess, and before. And it’s all by chance?

Of course, everything in the universe is also in motion, on planned paths. And it’s so commonly known, that you can see in the weather news when certain planets will be aligned in certain ways.

The people at NASA used that type of information to put Man on the moon in 1968. And although on May 25, 1961, President John Kennedy committed the United States to put a man on the moon in the 1960's, a project called "Apollo" was already in the works at that time. And on December 21, 1968, the trip was begun.

Because all the universe is in constant and precise motion, they didn't aim the space craft at the moon. No, it had to take a path that would arc across the 238,833 miles, more or less, from earth to the moon, so that the craft would get to the moon at the right place, at the right time! I say "more or less" because the moon has a 28-day orbit, and so the distance on a straight line from earth to the moon varies, according to the time of month.

And Isn't it amazing, how the people at NASA thought of so many things, even before the initial flight. Even the fact that with no atmosphere on the moon, that our flag wouldn't unfurl to show the stars and stripes, and so the flag was attached to an extension that would hold it open.

And that since gravity on the moon is one/sixth of what it is on earth, that the fuel required to blast off the moon (to return to the mother vehicle that was waiting in orbit) for the return trip home, was much less than one-sixth of what was needed to leave earth...as I said earlier...a guesstimate would be 1/20<sup>th</sup>, or five percent of what it takes to leave the earth.

Here's a story that you'll have to either believe or discard, because I don't have the names of the scientists involved. And you'll have to believe the Christian's Bible concerning two events that are more mind-boggling than our trip to the moon.

If anyone should ask you what you consider the most miraculous thing recorded in the Bible, chances are you'd think first of the parting of the Red Sea.

But there's a miracle in the Bible that only gets a few lines, but may have been the greatest...the most impossible in human eyes...that ever happened.

It's in the book of Second Kings, the 20th chapter. King Hezekiah has gotten very sick, and God tells the prophet Isaiah to give the king the bad news that he's dying, and to set his affairs in order. But Hezekiah prays, and God gives him 15 more years of life.

But does Hezekiah let it go at that? No...he wants a sign, and Isaiah says "Alright, do you want the shadow on the sundial to move forward ten degrees? And Hezekiah says "No...it moves forward on its own, so have it go BACK ten degrees. And it happens.

Can you imagine what would happen to earth if anything, or anyone but God caused such a thing? Of course God could do it, but in the natural, the earth is spinning at about a thousand miles per hour at the equator, and backing it up ten degrees (40 minutes if I've calculated correctly) would throw everyone and everything off our planet. Chaos in ways we can't imagine.

Yet to God, who created the universe, it's as easy as stopping a toothache. And we aren't finished with this story. At another time, God had the sun stand still for almost a day at Gideon, so Joshua could complete a battle (10th chapter of Joshua).

Well, after computers came into use, scientists used it to calculate correct historical time, and they found one day missing. One of them recalled Joshua's battle, but it was short of the full missing day by 40 minutes.

Then one of them recalled the incident in which the sun's shadow was set back ten degrees, which amounted to 20 by the time the sun moved backward twice. And the two incidents added up to the missing 24 hours.

The Bible is an interesting book. Try reading it sometime.

None of this would have been possible without a Guiding Hand that had set all this in motion when time began. Again...if evolution was the true way of all beginnings, how could it explain the origin of matter, or life itself. Yet books, TV nature shows...all those things have capitulated, and show evolution as fact. They don't want the word "creation" to be uttered.

All by chance? No chance.

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Remember Rip Van Winkle, who went hunting with his dog and fell asleep on a mountainside and slept for 20 years? When he awoke, his gun was rusty and his dog was gone, and he almost didn't find anyone at home who knew him. Of course when you're asleep, you have no impression of time passing, but he finally realized what had happened to him.

Suppose someone had gone to sleep 20 years ago, here in our time. He'd probably get run over by something before he could waken, but if he made it, he'd wonder why the phones do what a whole office used to do...computers have so much information in them you can't digest it all...what happened to good TV And why do most business names have the word "Mart" in them.

And when they'd start to explain satellites to him, he'd have to do like we do. We can't see them, but we know they're up there. Call it FAITH.

And faith is what we Christians use to know that God and Christ are up there. (Yes, Christ was with God even at the time of Creation ((Genesis 1:26). And although we can't see them, the whole universe cries out that God is real. And our hearts agree.

When you look at the perfection of anything from an atom to a human, you can see it didn't happen by chance. And the human body, before sin started its ravaging, was TOTAL perfection, and will be again in Heaven. Adam and Eve's bodies were created to stay perfect and not even have to see death, because they were allowed to eat from the Tree of Life. It wasn't until they ate of the Tree of Knowledge that they got into trouble.

Legend says a little girl, Pandora, opened a certain box and let evil out. But we know it isn't so. The Bible tells it like it was, and like it is, and like it will be. Try reading it.  
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You know, when God made the earth, He really knew what He was doing. Of course that's the understatement of all time, but think about it...

What would the world be without...green. The color green. Drive down any street, or look across any field or mountain range and think what things would be like without green coloring. Or blue skies. Or golden sunsets. Color is magic!

Or think about music. I admit there are some people who don't like it. At least they CLAIM, they don't like it, but surely they enjoy the song of the birds, or crickets, or something. And when you think of the music of the world...plain or fancy, from mountaineer ballads to opera...there's enough music to go around, no matter what your fancy.

Or what about salt. Without salt, no one would enjoy food, so a lot of those exercise programs would be out of business. But if you can imagine having to eat just to stay alive, with absolutely no enjoyment to sitting down to a steak, or a piece of ham...it would really take the joy out of life.

And sugar. Picture this world without sugar. No sweetness...no chocolate...no pie...no PEANUT CLUSTERS! That would really take the fun out of living. For me at least.

One more: Directions! In the Bible, Proverbs 8:27-29, Solomon says, (Wisdom, speaking of God), "When he prepared the heavens, I was there; when he set a compass upon the face of the depth; when he established the clouds above; when he strengthened the fountains of the deep; when he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment; when he appointed the foundations of the earth..."

Think what confusion there would be if we didn't have north and south and east and west (Psalms 89:12). This is another that, like gravity, we don't even think about. Looking at a map, the top is north, and what a mess if we didn't have the North Star, which stays in its place and before Man invented fancy equipment dedicated to directions, sailors kept tabs on where they were by using it as a reference. Cloudy? Tough.

And I've just named five things. Yes, God made things that even those people who claim they don't believe in Him, enjoy every day. They bow to God whether they want to or not.

Try to remember to thank Him every day...as many times during the day as it comes to your mind...for the wonderful things He has given us. I can hear my Dad, right now, the way he'd just be driving along the highway, or walking, and you'd hear him say, "Oh bless the Lord."

Try it. It's the least you can do for God.

## The Body

God knew about stereo, eons before Charles Darwin thought up evolution. That's why God gave us two ears instead of just one. Two really make a difference!

Let's see. In order for a human to live, it must have a heart...lungs...liver...kidneys...stomach, and all the things that go with it...it must have all those veins. And for us to consider it complete, it needs eyes, ears, a way to breathe...the five senses...the list is as long as your knowledge of it.

I have a book titled, I believe, "Gray's Anatomy." I could be wrong about some things like that, but my reason for writing this book is simply to point out the fallacy in some people thinking that the universe came "by chance." And so if I get a name or a title wrong, it's just not important. "Gray's Anatomy" names the many, many parts of the body. And even that book is not a complete compilation. And it took centuries...for many people to spend their lives to studying the human body before such a book could be put together.

You know how you suffer when you get a paper cut on a finger? Or have you ever had a broken bone. Didn't feel good. Physicians have books and lists to go by when you go to them with a physical problem, and if you think you're unfortunate when something goes wrong with a part of your body, think about the thousands of things...maybe millions, for all I know...that do NOT go wrong! We can't imagine how many things just keep on working, even when we're sick as a dog, as the saying goes.

How could a body survive without even one of our most vital organs. If we did evolve from a minute "something," how did our bodies live before acquiring all these necessities

Here's a strong case in point. Please read it carefully, because in the end, it makes a strong case. It's by Doctor Paul Brand and Philip Yancey, whom I've spoken of in other parts of this book.

They point out that the female runner is slower than the male because of the pelvis. The projections on the man's pelvis allow for more powerful muscles, but a woman equipped with them could not bear a child. Similarly, Brand and Yancey say, a man's hip sockets are closer together, nearer the center of gravity, which enables more efficient movement.

If a woman's were similarly designed, there would be no room for the baby's head to exit. So the odd pelvic bone represents a summation of many different requirements, and any woman who complains about these facts should be reminded that the human race depends on her being just the shape she is.

Bearing this in mind, if it had taken millions of years for the female body to evolve to the point that it could bear a child, it would have died out eons before the child-bearing ability came to fore. And so...no people.

One more thought along that line...suppose the evolution theory WAS true...considering the human body, would it develop from a just-born baby, or an adult human. Bear in mind that a baby has to be tended to almost every moment for the first few years. Who would do that chore. The theory just doesn't work.

Years ago, I read an article by someone named Lowell Eason. He told about a man who was walking in the woods, when he came upon a wristwatch that had the correct time on it and seemed to be in perfect working order.

Of course he assumed someone had lost it while hiking, or it had fallen from an airplane or some such. At any rate, it had to have a maker. It couldn't have come together by accident.

And how much more complicated are our bodies! In my collection of items having to do with creation and evolution, I have a news-letter article written by someone named Ralph Woerner, who notes that the simplest living cell is more complex than the largest computer ever built.

And he says that to believe that the genetic code happened by chance takes more faith than to believe that it evolved. He reminds that the DNA of just one bacterium has millions of components, all of which must be properly aligned for life to exist. And he concludes that the chance of such a thing assembling itself by accident is absolutely zero.

To go a bit further, Woerner touches on animal breeding...that although, for example, a dog can be bred to a different appearance, but this is not evolution. It's merely a shuffling of the dog's genes. No new genes have been added, and no new life forms have been created in those experiments.

Years ago I ran across a booklet...it seemed to be a Sunday School "Quarterly," so-called because they came out each quarter of the year, and in it was an item by Muriel Larson, which she called "A modern Fable."

Relating as briefly as I can, it started out "Once upon a time there was a beautiful car...a sports model. Then she goes on to say that it had started out as a little piece of metal in the dust. But one day, this piece got tired of being by itself, so it edged over to some other pieces of metal, and before you know it, it had become a battery.

This goes on and on as more pieces of metal evolved themselves into a motor, radiator, and the other necessary parts to be a car, and ultimately became that beautiful sports car, even with seat belts and a horn.

You know where she was going, don't you. To point out that even if this ridiculous story were possible...where did those first pieces of metal come from. They didn't come by evolution. We must believe there's a God somewhere; a God of Creation.

Ponder the tongue, and the hundreds of tastes it experiences. And it can take them at the pace of a snail or a jet plane. It can switch from sweet to sour to salty to zesty to pizza as quickly as you can put them in your mouth. More than one taste at the same time, even.

But its most amazing capacity is the ability to speak! To form words as they're sent to it from the brain. And your destiny rides on how you control it. Great people have fallen because of ill-chosen words, while others, like Elvis, have ridden that member to unbelievable heights. People have used it to harm others, and some...like Billy Graham...used it to change the lives of millions for the better. Even if you don't believe in the Christian's Bible, you must admit that an honest, faithful, pleasant person is a better choice than the murderer, the thief and the liar.

But even a deaf mute who can't say words aloud, can THINK them. And so although James, a half-brother to Jesus Christ, said, "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body," we realize that when you think a word, it has formed in your brain, and can do its work by influencing...by putting the thought into action.

He has the other senses, and can have feelings of love, hate, and all the other attributes of the rest of us. Who can adequately describe the human body.

This is as good a place as any, to touch on “talking with God.” Of course, not only would atheists and evolutionists pooh-pooh such a thing, but a great many Christians don’t understand it; the former because they don’t believe in Him at all, and the latter because their Christianity may be in their heads, but not in their hearts.

No...very, very few have actually heard a voice from Heaven. But many of us hear from Him and recognize who’s speaking. It’s like getting a phone call from an old friend; usually, even with the word “hello,” you know who’s calling. Because you two have a closeness that doesn’t require a formal, “this is Joe calling.” And so it is in “talking” with God or Christ. (You don’t have to wonder which is calling; they both agree).

Let me give you a man-on-the-street type talk with the Lord. From me.

I had decided to dub some of my songs from cassettes to CD, and went to my equipment to take care of it...and my instruction book was gone.

And if you’ve bought any electronic equipment, you know that you must have the instructions unless you work with that piece of gear regularly. And since much of that gear and the instructions are put together in some foreign land, at times the instructions are hilarious...and difficult to follow.

Well, I looked high and low for that book. Then I looked again. Even in places where I knew I wouldn’t have put it. Trunk of the car, the attic, the shed...I looked “everywhere.” Now and then, I’d say, “Lord show me where I put that book.” And then, my mind’s eye looked in a bedroom, behind the recliner, on the floor.

Well, I got up immediately and walked over and looked behind that chair...and there was the instruction book. Right where I had put it so it wouldn’t be stacked on the organ bench

in my music area. I had put it there because company was coming, and I didn't want the music area to look messy.

Yes, I said "Thank you, Lord." I said it several times, and a few times I've thought of it since.

So you don't have to be suffering some big thing for Him to help. It doesn't matter to Him whether it's a big or a small thing. If you don't have a relationship with the Lord, I'd suggest again, as I have so many times, that you get acquainted with Him. He doesn't require a great script...just talk to Him as you would to someone at the kitchen table, and tell Him you're ready to do things His Way.

He's listening. (This story is repeated, unintentionally, on page 72)

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But talk about a mystery. How about the brain. You talk about a computer; there's no comparison between the man-made and the God-made. And it's still claimed that we don't use more than 10 percent of it. And so we may as well consider the brain's capacity as limitless, like the God who made it. A computer's output relies on what's entered into it. You know; GIGO. garbage in-garbage out. But the brain isn't limited like that. It can reason, adding, subtracting and correcting itself.

And when I talk about "my remarkable brain," actually it's my brain that's making this comment. And so it's talking about itself. It's telling my fingers how to type these very words. How could it have thought itself into existence.

Think of all the areas of the brain, each handling its portion of our thoughts and actions. There's no way a human body could have started from a single "something" to become

the wonderfully made thinking, walking, talking, hearing, seeing, sensing thing that is you or me or us.

Have you ever thought about the little parts of the body that are so necessary, yet hardly ever cross your mind? How about fingernails...how you use them to pick up a small object like a needle.

And how about toes. A famous baseball pitcher...my memory may be failing me, but it seems it was "Catfish" Hunter. He was out hunting and accidentally shot off his big toe. I can't remember now whether he was able to pitch at all after that, but it was greatly harmful to his career, because he had lost that balance that's so necessary in a ball player.

Consider the human nose. To start with, why is there hair in our noses and ears. For one thing, to help keep dust and other debris from clogging those important parts.

But one thing at a time. How could the nose come to recognize all the odors it encounters. There are countless types of smells, yet a healthy nose can detect the slightest difference.

And it notices if one is "different" at some point. "This leftover doesn't smell right." The nose is a remarkable thing.

And the ears! What a pair. And if one quits working, the other continues to hum along. Look at a picture of the human ear and its many intricate parts...all of which are needed for good hearing. And it recognizes every sound, from a pin drop to an explosion. And when it doesn't recognize one, it sends a message to the brain..."whoa, what was THAT!"

Here's another thing to think about: If a baby has 350 bones, how is it that the adult has about 206 bones.

It's because a baby's bones are soft so the child can move from the womb into our world. Later, as the bones harden, many fuse together, and so the total count changes. Another reason that if it had taken millions of years for the human body to develop, life would not, and could not, have continued.

In your mind, listen to a waterfall...or a train...or a storm. Loud. And it may surprise you to know that inside the body, there are constant noises. So why don't you hear them. Oh, we hear our stomach grumble once in a while, but normally, if you have the radio and TV off, and no one else is around, and you're settled back with a good book, you think it's quiet.

But no. Blood is swooshing through our veins and arteries, to and from the heart, maybe eighty trips per minute. That can be noisy, but I've read that most of the body's activity is at low frequencies...low enough that our ears don't pick up the sound. And another reason that inside-body sounds are not heard, is that there are no blood vessels in the areas of the ears, so they don't pick up most of the noise. Didn't God think of EVERYthing! Things like this, I would never have thought of, if I didn't read about the results of scientists and others who make studies like these, their lifetime careers.

Some things they haven't figured out yet. Does the body, for some reason, need to snore? And what's the use of that little thing they call an appendix. Anyone who thinks this body evolved from a wee little "something" really should re-think things.

Wouldn't it be something if God let the bodies of unbelievers get on a one-thousand cycle wavelength so they could hear all those noises? That would be a bit of hades, in itself.

When you work for a business and they tell you that a

certain thing must be done a certain way, it may not make sense to you, but you'll learn as you gain experience, that there's a reason for everything.

God operates the same way. Back in the days following creation, cooking over a campfire was the norm, and conditions could make a problem with getting enough heat...under the meat, for example. Pork, for instance, must be cooked well or you can come down with trichinosis. If it's not fully cooked, it can cause intestinal disorders, fever, muscular swelling, insomnia, and of course, pain.

At any rate, one of God's laws in those early nomadic days was simply that His people were not to eat pork. My thinking (the Bible doesn't say this) was that this was the safest way to keep them from coming down with all kinds of health problems from eating pork that wasn't well done. They didn't carry meat thermometers to test what they were cooking back in those days.

And so I figure that abstaining was the simplest way to stay well. The same can be said for several other things...gambling, smoking, drinking and illicit sex.

But here's another interesting thing. In the book of Deuteronomy, 7<sup>th</sup> chapter, God tells Moses and his people to take over the Promised Land gradually, so as not to allow a period of time between running out those already there, and the Israelites moving in. The reason? The 22<sup>nd</sup> verse says God will cast out the present people a little at a time, or else the wild animals would multiply too quickly and become dangerous! Isn't that something.

The more you read the Bible, the more you'll realize that everything God would have you do, is for a good reason. For drugs, "just say no." For God's directives, just say "yes."

The Bible says Jesus Christ was tempted in every way

that we are. Have you ever wondered why?

It was simply that He had to go through our kind of temptations, so He could fully understand our weaknesses. The difference, of course, was that although tempted, He didn't weaken. Through the 40 days He was in the wilderness, going through all this, He didn't sin.

I thought I understood...but not long ago, I got a real object lesson. My wife has a big hearing problem, and I thought I understood THAT, too. But then, something happened, and my left ear became completely blocked. I was totally deaf in that ear. All of a sudden, my hearing was monaural, instead of stereo! If someone on my left said something, my right ear heard it, and it seemed that someone to my right was talking. And I found that I had to concentrate on every word, or my mind wouldn't catch half of what was said. And I had to look at the person who was talking...already doing some lip reading, even without any training.

And finally, I really understood what Louise meant when she would tell me that when she's in a group, with several having conversations among themselves, that she couldn't hear any of what was going on. And when she tells a person she has a hearing problem, they just go right on talking to her. Very embarrassing.

And so we realize that it was necessary for Jesus to go through what we do, so He could completely understand our problems. Even God knows your heartache when you lose a loved one, because He, too, gave His Son on the cross, to bear our sins.

It's a good thing we don't have to go through all of this life's temptations...we couldn't bear it. We have enough

trouble, getting through a few. If you haven't given your heart to Christ, do it and He'll help you from that day on. You won't automatically start having a bed of roses, but He will be there to help you. Talk to Him about it.

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We've heard about the "Big Bang Theory" that the evolutionists cooked up...that a big thing exploded and spread round balls they called "planets" which, all of a sudden made a universe, with all its perfectly-timed and perpetual motion rotations and revolutions.

Couldn't happen. We talk at more length about that on other pages. And we talk about cloning, also in another section. For the moment, let's talk about two other ways their present belief.

Transplants and plastic surgery. Remember going in, however, that plastic surgery has its drawbacks. Did you see Rona Barrett's commercial where she "can't feel her face," and then tries unsuccessfully to smile...due to so many face lifts.

So let's made a partial listing. Begin with steroids for new muscle. A face lift to get the wrinkles out and a hair transplant. Then false teeth, hearing aid and transplanting of a heart, kidney and others they've learned to do. New knees like Joe Namath got after closing out his football days. And get one of those suction processes to take off the extra fat. And teeth and hearing aids.

Get the proper drugs to get you in the right frame of mind...we could go on with the other changes we've learned to

do in this life, but when you compare them to all the things about your body that still can't be corrected...then we remember that no matter how we look, we can't change our true age, and so it's not much of a deal.

Fortunately, this is the natural body we're talking about, and it's really no contest. The other way to become a new person is a supernatural one...the one Jesus talks about.

And it occurs with your soul, when one gives his or her life to Christ. At that time our outlook and our thinking become changed. And although this present body continues its aging, and finally dying, our new person...the changed soul...goes to Heaven and continues to live, as fresh and perfect as a new flower.

It's a new body...similar, I would think, to the one God and Jesus created in Adam. That body wouldn't have died, if he and Eve hadn't eaten of the Tree of Knowledge. Remember...they were allowed to eat of the Tree of Life, until they disobeyed God and eating of the only one He had told them to avoid. But the serpent lied to them, telling them they "would NOT die, as God had warned. The truth was, they would not die immediately, but would later. And at that time the serpent was cursed with crawling instead of walking; would forever be an enemy of Man, and (my thought) his body heat was taken from him. And it was immediate; not over ages of time.

So that new body is the one to go for. Don't talk to an evolutionist; Talk to the Lord about it. Now.

### The Missing Link

Scientists who believe in evolution have a problem.

They can't find the "missing link." We have found many kinds of fossils, but we can't find anything in its changing stage...that stage, for example, of a snake with legs and one without legs.

There's an explanation of that in the Bible...that after the serpent tricked Eve into eating of the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden, and had Adam also eat of it, God put a multi-curse on the serpent. He took away the serpent's ability to talk...took away his ability to walk and proclaimed that he would crawl on his belly from that time on...and put enmity between him and the human, so that he would be a natural enemy of the human. Another thing that isn't mentioned, but is a personal idea of mine, is the curse of making the serpent a cold-blooded creature. One of our greatest blessings is body heat, but the serpent has no such thing, and must get any heat from other sources that he may enjoy.

As for the legs, I've read somewhere in the past, that scientists have found slight indications on the serpent where they feel that legs were attached at some time. It's all very interesting.

As I've written articles I call "Conquests," I seem to get on this subject of "creation" and "evolution" quite often. Maybe because all those nature programs on TV, and school text books (and everywhere else you read on the subject) all tell you that evolution is a fact, and by that are saying that the Bible and Creation are not even to be considered. Try to get equal time for evolution and creation in the kids textbooks. They'll laugh you to scorn.

They won't be laughing when Christ returns.

But think about the plan that I take as fact through faith...the plan laid out by God. Insects appear to be a

problem to we humans, but I'm told that without them, all humanity would be gone in a matter of months. The good they do would be lost, then the larger animals that feed on them would disappear, and on up the line, with flowers and trees following due to lack of pollination and so on.

And as these things died, they'd stay where they fall, because none of the life that feeds on dead animals would be around. For example, deer antlers fall off every year, but you don't see them in the forest because other life eats them for the nutrients found in them. It's that way from the bottom to the top of the life chain.

Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey collaborated on a book called "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made," and in it they speak of taking one block of soil, one foot square and one inch deep, and finding an average of 1,356 living creatures, including 865 mites, 265 springtails, 22 millipedes, 19 adult beetles, and various numbers of 12 other life forms." And they add that without an electron microscope and infinite patience, one could not bother with the two billion bacteria and millions of fungi and algae in that small piece of soil. "My question," as the comedian Jay Leno likes to say, "is...if all things began from one cell (or whatever) how did it think up all these different forms of life, to kick off their existence in this world?"

And yet those people making a living by writing books and producing TV shows without a scrap of evidence, continue to press you to take evolution to be true.

As I mentioned earlier, of all the billions of plants and animals on earth, not one missing link has been found. You

find a monkey; it's a monkey. You find a human skeleton; it's still of a human. No in-between has ever been found. They can show you the remains of a human that has long arms and big jaws and they'll tell you this is one of those in-between stages. But look up and down your street. Some of us are built just like that. They aren't going to find a half-horse/half-man.

As the fellow said upon his first visit to a zoo. Seeing a giraffe, he said, "There ain't no such animal."

Schools teach evolution as fact and kids had better give evolution answers on their tests, but you can tell them where the truth lies. In the Bible, in which no scientist has yet been able to find an error.

Evolutionists don't admit to such as that. They want the Bible stamped out. I believe it was in 1996 that I read a news item about how some business gave 100 Bibles to a school in West Virginia, and the Associated Press story said that students at that public school snatched up all of them even before the first period of that school day began, according to Matthew Kittle, who was the assistant principal at that time.

The story went on to say that the Bibles were among 1,500 distributed in the county's 12 public schools during a brief period of time. The giveaway followed a recent U.S. District Court ruling in favor of the Reverend Eddie McDaniels, along with some parents and business leaders. A Judge Keeley ruled that private individuals could make Bibles available to students, provided the books were not forced upon the children. And school officials also had to post a disclaimer stating they "do not endorse the practice."

realize how things that seem perfectly necessary and convenient...for example, the social security number, bar graphs on merchandise in stores...things like these are coming because there are so many people and items to keep up with. And so it's easy to see that Bible prophecies are being brought about through our own actions...not with lightning striking down from Heaven. Remember Pogo, who used to be in the comics? He (his writer) said, "We have met the enemy and they are us." We humans are coming up with things out of necessity, that are fulfilling Bible prophecy.

Whether you believe that God created the universe or not, you know by now that it revolves around the sun.

And you know that it takes three things to make a fire: heat, oxygen and a combustible material. Without any one of these, you can't make a fire.

Obviously then, there is oxygen-like matter on the sun, because we have telescopes strong enough to see the flames that make the heat that we feel here on earth.

A thing we (or at least, I) don't understand is why the sun doesn't burn up. Why isn't it consumed. Is there a tie-in between the sun and hell, where there is everlasting, eternal fire? And it's interesting to see that the indications in the Bible are that Heaven is "up" and hell is "down."

But that's not important. What we're talking about is whether the universe was created, or came about simply by chance.

We've heard about the "big bang" theory. That a huge "something" exploded and its pieces were thrown out across the universe. Well, common sense again comes to mind as I think, "What happens when a thing explodes.

It shatters into smithereens of bits and pieces. But let's see now...the planets are all rather smoothly round. Oh, they have their hills and valleys like our earth, but you could say that they're round. And that's not the way an exploding thing happens. The plausible way I've heard, and with which I agree...God said, "Let it be, and BANG it was so."

Of course I'm talking about the "Big Bang Theory."

The idea that there was a huge mass of something billions of years ago, and all at once it exploded with a big bang, and this universe was formed.

To begin with, even if that theory was true, there first would have to be the huge mass of something, hanging out on nothing. And when it exploded, it would have to blow into round balls like our planets...not into jagged slivers like what happens when something really DOES explode. And each of those would have to go into perfect orbits like our earth. And like our moon, which orbits around our earth in perfect and everlasting timing.

Let's see...going from the sun outward, there's (including) the newest ones at this writing) Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Ceres, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto and Eris. Each has its idiosyncrasies, like red Mars, Saturn's rings, and so on...but according to discoveries up to now, only the earth and the sun have oxygen. I never see or hear any talk about the sun and my thinking that it must have oxygen in order to have fire, but we know that without oxygen, there would be no life here on the earth.

And speaking of life, I've read that if the earth were a couple of degrees closer to the sun, or farther away from it, that there could be no life here, even though we have the life-sustaining oxygen. What about that. Did our earth take its orbit around the sun, and its tilt for the seasons, and its revolving for night and day, all by chance?

If so, why aren't the other planets thinking themselves some oxygen and oceans for a small, small something to appear from and start thinking itself some humans or apes or something.

And that brings up the age-old question: If Man

evolved from the ape, why are there still apes. Did some of them think they didn't want to be people, and so said, "We choose not to grow thumbs." But they couldn't have thought that, because they can't reason.

There are persons who have devoted their careers to the study of apes, and have taught them a few sounds and/or actions that seem to mean things. But if they evolved into humans, why are they still around.

Christians know this in their souls: When it comes time for this world to end, EVERY knee shall bow to the Lord. There'll be no proud and haughty theories. Each of us will know that God was, is and will be in control. No argument will stand. The Big Question: Will YOU be ready!

At the time of this writing, there was a cartoon in the comics called "Brevity." The cartoon one day showed two creatures from outer space, looking at earth through a spaceship window, and one says to the other, "Hey, just as a goof, let's stop at that planet and build something totally random, like, I dunno...pyramids."

That's not as weird as it seems. Some people will believe anything, and would just as soon believe that's how we got pyramids in Egypt, as to accept the truth.

There are people who still don't believe we put men on the moon. But think...if the government went to such an expense to fool people, what would be in it for them. Not to be able to claim that we beat Russia to that orb, because they would have had spies among the project to prove the rumors wrong. Yes, they're that good...Stalin knew we had the atomic bomb before we used it, and that really perplexed President Truman when he told the Russian leader that we had dropped it on Japan. They were in a Big Three meeting when Truman told him, and Harry was really put out that Stalin hardly blinked an eye at the "news."

Why did people continue to believe the earth was flat during Columbus's time. Anyone watching a ship come toward shore should have had an inkling, when they could see the top of the mast first, then as the ship got nearer, more and more of the ship came into view...proof that it was coming on a curved earthly path.

If I were an atheist (or an evolutionist, because neither

believes in God), reading something written from memory and from things a Christian has read during his lifetime, I'd be saying, "How do I know the Bible is true."

Here are some interesting thoughts. Before the printing press was invented, information that now makes up our Bible was written by hand. This was carefully recorded. Then in 1947, a youngster, who in my mind was a type of Tom Sawyer, was nosing through one of the thousands of caves in what we call the Bible Lands, and he found scrolls that turned out to be manuscripts which we now call the "Dead Sea Scrolls."

They were found to be hundreds of years older than our (at that time) oldest written information about Bible times. And do you know...they gave us the same information that the newer scrolls had. In other words, they were one more way of proof of the Bible's truth.

There are places in the Bible that would seem to contradict, if you hadn't studied the whole book. For example, there were prophecies centuries before Christ was born that said his birthplace would be in Bethlehem.

But another prophecy said "Out of Egypt I have called my Son." But in another place, the Bible says, "He shall be called a Nazarene." But all this is cleared up in the second chapter of the Apostle Matthew.

He was indeed born in Bethlehem, but his earthly parents, Mary and her husband Joseph, were told in a dream to take the child to Egypt, to escape King Herod's attempt to kill him.

Then when Herod had died, another dream told Mary and Joseph that it was safe to return, they turned aside and lived in Nazareth. And so the three areas...Bethlehem, Egypt and Nazareth...were all fulfilled. (2<sup>nd</sup> chap of Luke)

The fact is, of the hundreds of prophecies

concerning Christ, all have come true. Those who have made life-studies on the subject say that there are more than 300 prophecies in the Old Testament alone.

And how astounding is this: A man named Peter Stoner mentions eight prophecies concerning Jesus, and says if they had happened by chance, the probability of all eight being fulfilled in one person are one in ten raised to the 17<sup>th</sup> power. That's one in 100 quadrillion (one followed by 17 zeros).

And he had figured out that if this many silver dollars were laid out on the state of Texas, they would cover the state, two feet deep.

And he continues...if just one of these dollars was marked a certain way and placed somewhere among those dollars, and suppose a man was blindfolded and told he could travel as much as he liked, but finally had one chance to reach down and pick up that marked dollar...that's his probability of picking up the marked one!

I've had personal experiences that prove there is a God overseeing us...the instant healing of my Dad's cancer, and the instant healing of my brother's back problem that had him down and out, and his phone call that he would "be at work tomorrow morning." (He was my right hand man at KMAM/KMOE-FM from it's opening until he died in 1993). But let me tell you about an evangelist named Ken Gaub. His experience should make YOU a believer:

Ken and his family were in their bus, driving west, out in the "wide open spaces," He wasn't paying any attention to exactly where they were, when the family decided to have a sandwich, so they asked him to stop at the next eatery. When they found a place, he decided to stay in the bus.

A little later, he started walking down the sidewalk to

stretch his legs, and as he passed a pay phone, it began ringing. No one else was near, and as the ring was persistent, he finally decided to answer it, to ease the caller.

As he picked up the receiver, the operator said, "Ken Gaub? Is this Ken Gaub? Astounded, Ken stammered, "Yes, but I don't even know where I am...how can someone be calling me HERE!"

By now the operator was getting a little testy, so Ken accepted the call, and it was a woman about to commit suicide, but had decided to call him first. She said, "I must have remembered your office number from some one of your services I attended, because it came to me, and THERE YOU ARE!"

Ken was astounded. "But lady, I don't HAVE an office, and even I don't know what town I'm in right now."

But the lady paid no attention and gushed on, telling him what she was planning, and Brother Ken led her to the Lord then and there, and the suicide plan was out. That's why he calls his book, "God's Got Your Number."

An aside here...today, police can lock a bracelet on a prisoner's ankle and keep tabs on him. Truck drivers have an apparatus in their trucks that track them at all times so their company knows exactly where they are, and whether they're on schedule. And of course cars have this, and even if you lock your keys in the car, they can unlock it from their headquarters.

Any wonder then that God can know where each of us is...that He sees all and knows all? That's why you can talk to Him at any moment and He knows. If you aren't acquainted with Him, I'd suggest you do it now.

Another good reason for believing the Bible is because

of its going into such detail about genealogies, and even in giving measurements for Solomon's building of a temple for God. The Bible gives the lineage of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and also for her husband, Joseph, to show the royal lineage on both sides of the family.

And the Book of "Numbers" in the Bible is so careful in giving information as to the tribes of Israel, that it can even be boring to anyone other than an historian. And the same with the precise instructions given for construction of the Ark in which the Ten Commandments were kept. Measurements are given down to the inch.

In today's world, no book would become a best-seller that spends page after page, giving the hero's family tree back to Adam and Eve, or telling the exact measurements of each room of a house he was building. Yet much of what is called the "Old Testament" of the Bible is spent on these things, and nowhere is error found.

Believing the Bible is much like an airplane pilot, flying blind in weather so bad that he can't rely on his radio. He's thousands of feet up in the air in the black of night with rain pelting his windshield, so he MUST believe his instruments. They're the only guide he's going to get. I've read of pilots who "felt" they were upside-down, or tilting 90 degrees, and no matter what their instruments told them, they flew straight into the ground.

That's why they have "link trainers." It's an airplane cockpit which sits on a foundation inside a building, and it has a hood that puts the pilot in total darkness with only his instruments to guide him. And a few feet from the link trainer is a man at a desk, watching the pilot's "flight" as it draws a route across a piece of paper.

When I was about 13 years of age, I was a paperboy on

a military airbase, and the link trainer buildings were part of my daily route. I've seen that airplane on a foundation, in a spin that the pilot can't get out of, and at a point, the instructor watching the drawing at his desk, tells the pilot that he has crashed.

This is the only safe way to teach a pilot that there are times when he MUST believe his instruments. And by the same token, in reading the Bible, you MUST believe your instrument. We call this "faith."

There once was an interesting TV commercial...I forget what was being advertised, but obviously the setting was back before man invented the flying machine...at any rate, he was on a bridge above a sizeable river, and as the crowd watched, he jumped from the bridge and soared along, above the water.

Of course the crowd was in awe, exclaiming "he's flying!" But an old gentleman spoke up..."But he can't swim." The point it made with me was that no matter what success you enjoy, there will come a day of reckoning, and one should be prepared. Have I mentioned it elsewhere in this publication, that this present world is the only heaven the sinner will ever have, while this is the only hell that the Christian will see. A valid explanation of why those who live for Christ live for that Future Promise of Heaven with Him, where there'll be no death, no sorrow and no parting.

A man named Bruce Feller decided that the Bible was interesting enough for him to hire Avner Goren, a former chief archaeologist of the Sinai during the years when Israel controlled the region, to go with him to visit throughout the Biblical area covered in the first five books of the Bible. He wanted to track down the places and phenomena associated with those books.

Well, it became apparent that although he wasn't trying

to disprove the Bible, he seemed to be looking for ways to strengthen his doubt. For example, he encountered a rare shrub that bears flaming red berries, said to be the burning bush from Moses' first encounter with God.

He saw pillars of salt, some two stories high, in outcroppings by the Dead Sea (remember Lot's wife was turned to a pillar of salt). And he found his explanation of the manna that fell from Heaven...a plant that gave sweet, edible white globs that appear on certain oasis trees in late spring.

But of course we Bible believers remember that Moses and his people were fed for 40 years, every day of the year, from the manna God had appear on the grass each morning. Nevertheless, Bruce's intentions were good.

Moving on, Bible readers will remember that after Joseph died, his descendants were made slaves in Egypt, and one of their major tasks was to make bricks from straw of the fields. And when God directed Moses to ask the Egyptian Pharaoh to let the Israelites go, they received punishment by having to hunt for straw, instead of it being provided. Consequently, as straw became more scarce, they put less and less straw into the bricks they made.

And it's interesting to know that archaeologists have found in their diggings down through the layers of earth that time has left...in that period of Egypt's history, bricks were inferior from having less straw in them.

There are many instances like this one that point to the truths of the Bible, of which none have been disproved, and thus pointing time after time, the truth of Creation.

Billy Graham reminded that "People don't willingly die

for what they know is a lie.” And many have given their lives for Christ.

The reason Christians believe in Creation is because we believe the Bible, and it has hundreds of prophecies that have all come true.

In fact, just the prophecies that Jesus Christ would come, number in the hundreds. So isn't it odd that the date of his birth isn't given? We know about the year, but Christ left nothing, in writing or otherwise, that we could latch onto, and ultimately begin to worship THAT, rather than HIM.

We've chosen a day and we call it Christmas, but it's not to celebrate a birth date; it's only in remembrance of Him. The day He was born, the day He died, and the day He was resurrected must be remembered, revered and perpetuated for every human to accept or deny. But woe to those who deny Him. In the end, it will be better if they had never been born.

No one has been able to disprove Him nor the Bible where His story is told. You may deny Him, or stay on the fence, saying you “don't know” whether He really was the Christ. But try studying the Bible to strengthen your argument. If you're really looking for the truth, you'll end up changing sides. +++

Is the famous "Shroud of Turin" actually the one that Christ was buried in? Of course not. For years, they've been studying a cloth with the markings of a human body on it, taking all kinds of tests and it's still a split decision. Personally, all the mummies and other bodies I've read about had the shroud wound around them. Yet this shroud they continue to study, shows a sheet, spread out long enough to lay a person on, then brought back over the top of the body in one piece.

Yet this shroud they continue to study shows a sheet,

spread out long enough to lay a person on, then brought back over the top of the body in one piece, as if the person was simply laid out on a sheet, with the faded picture of a person's front and back, left on the sheet.

Of all the hoaxes people have fallen for, I feel this even beats the color confusion that modernists tell you is "art" And frankly, when an artists puts both of a figure's eyes on the same side of its head, he's laughing at the buyer. Yet people will spend millions for stuff your pet monkey could improve on.

There are lots of ways to be fooled. The longer you mix a milkshake, the more air whirles into it, making it seem like more shake, but it's just more air. When I was a teen-age "Soda Jerk," I did it when lovers asked for a malt and two straws. Then they would share. The same principle is used on toilet tissue...more air makes it softer, but you get less tissue. That's how a certain toilet tissue manufacturer increased its sales with the slogan "Don't squeeze the\_\_\_\_\_." They simply blew more air into each roll.

And if you don't know a little arithmetic, you don't know whether you're getting a better buy if you choose five for a dollar, or six for a dollar twenty-five. (The five are cheaper). That's why statistics show that 50 percent of shoppers can't understand a grocery ad, because they don't know their math.

And the shroud of Turin, that they'd like you to believe as once wrapped around Christ at His death, could have been wrapped around anyone. If the marks are of ANY person, take my word for it; it's not of Jesus.

God and Christ left nothing personal for us to worship. The only line we know that Christ wrote was done in sand, and was gone in minutes. The Ark is gone. The crown of thorns is gone. An example is found in second Kings, 18:4, where Moses bronze serpent staff (called "Nehushtan") was being worshiped by people. And it's gone. Anything we could worship as representing God or his son, Jesus Christ, is gone, because we are to believe our Bible by faith. The mark of a Christian.

And the men who have come, saying they are the Christ, are gone, making room for new ones. And there will be more of them, and in the Last Days, they'll even do great miracles to fool us. Be sure you're anchored in The Faith of Christ so you won't be taken in by this. It could come at any time now.

What to do? Give your heart to Christ, then study with the help of a Minister who has learned the Word on his knees. He's not in the business of fooling people.

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Do you have trouble comprehending how the soul and the body can part at death, with the soul living on through eternity in a new heavenly body?

Of course, one who believes in evolution could never believe this, because in their thinking, it would take millions of years for a person or thing to think itself through the process. And we who believe in creation know that this transformation occurs instantly, in the "twinkling of an eye," at death. (First Corinthians 15:52...the only place the word "twinkling" is found in the Bible).

Well, look at it this way. Think about your present car getting old, rusty, and giving you trouble every day. You know the kind...they nickel and dime you to death. Or make that DOLLARS.

Then you trade it off and get a brand new car. You don't give the old car another thought. It may as well be at the bottom of the sea, for all you care. It simply doesn't figure in your plans anymore.

Get the point? Same way with this body of ours. While you're alive, you really need it to get around. And when things go wrong, you try to get them fixed. Your wheels quit working, or your battery goes out...just another way of saying your legs or your heart are giving you trouble.

So there comes a time that you trade it off for a new body. Your soul just changes from the driver's seat of the old one, to the new one. Only this time, your car (your body) won't get old. It will last an eternity. And that's why you want to drive it to the right place...to Heaven, where everything is fresh and beautiful. Not to hell, where souls go that have not accepted Jesus as the Christ.

Acts 4:12 says "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

And Romans 10:9 says "...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Say it and mean it and your new "car" is waiting.

God doesn't spring surprises on us. He always tells us ahead of time, the things that will happen. For example, He has warned us many, many times in the Bible that He's coming back for those who have lived for Him. We call it the "Second Coming," since He first came as the Baby Jesus.

The fact that He has told us He'll come back, and that we shouldn't be surprised when it happens, reminds me of when Elijah the prophet was taken up into Heaven. He was one of three persons the Bible tells us of, who did not die, but were taken by the Lord.

The first was Enoch... In Genesis 5:24, it says "And Enoch walked with God and he was not; for God took him." The second was Elijah. Most people have the idea that he was taken up in a fiery chariot, but they don't read it closely... the Bible says "there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them (Elijah and Elisah, his helper) and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. (2 Kings 2:11)., But the thing I was going to point out was that on the day this was going to happen, two different groups of young prophets (100 persons in all) asked Elisha if he knew that God was going to take Elijah on this day, and he told them "yes I know." And of course it happened.

The third who did not die was Melchizedik, and there's no record of his birth, either. (Genesis 14:18-21, Psalms 110:4, Hebrews Chapters 5-6-7)

And so when Christ comes back for His own... the non-Christians who are left here are going to wonder what in the world happened...where did all those people disappear to. Some will even wonder about the empty graves in the world's cemeteries.

But Christ has already explained all this and how it will happen. The only thing He has not told us is that even He does not know the exact time it will happen... He says only His Father, God, knows. And He'll tell Christ at the time He chooses. Interesting, isn't it.

Another thing: The day Elijah was to be taken up, he

asked Elisha what he could do for him, and Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's power. And Elijah said it would happen if Elisha saw him taken up. Then he tried to give Elisha the slip, but Elisha clung to him and the request was granted.

And if you'll read the full account in 2nd Kings, you'll find that Elisha did twice the number of miracles that Elijah had done.. .the final one happening after Elisha's death, when a Moabite's body was thrown into the tomb where Elisha's body already was lain, because robbers were attacking them, and that body came to life! Yes... the Bible is an interesting Book. Try reading it!

And here's more proof of the pudding. In March of 2008, a Christian newspaper called the "Christian Crusade," relates, with pictures, that ancient chariot wheels have been discovered at the bottom of the Red Sea between Egypt and the Sinai wilderness. Divers have found bones and chariot remains in the Gulf of Aqaba, according to the article written by Ron Wyatt.

In 1987, Wyatt himself found three gilded chariot wheels, and as coral doesn't grow on gold, the shape had remained distinct, although the wood inside the gold veneer had rotted away, and so they were too fragile to move, he said. \*

I won't quote the lengthy article, but the story of Moses leading the Israelites across the Red Sea on dry land, then when the Egyptians followed them, the sea closed back upon them, drowning the entire chasing force. The whole fascinating story is found in the Bible, in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of Exodus. However, read before and after that chapter to get the entire story...of manna from Heaven and all the rest.

I'm going to talk about honesty for a couple of minutes. The "FYI" section of the Kansas City Star is one of my favorite sections of the paper, and recently, that section was missing.

\* Take this with a grain of salt, because the Gulf of Aqaba is not in the area of the Jewish crossing the Red Sea. bt

I'm going to talk about honesty for a couple of minutes.

The “FYI” section of the Kansas City Star is one of my favorite sections of the paper, and recently, that section was missing.

Or so I thought. I called the paper, and I could choose to have them mail the section to me, or I could receive credit against today’s paper. Trying to be as little trouble as possible, I told them it would be easier and less expensive to them, to just credit today’s paper.

Well, after two more searches through the paper, I found the section. So now...should I call them back and cause even more trouble and paperwork for them, or just let it go. Of course, I got on the phone and surprise! The button-pushing choices were completely different from my call just minutes before. But I found a human voice finally and explained the whole thing to her, and she deleted the credit. So as Shakespeare said, “All’s well that ends well.” A small matter, but we should be honest to a fault if we want to please the Lord, and our conscience.

It reminded me of when our oldest daughter, Melody, was a youngster, my Mom was talking to her, and Mom said, “Melody, tell the truth, if it takes the hide.” And Melody said, “What’s hide?” Good advice for Melody, even if she did have to have an old southern adage explained to her.

What if. What if everyone was careful to tell the truth, and if a situation changed, to make a correction of what he or she had said, so that the truth remained. What a wonderful world we’d have. No more “the computer went down and caused a glitch.” Or “we’ll get that in the mail today.” Or “your car is ok...you just forgot to turn on the ignition.” Or “your TV is alright...you just didn’t have it plugged in.”

Folks, tell the truth if it takes the hide. Honesty is the best policy, in every case. And God will be pleased with you.

One of the favorite times for self-named “prophets,” or

predictors of the future, to foretell what's going to happen during a new year...is around the first of a new year. Makes sense, because if you pay close attention to world events, the odds are that you'll get close on a couple of them. But even with that low score of success, they'll crow that they knew it all the time. One of my favorite jokes concerning fortune tellers, is the one where the guy gets his future told by the woman with the crystal ball...then gets up and walks out. As he leaves, he looks back and says, "You should have known I wouldn't pay you."

And that's about the size of it. Don't waste your money on such things. If you want to be taken for a ride, see the big wheel at the carnival...Mr. Ferris.

In contrast, though, the Holy Bible is full of prophecies and predictions that were many years ahead, and all came true. For example, the prophet Micah, predicting the coming of Jesus Christ back in about 744 B.C., said, (Living Bible version) "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah,. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past." And of course, Jesus was born in Bethlehem 700 years later.

As a matter of fact, Jesus fulfilled 332 distinct prophecies from the Old Testament. I've read that the odds of such a thing happening is 840 plus 96 zeros! As for His coming again, in what Christians call the "rapture;" the time when He'll come back for those who have believed in Him...there are 1,845 predictions in the Bible of His second coming. It will happen.

Evolutionists and atheists, you may as well give in and believe it.

You know...many of the folks, including scientists, that we call “evolutionists” spend their lives looking for proof of their belief...studying, writing, trying to refute the Book we Christians call the Holy Bible. And like the evolutionists, there also are people, including scientists, who have spent their lives studying what they believe.

If you dedicated your life to studying the Bible as it pertains to history, you’d become an authority...a scholar on the subject. And if you went to every archive possible...every history book...learned the ancient languages so you could read the original texts...you’d be qualified to write about the past.

The men who interpreted the original Bible texts into the English language were of that kind. And although those scholars agree that God may have formed the heavens and the earth at an earlier time, the date when God created Adam and Eve was about four thousand years before Christ was born. The King James version of the chronological bible that I own, puts the date as Sunday, March 27, 3976 BC.

The six days God used for creation ended on Friday, and He rested on the seventh day, which was the first Saturday. And actually, that makes Saturday the day of Rest, and later, when Christ was on earth, Sunday became the day of Worship.

The book of Genesis covers a long period of history...the first 2300 years. It includes Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, and Joseph. Not all the books are in chronological order, but with all the different writers, none disagree on any point. That would be impossible unless, as we Christians believe, the Bible is the inspired word of God. Try to find just two historians of non-biblical texts who totally agree!

The Bible is attacked on every side, but no organization, however many battles it wins, is not going to win the war.

To believe the Bible, one must believe all of it. If I

decided to pick and choose what I want to believe in it, I wouldn't waste my time studying it. Nor would I bother to tell a cashier that she gave me too much change. And I'd sleep in on Sunday mornings. If you can't believe all of the Bible, you're wasting your time pretending to use it as a guide. But if you don't believe in creation, which we Christians consider to be atheistic, not believing that there is a God who created all things...what if you're wrong.

If the Christian was proved to be wrong, the grave would be his end. But if the creationist/atheist is wrong, he has an eternity to spend in hell.

I haven't seen Abraham Lincoln, but I believe he was our 16<sup>th</sup> president. I haven't seen the wind, but I feel its being and its power. And I believe in God, because I have felt his being, His presence, and His power. I have everything to gain and nothing to lose by believing in Him.

As an evolutionist, what would it take for you to believe the Bible, which is one of the proofs to which Christians hold. Noah's Ark is gone. The Ark of God, which had inside it the Ten Commandments, along with Aaron's rod, a container of Manna, and a copy of the Laws which God gave the Israelites, is gone. The Crown of Thorns is gone. The Cross Christ died upon is gone. And so one can't believe by pointing to any of these materially.

And why are all these lost in history. Probably because it could weaken our faith. We live by FAITH, not substance.

If we had that Crown of Thorns, or the actual Cross Jesus died upon, or any one of this type of article in our hands, the Christian's stronghold...Faith...would go downhill fast.

We'd get so caught up in the object itself, that people

from around the world would make trips to see it...to kneel and pray before it.

This would quickly turn to kneeling to pray TO it, and it would become an idol that God has plainly said He hates with all hatred.

People would make pilgrimages to see it, as they do to the Holy Land now, because the very thought of knowing that Jesus Himself once walked those very paths...visited often in the Garden of Gethsemane, and spent His final on-earth hours there before going on trial...I fear that if we had actual things to see, we no longer would depend completely on our Faith to believe in Christ.

We know that faith is the key, for Jesus Himself said, "You believe because you have seen me. But blessed are those who haven't seen me and believe anyway (John 20:29).

We make pilgrimages not only to Israel, but even to Washington, D.C., where we can see the actual, original Constitution and other papers on which George Washington and Thomas Jefferson and other historical figures made their marks. How much more would we treasure, then adore, then worship, if we had the robe of Jesus, or His sandals to see and touch!

In fact, the only words we have record of Jesus writing, He wrote in the sand and they not only are not quoted, but of course disappeared minutes after he wrote them, as people walked over them. (John 8:1-11)

The Christian lives by Faith. And that's how he accepts Creation. Time is a scroll, rolling elderly Christians into history and eternity, as the other side unfurls to reveal new and younger Christians, to take up The Cause.

It makes an interesting picture to the mind. You

could start the scroll at the Creation, telling the story of Adam and Eve. Gradually the scroll would tell the picture of the passage of time with their children; Cain, Abel, and Seth ...Enoch, Methuselah and to his grandson, Noah and the story of the Ark.

Abraham (formerly Abram) and Sarai (which God later changed to Sarah), their son Isaac, and his nephew Lot, whose wife's curiosity turned her into a pillar of salt. Then Jacob who saw the ladder reaching up to Heaven. Then to the time of Biblical Judges and soon the first woman leader, Deborah. From Judges to Kings and the choosing of Saul, who later picked a youngster named David to sooth his weary mind by playing the harp for him...this after David had killed Goliath, but before he became a greater hero than Saul and put his own life in danger because of Saul's jealousy.

What a remarkable, unending story the scroll would show! It would gain the attention of the world and would draw great crowds to view it.

But in truth, the scroll is with us. Invention of paper and the printing press has changed it into book form and we now call it the Bible. But what is this? It does not draw crowds? Even children can afford one, and many have one of their own, and now a great many people know how to read, but the scroll, turned book, is largely ignored.

Someone said a person who can read, but will not, is no better than the one who can not read. And it's true. All of us are guilty of leaving the Bible on the shelf...not using our life map as much as we should. Let's read it more. It's our way to Heaven. Where are these stories? All are in the Holy Bible. Read it!

An example of how the writings agree all through the Bible, are the accounts of the crossing of the Red Sea by Moses and the Israelites. It's mentioned a great number of times in Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Second Samuel, Nehemiah, Psalms, and Isaiah, and in the New Testament in Acts, First Corinthians, and Hebrews. The entire story, as well as many reminders, are found in these books. None disagree.

For example, much has been written about Christ's crucifixion. Many things happened as Jesus Christ hung on the cross, very well recorded. But I've seen very little about the two thieves who were crucified with Him...one on each side. Except that one was lost; the other saved.

Matthew speaks of them in the 27<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 38<sup>th</sup> verse of his Gospel. "Then there were there two thieves crucified with Him; one on the right hand, and another on the left." And Matthew added in the 44<sup>th</sup> verse, "The thieves also, which were crucified with Him, cast the same in his teeth."

Mark mentions them in the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter, 27<sup>th</sup> verse of his epistle; "And with Him they crucified two thieves, the one on his right hand, and the other on his left (28<sup>th</sup> verse) and the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, and He was numbered with the transgressors."

Luke also speaks of them in his Gospel, in the 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter and the 32<sup>nd</sup> verse: "And there were also two other, malefactors, led with Him to be put to death." But Luke the physician, added in the 39<sup>th</sup> verse, "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on Him, saying. If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?"

And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of

our deeds, but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou **comest** into thy kingdom." And Jesus said unto him, "Verily, I say unto thee. Today **shalt** thou be with me in paradise."

With Luke's words, we have our guarantee of life after this life! And we have the promise that even if we accept Jesus as the Christ at the last moment...even on our deathbed...that we will go to be with Him. The story of the man who hired some workers early in the day, and others almost at the close of the day, paying all the same wage, shows us that all who come to Him will share in that reward. (Matt 20).

The only risk of waiting until your last minute, is that you have no idea of when that will be...you may not have time at the end to even think of Christ. Your next heartbeat may be your last, so don't risk everlasting punishment in the fires of hell; make things right with Him right now. Talk to Him about it.

Don't worry about making a great and long prayer... just talk to Him as if He's standing beside you...because He is. He has waited a lifetime for you.

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A few days ago, my grandson brought home an old history textbook on North America. I noticed it had been published in 1911. It looked interesting in its drab, no-color way, and I decided to read it, to compare how things were then and now.

It noted that the Grand Canyon could be reached by stage from Flagstaff, Arizona, with the six horses being exchanged every two or three hours by fresh ones...and it said that to visit the great stone arches in Southeast Utah, one must travel by stage and on saddle animals for 50 miles or more from a railroad.

And in order to go from New York to San Francisco by

ship, the vessel must go around the south end of South America, adding thousands of miles to the trip that could be made in a few weeks if you go across our continent. It said attempts had been made to dig a canal across Central America, but all had failed. And few had the stomach for heading west by wagon.

Little did the writers of that history know that within three years, under President Teddy Roosevelt, that we would finish the Panama Canal and one could travel by ship from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean in eight hours, and the trip by ship from New York to Frisco would be thousands of miles shorter.

It was a little eerie, reading those facts, yet knowing what was going to happen in the coming years...knowing the future, as it were.

I don't think it would be sacrilegious for me to say it felt a little like God must feel. Because He not only knows all of the past, but already knows all of the future.

In 1903 when the Wright brothers flew their first airplane, God knew that only 66 years later, man would set foot on the moon! God knew all about the wheel and paperclips and plastic garbage bags even in the week that He created the earth.

And of all the blessings God has bestowed on us, the best one of all might be that He does not allow us to know the future as He does. The world's economy would go bust, because we would already know when a better mousetrap would be coming along, and would wait until it came out before buying! It just wouldn't do. And the stock market? Impossible.

With God, there is no "time." Einstein was right when he said time doesn't pass...we pass through it. With God, His Creation could have been moments ago, comparatively speaking; not billions of years ago as the evolutionist believes.

Let's be content with letting God handle the future.

Our concern should be to give our lives to His Son, Jesus Christ, to live for Him and be ready for when God decides it's time to call a halt to the way we've operated his world for these six-thousand or so years. What a division there's going to be when He separates His people from those who ignored Him! Ask yourself now: Do you know where you'll spend eternity? That's all you need to know about the future.

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There was this fellow in a froth because the book he was reading didn't have a thing about what he wanted to know. He needed some information on a math problem he was working on, and the book was simply no good. Not a thing in it about his dilemma. Or on math in general. His buddy gently pointed out that he was looking at a science book. It didn't give any information on his math questions.

So why do so many people figure they know so much about how to live, when they never consult the one book with the answers. The Bible. Look down through history. Have the books on psychology shut down the mental hospitals? To the contrary, they're packed, with more of those hospitals needed.

Have the law books solved the Big Question? No...there's more crime, and more lawyers per thousand citizens than ever before.

Have our leaders learned from the History books? No. The world has as much trouble and as ever. And few, including the evolutionists, will look at the Book with all the answers...the Bible.

What a pity that the world could turn around by following even one sentence of the book it needs...the Golden Rule in the Bible. If each person loved his neighbor as himself, wars would stop. Doors could be left open. A girl could walk home at night in perfect safety. Kids could again play under the streetlight as in days gone by.

Not that the world was safe, even back then. We've always had trouble. But what do the fairy tales say caused all the trouble? Pandora's Box. I've mentioned earlier that she was told not to open the box, and of course she opened it, and the world's troubles jumped out and couldn't be recaptured. A fairy tale. Satan, at one time the most beautiful angel in Heaven, fell in love with himself and tried to take over, and he, with a third of the angels who were siding with him, were thrown out of Heaven. Now they're busy trying to capture as many of us as possible, to take with them to hell when Christ returns and puts them in their place.

Read about it in the right book. The Bible.

### The Law

When we talk evolution, “atheism” naturally falls in the same category, and that leads to thoughts of “Separation of Church and State” laws. And the public is woefully ignorant as to what can and can not be done in schools and public property.

For example, religious Christmas carols CAN be sung at school. In the suit “Florey vs. Sioux Falls School District,” the federal appeals court ruled that those carols can be sung at any time, anywhere.

All you have to do, is look at the Constitution. In simplest terms, remember that one of the reasons many of the people who came to this country back in the 1600’s, was because they had been under rule that made a certain religion the law of that country. And in this new country, there was no such stipulation, and they intended to keep it that way. And so Article One of Amendments to the Constitution just says, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

As Bob Hope said in one of the “Road” movies, when Bing Crosby was supposedly reading a paper to suit his own choosing, “Lemme see the paper.”

Where in that Constitution does it say anything about taking God out of school, public or private locations, or anything else that would erase or even dilute Godly teaching.

To get wordy, the Eighth Circuit of Court of Appeals ruled years ago that “singing Christmas carols does not violate the Constitution if the purpose is the ’advancement of the student’s knowledge of society’s cultural and religious heritage.’”

And while school teachers shouldn't try to press a certain Christian belief on the kids, neither should evolution be taught as fact in our schools.

You can teach culture...the Christmas story included, but you're not to "preach" it.

As for calling the Christmas break a "winter break;" humbug. The Supreme Court (Lynch v. Donnelly) said both Christmas and Thanksgiving are national holidays, and are so stated by Congress. And Congress even says federal employees are to have these days off, with pay.

Here's the reason false ideas like these have grown like a monster in our country. The ACLU will pick on a single school, generally a small one in a small town, and sues for things like not allowing the National Anthem to be sung at a ballgame, and that school has neither the time, the money, nor the staff, to fight, and so they buckle under.

What ever happened to "the majority rules." One person...Madelyn O'Hare," said her young son was "offended" that talking of God in school was happening, and she got Him disallowed. She was murdered and buried in a shallow grave, and her son grew up to be a preacher, saying publicly that he was sorry for what had happened when he was a child.

Later, when the shootings occurred in a Colorado school, we heard people saying, "Where was God, to let this happen." The answer was that an unchristian public told Him to get lost.

I read of a cute incident at a high school graduation, in which the seniors had been reminded that they were not to mention God in the proceedings. At the end of the graduation exercise, a boy senior rose and walked to the microphone; paused...and then sneezed loudly.

And the entire class yelled out "God Bless You!"

Most of the above enlightening information came from a Christmas Card that I got years ago from Derry Brownfield, head of a farm network that gives market reports and other farm news. I would give further credit if I knew who gathered the facts given there. However, while I'm on the subject, that card/booklet also listed information on religious holidays:

1. The several holidays throughout the year which have a religious and a secular basis may be observed in the public schools.
2. The historical and contemporary values and the origin of religious holidays may be explained in an unbiased and objective manner without sectarian indoctrination (Teachers can teach, but not preach)
3. Music, art, literature and drama having religious themes or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school-sponsored activities and programs if presented in a prudent and objective manner and as a traditional part of the cultural and religious heritage of the particular holiday.
4. The use of religious symbols such as a cross, menorah, crescent, Star of David, creche, symbols of Native American religions or other symbols that are a part of a religious holiday are permitted as a teaching aid or resource, provided such symbols are displayed as an example of the cultural and religious heritage of the holiday and are temporary in nature. Among these holidays are included Christmas, Easter, Passover, Hannukah, St. Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Thanksgiving and Halloween.
5. The school district's calendar should be prepared so as to minimize conflicts with religious holidays of all faiths.

Although this gives freedom that the general public doesn't seem to know is allowed, it's still not as free as back when I was in high school. Each month one of the area's ministers was invited to speak at our school assemblies. And of course we had separate times for Baccalaureate (always held in a church with full religious undertones and a minister's speech/sermon) and the graduation exercise on a later date at the school. (Incidentally, my Dad preached the Baccalaureate sermon when I graduated).

Here is another list from the Christmas card/booklet I got from Derry Brownfield. It has to do with constitutionally sound lesson plan ideas. In other words, teachers can do these things:

1. Read the Christmas story in class. The historical basis for Christmas is found in the book of Luke, chapter two, in the Bible. Read to the class, or have students take turns reading Luke 2:1-20. The "Living Bible" is one of the easiest versions to read. Themes you can discuss could include Rome, humble origins, shepherds, and religious worship. It adds that you can read such accounts as the wise men visiting the baby Jesus in the book of Matthew, chapter two, verses one through 12.
2. You may ask a local minister or priest to tell the class the Christmas story.
3. You may have Christian students in your class share what their families or churches are doing to celebrate Christmas. You may prepare a lesson on the ways Christianity has affected American culture.
4. You may include such things as: the Pilgrims, Declaration of Independence, the phrase on our coin, "In God We Trust," the abolition movement, the Reverend Martin Luther King's Christian faith, or the origin of our law system.

5. You may lead a class discussion on teachings of Jesus that are often referred to in American culture. You can include: “Do unto others” (Matthew 7:12), “Go the extra mile” (Matthew 5:41), “Turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:39), “Don’t cast your pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6), the phrase, “The Good Samaritan” (Luke 10:30-37). And of course many others of this nature.

Incidentally, the same place that I got the above information, also put out a card/booklet concerning Thanksgiving that gives similar data, but also mentions quotes from past presidents. To wit:

1. Franklin D. Roosevelt, from his 1936 Thanksgiving Proclamation, said, “Let us, therefore, on the day appointed, each in his own way, but together as a whole people, make due expression of our thanksgiving and humbly endeavor to follow in the footsteps of Almighty God.”

2. John F. Kennedy, from his 1963 Thanksgiving Proclamation, said, “On that day let us gather in sanctuaries dedicated to worship and in homes blessed by family affection to express our gratitude for the glorious gifts of God.”

3. Ronald Reagan, from his 1985 Thanksgiving Proclamation, said, “Unto Thee, O God, do we give thanks.” He continues, “The Psalmist sang, praising God not only for the ‘wondrous works’ of His creation, but for loving guidance and deliverance from dangers...Let us thank God for our families, friends, and neighbors, and for the joy of this very festival we celebrate in His name.”

4. And from Bill Clinton, in his remarks at the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Presentation Ceremony, November 24, 1993: “Tomorrow, I’ll have the great good fortune of celebrating Thanksgiving with my family, reflecting on the past year and looking to the future. I’ll have a chance to say a prayer of thanks for the many blessings that I’ve enjoyed. I ask all of you to do that.

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And on the subject of religion in the *Lynch v. Donnelly* case, Chief Justice Warren Burger said, “The Constitution does not require complete separation of church and state; it affirmatively mandates accommodation, not merely tolerance, of all religions, and forbids hostility toward any.”

The pity of the public’s misunderstanding of this “church and state” thing, is that it’s helping to erase the teaching of right and wrong in our schools, and is teaching “how to” sexual information and providing condoms in some areas.

My thinking is that the ones making all this possible, are simply trying to excuse their own mis-deeds.

And it doesn’t matter what political party is “in power.” The candidates can cry “let’s change things” all they wish, but nothing really changes. As you may know, the printout of the Internal Revenue Service’s rules would fill a room, but when someone wants to change to a “flat tax” or something else simple, the hoots and howls override any “change.”

Our only consolation is that one day, when Christ returns and ends all this confusion, we’ll have the peace of Heaven. Where’s that song when I need it...”Oh Happy Day.”

### The God and Christ

Have you ever thought of how smart God was as He made all the things that were made? (Of course, we're assuming that you know that I'm a "creationist," and that I write from that perspective)...You talk about a computer...God laughs at all the computers in the world.

When a computer can keep count of the number of hairs on each person's head (Matthew 10:30)...when it can name every star, as God did (Psalms 147:4)...when a computer can set up a new timetable for all planets to orbit the sun, and all the other things He did to the universe, as we talk about in this book's chapter on the planets...(remember in that movie where Crocodile Dundee Goes to New York, and the thug pulls a switchblade and tries to rob him, and he reaches inside his vest and pulls out a long blade and in the blink of an eye, he slits the guy's shirt...and then he says, "You call that a knife? (swish) now THAT'S a knife." And the thug runs away like mad)...well, I'll paraphrase here and say, "Now THAT'S a computer!"

Think of God setting up evaporation, that goes from earth to sky, then comes back again as rain...or how He makes winds blow the oxygen from green plants to places where very little vegetation is found, to even things up, and how He causes smoke and other impurities upward, away from us, to clear the air we breathe. You talk about today's smog...what would it be if that stuff stayed close to the ground!

These are things that are, that have nothing to do with evolution. And so how did they come to be? From God, that's who.

Folks need someone to cry out to when things go wrong, and that One is actually a Threesome...Jehovah our God, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.

A Big Three that makes that threesome during World War Two...our President Franklin D. Roosevelt, England's Winston Churchill and Russia's Joseph Stalin...seem like small potatoes.

Are you familiar with Reverend Jack Hafer? If so, it was probably from his TV program. He's the person who wrote the sacred song, "Majesty."

I chanced upon a program in which he told about riding as a passenger one snowy night with a friend, when they pulled up behind another driver who was obviously drunk. A menace to them and anyone else on the road.

(3) He said he was almost ready to remark to the driver about the crazy guy up ahead, and how he should be taken off the road. But before he could speak out, the other driver started talking softly, and it was a prayer for the drunk up ahead! Asking the Lord's blessing on him...a blessing of safety for him! Yes, it caused Brother Hafer's mind to take another route.

Folks, that's what Christianity is all about. That's what they mean about "being Christ-like." I'm sorry to say that I had been thinking along Brother Hafer's line, until he was brought up short by the driver's innocent prayer.

Would a "something" that had thought itself to human form have this kind of soul?

Well, "surprise, surprise," as Gomer Pyle used to say. NASA chemists have presented evidence that life on earth may have gotten its start from...are you ready for this? from CLAY!

Talk about a revelation. Any of us Christians could have told them that. However, our version differs from their thinking that the earth's clays attracted the organic molecules that make up protein and DNA, the ingredients of life.

The body has the protein and DNA and all those other minerals, but God put them there. Actually, Jesus Christ himself was there, too...both he and God have always been, but we weren't told of Him in so many words until He came to earth as a baby, born in Bethlehem to Mary.

Of course scientists try to get fancy and explain their way around God...they say these organic molecules possibly came from the sea during high tides. They said the clays might then have triggered chemical reactions that string the building blocks into proteins and DNA. And presto.

You know how the evolutionists like to say that life probably started when a cell or something washed up on the shore from the ocean, and gradually evolved into a monkey, or a giraffe, or an aardvark. But they never explain how that ocean got there in the first place. Or how the cell lived while it thought up some lungs, and a heart, and blood and all the other necessities for life.

For me, it's a lot easier to believe in God, than in evolution. There are too many kinds of things for all of them to have started from one cell, or whatever they call the first one that washed up on the where-did-it-come-from beach.

Seems to me that there'd be a whole bunch of one thing, rather than all of us humans, plants and animals, if the evolution theory was true.

I once read a comparison, that the evolution theory could be explained as a fancy sports car that thought itself into existence. It thought up a wheel, then a tire, and so on, until it was ready for the road. Would make a really fine fairy tale. I may have mentioned this in another place in the book, but hey...I'm just HUMAN.

This may or may not be the best place in the book to talk about giving thanks, but here goes...

Do you look at some person now and then who never seems to give a thought to the Lord, or where his living comes from? Take the farmer. He comes in all kinds, from the one who grumbles til it rains, then grumbles til it stops, never giving thanks to his Maker for the good things he enjoys.

Here's one of those instances where instead of finding fault with such an unappreciative person...you can give thanks to the Lord FOR him! You may be familiar with Matthew's saying, "He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." That's in the fifth chapter of Matthew, 45th verse.

So it's going to rain on the crops of the mean old man, just as it will on the Christian's crops. Oh, prayer can change things, but when left alone, mother nature follows the rules God made for her back when He made the world.

So when the ground is parched and a refreshing rain comes, give thanks to the Lord for yourself, and for the old geezer down the road who's complaining because he didn't have on his boots.

There's a story about a Christian farmer who stopped all, to go to church each Sunday. Down the road was a non-Christian who worked day and night on his crops.

He was bragging to the neighbor about how fine his crops were doing, until our hero said, "God doesn't always reward in October."

As I've said before, what he gets here in this life is ALL he's going to get. So pray that he enjoys it while he can.

By the way...if you fall in that category, now would be a good time to change your attitude. Talk to the Lord about doing it HIS way, and He'll accept you. In fact, He's been waiting all this time for you.

Continuing on the thought of being thankful...in Radio Broadcasting, which is my career, and in fact, in all media, we strive to avoid repetition as we write. For example, in giving ball scores, we don't say, "The Tigers beat Baylor, Oklahoma State beat Iowa State, Colorado beat Kansas, and so on...we use a variety of words for "beat." We may say "trounced...edged by...won handily over...took a close one...etc, to avoid repetition.

As for myself, each morning I thank the Lord for the night's peaceful rest...for the new day...for the food that's available to buy, and that I have the money to purchase. And I thank Him for His Word (the Bible), and for saving me, and for forgiving me where I fail Him or embarrass Him.

And if you're new at praying, don't worry about your wording or the proper grammar, and don't leave off a "thank you" just because you also mentioned it yesterday morning. And don't try to use big or fancy words. God is interested in your SOUL, not your education. Just talk to Him as if he were in that chair next to you. Because...He IS!

One of my hobbies is song-writing, and of course the subject of being thankful has comes up often. I penned a song I call "I'd Just Begin Again." It goes like this:

HOW MANY THINGS COULD I THANK HIM FOR...WOULD I EVER REACH THE END  
 AND IF ONE BY ONE, I EVER GOT DONE...I'D WANT TO BEGIN...AGAIN  
 HOW MANY TIMES WOULD I REPEAT...THE THANKFUL STATE I'M IN  
 WITH THE LIST COMPLETE, AT THE MASTER'S FEET...I'D WANT TO BEGIN AGAIN  
 I'D THANK HIM FIRST FOR SAVING ME...AND FORGETTING HOW I'VE BEEN  
 FOR THE MOON AND THE SUN AND IF I EVER GOT DONE...I'D WANT TO BEGIN AGAIN...  
 I'D THANK HIM FOR HIS ONLY SON...FOR SHIELDING ME FROM SIN  
 AND WHEN I GOT TO HEAVEN, THEN, I'D JUST BEGIN AGAIN  
 AND IF I'D MISSED, ANYTHING ON MY LIST, THERE'D BE TIME, TO BEGIN, AGAIN  
 BT 7 20 84

My being thankful in large part stems from my Mother's teaching me the joy of reading. We couldn't afford to buy books except on special occasions, so I remember many trips to the local library.

And related to that, I was very small when Mom taught me to play the "Glad Game." She got the idea from a book written in 1913 by that name by Eleanor H. Porter. Mom must have read it as a teen-ager, and I got to it even before my teen years. My teen era was filled with books like "Gulliver's Travels...Swiss Family Robinson, Kidnapped, and writers like Poe, O'Henry, and Zane Grey.

In the book, Pollyanna had learned from her Dad that there were 800 "Happy texts" in the Bible, and she found something to be glad about, no matter what the circumstance. The story became a movie in 1960, starring Haley Mills as Pollyanna, with Jane Wyman as spinster Harrington whose unhappy nature was finally erased by Richard Egan. Great lesson.

All that to say this: I wonder who the evolutionist and the atheist thank for the good things in their lives. Maybe nobody. Maybe they just tick it off to luck and fate.

But actually there's no such thing as luck, even though it seems like many people have great things happen to them just by being in the right place at the right time. Like stars being "discovered" just because a producer saw them at a soda fountain.

But the truth is that God is in charge of all things. In the Bible, when King Nebuchadnezzar was about to have all his wise men beheaded because they couldn't tell him the interpretation of a dream, Daniel, who was a captive there in Babylon, gave the king the interpretation, reminding Nebuchadnezzar that his God "removeth kings, and setteth up kings."

And in Acts 26:26, the Apostle Paul reminded us that God “decided beforehand when (nations) should rise and fall.”

That’s a consolation to Christians. We can be concerned about what’s happening around the world, but we don’t have to wring our hands as to the outcome. Even as nations rise and fall, we’re in God’s hands and will ultimately be safe with Him. It’s our choice. We can have human peace right now, by allowing Christ’s comfort, with everlasting peace in our hearts now, and in the next life when it comes.

In counting while reading the Bible through several times, I’ve found at least 25 times where it’s made perfectly clear that God is in charge of all things, from individuals to entire nations.

I’m reminded of Granny in the TV sitcom, “Beverly Hillbillies,” when she informed the family that she wasn’t going to fly on a trip they were planning. She said, “I may not know WHEN I’m going (to die), but I know HOW I’m going.” It wasn’t going to be in a plane crash!

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People who won’t read the Bible, normally won’t read anything else related to it, and so don’t realize that there’s much more literature in the world that backs up the truths told in the Bible itself.

I read a question written to Billy Graham which he answered in his newspaper column. The question was “How do you know the Bible is true, or even that Jesus ever lived? And Doctor Graham pointed out that there is evidence from every direction. From ancient manuscripts...from archaeology...and from history itself.

And if you want to get right down to it, how do YOU know that Christopher Columbus really existed. Actually, all you know is what you've read in the history books. Suppose someone just made him up. Or that in truth, he was only a deck hand on the ship that brought those sailors over here to "discover" the western hemisphere (He wasn't first, you know). How do you know there were three ships; the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. That was only about 500 years ago, yet you know no more personally about Columbus than you do about Jesus Christ.

Well, you say, a number of books agree about him. Pick up any history book and they'll all pretty much agree about old Chris. And the fact is, there is more evidence on Jesus than anyone. Look at the books about Caesar, King Herod or any of those characters from during Jesus' time. You believe them?

(9) One of the greatest fighter pilot heroes of World War Two was an ace named "Hub" Zemke. In a book he wrote of his experiences, titled "Wolf Pack," he tells of one of his buddies, Jim Fralking, who had to parachute from his bullet-riddled plane, into the English Channel.

Fralking tried desperately to inflate his dinghy life raft, but couldn't get it to come open, and finally, exhausted, he simply gave up and let himself sink. And to his amazement, he found he was in water only about three feet deep! Not even chest deep, once he quit fighting and let his feet down.

How many people search blindly through cults, reading books, joining gangs, addicting themselves to drugs, searching like the men of Athens when the Apostle Paul found them including the "unknown god" among the idols they were worshipping.

They were trying to find a god that would prove true, and to make sure they didn't miss finding the right one, they included a statue to the "unknown god" which Paul told them was the True God...the answer to their searching.

When Jesus was resurrected after His crucifixion, He took the place of the High Priests, and became the Way we reach God on a personal basis.

The veil of the temple was rent in two in the earthquake that followed Jesus' crucifixion (from top to bottom, to indicate it was not torn by a human) and we no longer must have a priest go into the presence of God for us. We can talk to Him ourselves, through Jesus Christ.

Interesting. And a pity, that many still won't let their feet down, to discover the safety that's within their grasp, by asking Christ for help. He's as near as a whisper.

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Then why not believe in Jesus, of whom not only are there volumes to back up his existence and what He did, but there are also hundreds of prophecies dating back hundreds of years before His time here on earth, and all of them not only came true; all of them agree.

And when all is said and done, not a word of the Bible itself has ever been disproved, by the greatest scholars who ever lived. So all you really need is that book's statement that all you need is Christ.

You want to become a Christian? Jesus is saying, "I thought you'd never ask."

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Do you use the freeways much? A person unfamiliar with following road directions while traveling at highway speeds, can very easily get confused.

Often you'll have three choices: A right turn if you want to end up going to the left...another right turn if you really want to head right...or a lane to stay out of if you don't want to turn at all...and sometimes, even other instructions to obey.

And once you commit to a turn, it's too late to change your mind. Oh, you can get back, but it may require you to go for miles before you can turn around, then go through the whole thing again when you're back to the intersection.

Same thing with life, or belief in God and His creation. You have choices, and the freedom to choose. You can say "It's my life, and I've decided that I want to go to the left, so I'm taking this road. It looks right to me.

But you start into your turn and you find that it's not the right way at all. But it's hard to turn back, because the crowd is right behind you, urging you on. Like on the highway, with screeching brakes and tooting horns, they want you to stay in the flow...not to add to their problems.

Nice thing about following God's directions...He can see ahead, around the curves. He can steer you around the washouts and bottlenecks. And He has patience. If you get hard-headed and go your own way, He'll accept your apologies and will take the helm again.

He's knocking on your door. You listening?

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I'm sure I've talked to you about how God speaks to us, and we agree that these days, He does it by putting his words in our sub-consciousness. I've never doubted that, and at this writing, I have renewed faith that God and Christ talk to us that way. Let me tell you just one case that has happened to me...

I decided to dub some of my songs from cassette to CD, and went to my equipment to take care of it...and my instruction sheets were gone. And if you've bought any electronic equipment in the past few years, you know that you have to have the instructions, even though with equipment being built in foreign countries, and with those people writing the instructions, even Greek may be all Greek to you.

Well, I looked high and low for those instructions. Then I looked again. Even in places where I knew I wouldn't have put them...trunk of the car, the attic, the shed...I looked everywhere. Except where they were, of course. Now and then I would say, "Lord, show me where I put that stuff," but apparently it wasn't His time

The search went on for days, then at four a.m., I woke up and it ran through my mind again, and I repeated, "Lord show me where I put those things." And my mind's eye looked in the bedroom where I was at the time...over behind the recliner...on the floor.

Well, I got up immediately and walked over and looked behind that chair, and there were the lost papers...right where I had put them so they wouldn't be stacked on the organ bench in my music area, with company coming. I didn't want the place to be unsightly, so I had taken them to the bedroom.

Yes, I said "Thank you, Lord." I said it several times, and again the next day, and a few times as I've thought of it since.

So you don't have to be suffering some big thing for Him to help. It doesn't matter to Him whether it's a big or a small thing. If you don't have a relationship with the Lord, I'd suggest again, as I have so many times, that you get acquainted with Him.

He doesn't require a great script...just talk to him as you would to someone at the kitchen table, and tell Him you're ready to do things His Way. He's listening.

Ever wonder how God can both forgive and forget? Radio stations use electromagnetic erasers to clean various tapes so they can be re-used. The apparatus is just a piece of metal until a certain button is pushed. When that happens, an invisible field of magnetism forms all around the eraser.

If you could see the sound that's on a tape, you'd see little oval-shapes in wild disarray, along the tape.

But once the tape eraser's button is pushed and the tape is passed through that electromagnetic field, all those little oval shapes line up in neat rows and the sound is gone. Vanished as magically as they were arranged into sounds when recorded.

And I see a spiritual parallel. Jesus can take a life that's been recorded with every sin you can name...a real jumble...and push His eraser button, and that life can be cleansed in a moment...like magic. And what pushes the button? The person who admits that sin has been his or her ruler, and that he's had enough.

Realizing his or her need for Christ and asking Him to save you from it, is what pushes the button, so to speak. And immediately you're a brand new tape, clean as the day you were made. You can't see the force, just as you can't see Christ's force. But it's there.

We humans don't have God's ability to completely forget. My feeling is that we "forget" when we reach a point where we bear no animosity when we think of the unkindness or wrong that was done to us. God can help us reach that point. And we must, if we hope to reach Heaven, because Jesus said if you don't forgive, then He can't forgive us.

One reminder...some people do big sins. Others live a clean life. But everyone must ask Christ in, because we're all sinners until that change. Jesus described it as being "born again."

And so all...little old ladies and killers...evolutionists and atheists...must repent. Read about it in the third chapter of John, in the Bible.

Can you imagine the utter joy that Satan felt when Christ was taken down from the cross and buried!

From the time when he, as the most beautiful angel in Heaven, let pride overtake him, causing God to throw him out of that paradise, he had been trying to get revenge...and now it was his. (By the way, you can read about this in the Bible...one place is in the 14th chapter of Isaiah).

There must have been the party of all parties for the next three days. I imagine he and the angels that had sided with him when he tried to take over heaven, had the bash of all bashes.

Even our celebrations at the end of World War Two, or Times Square in New York on New Year's Eve, or your team winning the Super Bowl...all those would have been put in the shade in the celebration that evil one threw when he thought he at last had beaten Christ. And the party went on for three days.

Then came the Awakening. Actually, all the while he was shouting with glee, Christ was already risen and was visiting those who had lived before Him, under The Law...giving them a chance to believe in Him. But Lucifer, as he was called back in Heaven, hadn't known that. He celebrated, thinking that Christ was dead and out of his sinful world.

But how wrong he was! And on the morning of the third day, when the angels rolled back the stone to show that Christ had risen and wasn't there...the evil one stopped his shouting...maybe in mid-jump...and realized that all Jesus had said was true...that He would rise again.

Satan still tries to get us to disregard Christ...to do what we like and to share in the devil's good times. But don't do it. Our share of Christ's victory is coming soon, either at our death or when He comes back for us, whichever comes first. So be watching.

It concerns me that evolutionists and atheists discount all the writings...not just those in the Bible...that these things happened. Because the unforgivable sin is to allow unbelief to carry them into hell itself.

The reason unbelief is the unforgivable sin, is because once a person dies, there's no turning back. In the story of the rich man and Lazarus (16th chapter of Luke), the beggar (Lazarus) died, "and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom.

The rich man also died, and was buried. And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments." The story goes on to tell how the rich man called out for Abraham to let Lazarus "dip his finger in water to cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame." But Abraham explained that this could not be done.

When our life here is over, there's no turning back. No chance to make amends or to change our ways, because we've "gone the way of all flesh."

And the thing about the true Christian, is that we won't begrudge any person who gives his heart to Christ, even at the last minute, because we don't want any person, however evil, to go to that everlasting hell.

And as I've mentioned at another place in these writings, if you have the chance, you can change even on your death bed.

The problem is that your next breath may be your last, and so you mustn't risk waiting. The time is now. Have I mentioned already, about my wife's in-law, who walked into her Dad's living room, tapped her Dad on the shoulder as he went over and sat down on the couch...

And died. No sound; no pain; no chance to change.

### The Nature

One of the funniest cartoons I ever saw was by Gary Larson, who did “The Far Side.” In the first panel, a herd of cows are standing on their hind legs, doing various things, and one is standing up near the top of a knoll. Suddenly, this cow yells out, “CAR! CAR!” and all the cows get down on their four legs and munch grass until the car gets past, then they go into their human-side again...the side we humans don’t believe.

What if animals could reason. Do you remember that Alfred Hitchcock movie called “The Birds?” In it, birds were able to reason together, and they took over. Humans were so shocked, they didn’t know how to respond to protect themselves, and it created a catastrophe.

And consider cattle in the field. If they could talk it over among themselves, they’d say, “Listen...we see a truck pull up and a bunch of us get in it, and they drive away and we never see them again.” And they’d continue with, “I have a feeling there’s something bad happening. The next time a truck comes, let’s stampede it and gore those guys who drive it.”

Or consider a chicken farm. They could make it up that the next guy who comes to steal their eggs, would get pecked to death.

I can think of better ways to go. What would TV’s “Monk” do to solve that one.

Charles Darwin got his idea and called it “evolution,” writing a book about it in 1859. About 150 years ago.

Well, God got a head start on him by at least 6,000 years, and called it “Creation.” He may have created the universe much before that, but His forming of our earth is found in the book of Genesis in the Holy Bible.

It’s most interesting, and nothing has been found yet that disproves that account, nor any of the rest of that book.

Paul Harvey told this story on one of his programs. If I knew where he got it, I'd give them credit. At any rate, it's the story of the man on a snowy night, sitting beside a picture window reading, when he heard thumps against the glass. He got up to investigate and found a flock of birds, fluttering in the snow. They had seen the light in the window and tried to fly to it.

The man took pity on the birds, and went out to try to help them. He opened the door to his barn and turned on the lights there, but the birds couldn't understand. He tried to catch one, hoping the others would follow as he took it to the shelter and warmth of the barn, but they still couldn't grasp what he was trying to show them.

He tried everything he could think of, but nothing helped. And finally he himself understood...that he would have to be a bird...to be one of them...before he could communicate and help them.

I've left out much, because I'm re-telling from memory, but you get the point I'm sure; that no one could understand Christ's desire to help us until he became one of us. And when He did, He changed the world from the continual sacrifice of animals to God, to BECOMING that sacrifice, once for all, giving all of us the choice of becoming among His Chosen.

The offer stands, like an unopened gift, and the only way we can be a part of Him is to open it. Whether you're an atheist, an evolutionist, or just a person who doesn't know what to believe, the invitation is open to all. Talk to Him as you would to any friend, and tell Him you're ready to try His Way. Good idea.

I suppose everyone alive...young and old, saint and sinner, evolutionists and atheist...has wondered at one time or another...how in the world could all those animals be kept in Noah's Ark!

Of course, we wonder about enough space, and feed, and bodily functions. And how were they kept apart to prevent fighting, and...well...eating each other. Animals do that, you know. I expect that started with Adam's curse.

I've wondered about those things, too. Then one night we were watching a program on the Discovery Channel about Yellowstone National Park. Our family's been there...took both of the 100 mile drives that make big circles through the north and the south areas. Saw Old Faithful do her stuff...went to the falls they call "Little Niagara," and even spent a night in the old fort that was part of the military's camp way before the area became a park. But what I saw on that TV show had never occurred to me before.

The word was: Hibernation. Hibernation! They had rigged a camera in a place where they knew a bear would spend the winter, and we watched as her heartbeat slowed to less than two times per minute. Saw the bodily functions stopped for the entire time, as she continued to sleep.

And it finally came to me that God very well could have done this for ALL the animals; not just the bears. God made them, so it would be no problem for him to say "Let there be hibernation among what I have made." Then...no problem.

Remember...this is all conjecture on my part. I think, and thoughts like this happen. When we get to Heaven, we'll have a lot of questions to ask God.

But here's another thought: When we get there, we'll have bodies like His, including new minds...possibly that will automatically KNOW all these things. It opens up brand new thinking about how wondrous Heaven will be. I remind you again, that the greatest decision of any life...greater than marriage, career, first car or first home...is to decide to give your life to Christ. The Heavenly Promise it gives changes death from a fear, to a step through a golden door. Think about it. +++

I'm not what they call a "bird-watcher," but you don't have to build a nest among them to see that birds surely are directed by a leader much greater than they.

You've seen a flock...maybe a couple of hundred of them...flying in formation, close together, yet never ramming or even touching each other. And although there doesn't seem to be a leader, as we see in a group of geese migrating...there is no single bird up front or out to the side, directing that huge group when to turn, but they do it, smooth as silk.

And recently I watched as a large flock, flying wingtip to wingtip, it seemed...and they descended on a tree like a cloud, and they swooped into that tree and each one lit on a limb as if there was a giant magnet, directing each one to his place!

It was amazing, how they literally filled that tree, yet each one went to a particular spot in a moment's time, and no two tried to light in the same spot! How would Charles Darwin explain THAT! Darwin came up with an idea and passed it around, and it explained God away so neatly, that the public grabbed on to it with eyes wide shut. Anything to get God out of their lives so they could live it on their own.

You know...the May Fly has a lifespan of just one day. If those tiny insects had the power to reason, wouldn't we humans seem like gods to them! The same thought came to me while pulling little two-inch-tall maple seedlings from a rock garden. If they were grown trees and we uprooted them in a moment's time as we did those just-sprouted plants, we'd be compared to a terrifying tornado. And what must ants think when we tear up their world with a single misstep.

If we can understand the comparison between us and smaller plant and animal life, why can't we realize the greatness and everlasting glory of our God, who holds the past, present and future in His hands. If we can dip into a pool with a stick and save a drowning bug, how much easier can we be helped by the God who made every thing.

I'm putting this book together more or less by categories, so I don't know whether this is a good place to mention endangered species. But let's talk about them for a moment. Why are some folks so worried about the possibility of some plants or animals disappearing from the earth.

As I've said from time to time, the dinosaur has disappeared, but I don't miss him. In fact, he could cause some real problems if he were still around. Maybe God let him go, so that when he made Man, there wouldn't be a conflict or danger that we didn't need.

And if some are so certain the evolutionists are right, that everything they say is fact, why don't they just let all those endangered species THINK themselves out of their predicament.

My comment stems from a story in the Kansas City Star newspaper that said the sturgeon fish swam with the dinosaurs 150 million years ago and withstood the great glaciers, the volcanoes and the earthquakes, but they are now dying out because of the condition of the Missouri River.

The story said that all those dams up and down the river are doing-in the sturgeon fish.

Of course there are all sorts of things from mites to owls that the people who are supposed to know, say are disappearing. But the evolutionists are mighty quiet. Between you and me, I'm just not worried about whether a termite disappears. And I just don't see how large groups of people had the time and energy a few years ago, to encourage the government to throw loggers out of work because a certain owl was getting scarce in the woods of the Northwest. I think those folks could spend their time better, being concerned about all the sin in the world...the rapes and murders and drugs and all that.

As far as I'm concerned, it might be good for a few things, like thorns and poison ivy and mosquitoes and lice, to disappear.

The world needs to get some important things into perspective...get its priorities straight. With all the problems among the human race, they're a bit more of concern than endangered species of things the man-on-the-street may never have seen, nor has any hopes of seeing.

As you know, evolutionists say that animals evolve into whatever is convenient...colors...legs or no legs...wings...whatever they need just evolves onto them

So why not let the plants and animals worry about it. I can see it all now...a nothing, trying to think itself into being something, and finally saying, "Oh God, help me."

A good way to handle life, is as you start your day, breathe a word of devotion to God, promising Him your day, and asking Him to protect you from the things that might tempt you to forget or doubt Him. Ask Him to help you to love your fellowman and to forgive the way folks may treat you.

You will not have prayed in vain. And even if you don't believe in Him, no one's been hurt with such good thoughts.

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It had to be God, not evolution, that put a mother's love even in the birds. An article in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of that.

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird in the ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. He moved the bird aside with a stick. And three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings!

The loving mother bird, keenly aware of impending disaster, had led her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety, but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, she remained steadfast. Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings lived.

Psalms 91:4 says, "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge."

It reminds of how Christ died for us.

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Speaking of Mother Love...let me tell you the Potato Story. Who knows where I heard it: It was winter and the kids wanted to go ice skating, but Mother said, "Not 'til the potatoes are done."

Well, of course that was silly...none of the kids were hungry and there wasn't that much time before dark, after the chores had been finished.

But they waited, and Mom then wrapped two potatoes for each of them, and put them in their coat pockets. So their hands stayed warm as they went to the pond. And Mom instructed them to leave the potatoes in their street shoes while they skated.

And so when they got ready for home, lo and behold the potatoes had warmed the toes of their shoes. And by that time, they were hungry, so they ate the potatoes, and they tasted like a banquet, after the skating had tired and chilled them.

Isn't it amazing, how smart parents can be! And if you multiply that by a few zillion, you might realize a little of how smart God is. With your faith and His ability, you're in a majority.

If things had come by the evolution route, surely mothers would have come in first, so they could help with the rest!

An apiarist told me that when a bee finds a new field of flowers, it returns to the hive and gives directions to the other bees. And they all go straight to that source. And a school of fish will turn in a new direction as if they were one (I've already mentioned how birds have that "togetherness").

And why not. God made them, so he certainly is able to put that instinct in plants and animals.

Let me cite a few places from the Bible that indicates that all things praise Him:

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice...  
(I Chron 16:31) Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein...(Psalms 96:12)

Let the sea in all its vastness roar with praise...98:7  
(Living Bible) All thy works shall praise thee...(Isaiah 145:10)

The beasts of the field cry also unto thee...(Joel 1:20)  
For the stones shall cry out of the wall...Habakkuk 2:11)

And there are many other instances in the Bible where his creations give praise to Him. I have a long list which I've compiled as I read the Bible.

And here's a thought out of left field: Consider the beauty under the oceans! Why such beauty, if not in praise and recognition of the God who made it. And the praise as we've mentioned it is enough from them to Him. It must be, because few of us would ever see, or even dream of such things if it hadn't been for television coming along to let us see what diving photographers have recorded.

All things are here to praise Him. Praise Him daily. Praise Him each time it enters your mind. Train your mind to praise Him. And remember my "Thorntonism" concerning Him: Say "thanks" as often as you say "please."

The grievous thing for evolutionists, and of course, atheists, is that they have no one to praise...or even to thank for all the blessings they receive.

I've read about all the books Zane Grey wrote. His stories not only have a western plot, but there's always an old-fashioned romance included, and he was a master at painting a nature picture.

His favorite areas to put his stories seemed to be Arizona and Colorado, but he had ways of including other western states. He could put a picture in your mind of beautiful western skies, mountain ranges and sunsets that were like the real thing. And speaking of sunsets and starry skies...how long has it been since you just stopped and looked at a night sky or a sunset, right in your own home area. I have an idea that it's been quite a while. Your own area has beautiful scenes, if you'll just stop and look at them.

But as lovely and scenic as our United States are, The Apostle John was transported to Heaven in a trance, and was allowed to tell just a little of the beauties there. And even with that freedom, he simply had not words that could describe what we're in store for there. We might picture "streets of gold" and a "River of Life," with trees bearing 12 manner of fruits every month," but we still "can't imagine,"" as a favorite gospel song says.

Pity...evolutionists and atheists have no such expectation. Rather, the afterlife of the unbeliever is an everlasting, burning hell. Both it and Heaven are spoken of in the book of Revelation, among other places in the Holy Bible.

As blessed as all of us are...Christians and sinners alike...there's a place awaiting those who accept Christ, that's beyond words. Read about Heaven in the Bible, the book of Revelation, chapters 21 and 22. And hell is talked of in Luke 16:20, John 11, Rev. 20:1-4, 20:15, 21:8 and other places.

I thought about listing all the places in the Bible where the word "create," or a synonym like "made" is found, and there are simply too many to include a list in this book.

One time would be enough though, as in the first verse of the first chapter, Genesis 1:1, but there are clear indications about creation from cover to cover in the King James Bible.

Moses (who wrote the first five books found in the King James Bible), David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Malachi (last book in the Old Testament)...all wrote about it.

And in the King James New Testament, Mark, Paul, Peter and John (the apostle) wrote repeatedly about creation. These can easily be looked up in a good concordance.

And in His creation, he thought of everything. There's no way such things as human and animal milk for the newborn could have been possible if all things evolved over millions of years.

And there's more...consider all the different kinds of fruit we have, and remember that other parts of the world have types we never see. If something decided to evolve into a fruit, how did so many different kinds show up...all from the one? And it's the same with trees, or any other creation...how can there be such a variety of everything, all coming from one iota.

Think about it.

### The Sports

If there's such a thing as evolution, how come Bo Jackson has more muscle than is on my frame! It's one thing that I weigh the same as I did as a teen-ager in the USN, but he and I seem to be distributed differently! OK...you're going to get into stuff like "working out" and training for a lifetime. Or maybe you're going to start a discussion on "Survival of the Fittest."

The talk can be serious or silly, but we do admit that each and every person is different...in size, appearance, knowledge, ability, talents... in every aspect. Parents will tell you that if you have 15 children, each one will be much different than each of the others.

As a creationist, of course I surmise that if all had started from a single cell, or molecule, or whatever, that all things would be clones...all alike in appearance and in all other ways. And of course, it isn't that way. The Bible says we are all wonderfully made, and it's true.

And how nice that it is! Otherwise, I suppose we'd all want the same girl, want to read the same book, and everyone would like asparagus. And if they were like me, they'd watch the Royals, no matter what the win-lose record of our boys in blue.

No matter how I slice it, I continue to find it easier to believe in creation, rather than evolution. And I continue to believe in God, by whose Word, all things were made.

The furor has cooled down a bit concerning prayer at ballgames, but it's worth talking about. I saw a comment that said something about both teams praying to win the game. He missed the point of prayers, I think.

Properly, the prayer leader will ask that the players be kept safe, and that they remember to be good sports...that sort of thing. But I do agree with the writer, wherever I saw that thought, that we doubt that The Lord is concerned with who wins a ballgame.

Now some of you will be aghast at my saying that, because you're caught up in scores. I remember when I was sports director at Arkansas State University, and we were on the way home after a loss. I was riding with a play-by-play announcer and some others who had been involved on the sidelines. After miles of their moaning, I made the remark that, "Well, it's just a game."

You should have seen the looks on those guys' faces! They wanted to hang me.

It would have done no good to quote to them from Isaiah 40:17 where it says, "All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted to Him less than nothing, and vanity." God, who made the universe and knows everything there is to know, including how many grains of sand there are in the world, and who has names for every one of the billions of stars...God has everything in perspective, and a ballgame is quite a way down the list, I'm thinking.

Yes, I love for my team to win, and I bleed for the Royals and Chiefs when they lose, but it's still "just a game."

Let's be more interested in where we and our loved ones will spend eternity, than the results of a ballgame. And pray for those who don't believe in prayer.

Let's change the subject: Is it wrong to work on Sunday? And my answer is "no." Case in point: It's work even to prepare a sermon. A person doesn't just "decide" to be a minister and start spouting biblical talk.

Even if a faker was not serious in his sermons, he would have to read portions of the Bible so he could at least sound like an authority on his subject.

Of course, picking a page and preaching on a subject would quickly get him out of context, because you must be acquainted with all of the Bible to preach the truth.

And consider Radio and TV ministries. Sundays are ideal days for those broadcasts, not only for persons interested in learning more about the Bible, but for shut-ins who have no other way to hear sermons.

And what about professional ball players. Sunday is the prime day for pro football games, although there are exceptions. And baseball, with 162 games in a six-month period, includes Sunday afternoons and evenings when working people are generally off, and can see a game.

And believe me, there are some dedicated Christian ball players. I was at a playoff game, in the section set aside for persons covering the games for the media, and prior to a game, a player was being interviewed on a network, and his Christian testimony was outstanding.

So what does the Bible say about it? In the book of Mark, 2:27, Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."

And He is even more allowing in Romans 14:22, when He says, “Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.”

Of course that doesn’t mean to sin anytime and anyway you wish. The Bible is also very clear against that.

And time after time, Christ healed people on the Sabbath, and that was one of the main ways he was charged by those who didn’t accept Him as The Christ.

Persons who followed The Law of the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 12:7), added to what God had given, into hundreds of “do’s” and “don’ts...even to how many steps you could walk on a Sabbath day. They made a sham of God’s directions. I might mention here that the “Law,” and the “Ten Commandments” are two entirely different pieces of God’s word. Jesus fulfilled the Law and we no longer have to abide by it, but the Ten Commandments are still our way to live.

And so when they charged Jesus with breaking The Law by “working on the Sabbath,” he said, “Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the Sabbath day?” (Luke 14:6). In other words, He was saying, “Some things are necessary to be done at a proper time.” Although He did not condone sin, He was sensible in His teachings.

Don’t be afraid to give your heart to Him. He’ll help you through the “freshman” period as you learn about His teachings from Sunday School, and sermons, and from reading the Bible itself.

The new Christian might ask, “what good is the building we call a church. Why not do as the sportsman says, who claims he can worship God just as well out on the lake, or tramping through the woods?”

Well, he can. But he usually doesn't. His mind usually is on one more bird, or one more fish.

The “Church” is not a building, you know. You've heard that if you're a believer, and it's true, in a sense. But the church is actually the body of people who follow Christ's teachings. Any Christian is a part of the Church.

And so...suppose that sportsman really did worship God as he froze in that duck blind. Then why bother with church buildings.

Well, the building is a symbol. When you see one, your mind does a little gear-shift, if even for a moment, and without even thinking, you recognize God for an instant. You remember that it's a good place to make the wedding vows to the one you love. The place to take your Mom when she dies. The place that has the pretty music on Sunday, and where folks you generally can trust, go on Sunday.

It's a testimony to the atheist from the believer. To rich and poor, black and white, old and young, pretty and not very.

But God doesn't live there. He's there when you go, because you take Him there. No man-made place will hold Him, nor is worthy of Him.

But isn't it comforting to see the building as you drive by. A symbol of peace and goodwill, even during the other 51 weeks.

A town without churches? Consider the wild west, where the law was a six-shooter. No community gained respectability until someone built a church. No place was safe til God was invited in. It's the same way now.

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I don't recall what TV show I heard this on...I think maybe a girl was pointing out why she should break it off with some guy. And as she listed this fellow's minuses, she said "and he has small wrists."

Well, that didn't make me feel too good, because I have small wrists and ankles, and I've always been self-conscious about them, even though they were big reasons for my success on the track teams in high school and college.

That's because my small bones made me lighter on my feet, and faster on the track.

So...I enjoyed my wins for my team, but that gal didn't do much for my ego. Luckily, 55 years ago at this writing, I latched on to a lovely girl who liked me the way I was.

Just goes to show that "you gotta take the good with the bad; the minuses with the plusses" and go with them. It wouldn't have done me much good to say, "She doesn't like my wrists, so I probably wouldn't be any good at TRACK, either." Wouldn't make any sense, would it.

And it doesn't make any sense if you're feeling low because you don't have some talent that the crowd can see...like preaching, or teaching, or singing, or playing an instrument. God saw you when you were in the womb, and voted "yes."

I once wrote a song called "The Talent" that says in part: "Everybody has a talent; talent just for being there, for what good is there in preaching, if it's to an empty chair." The point being that even filling an empty pew seat is a help.

So take heart. Even if you have small bones and a tin ear, God has a place for you...both here and in the hereafter. Be optimistic; Yogi Berra, the fine catcher for the New York Yankees, once said, "I ain't in a slump; I just ain't hittin'. It was also Yogi who said, "It ain't over til it's over."

The trouble with that "over" part...when it's over, it's over. Those who have refused the Savior, don't get to go around again.

I'm told that in a big horse race on a muddy track, the rider will wear several pairs of goggles so that as one pair becomes muddy, he can rip them off and toss them, leaving a clean pair for him to see through.

And although I've never seen this happen in the pits of an Indy 500 race, I've been told they have tear-away windshields, so that when a driver pulls in for fuel and new tires, the windshield cover can be ripped off, leaving a clean surface, free of the oil and other grime that accumulates as their cars race around the track.

Even if it's not so, it's a great idea. In fact, we now live in a throw-away world, where it's cheaper to buy a new VCR than to pay for having the old one repaired. I use the VCR simply as an example, because many, many things have come to this. And I regret to say that attitudes are moving to throw-away LIVES.

Life doesn't seem as dear as it once was, at least in some circles. Can you remember when the United States would threaten war over one of our people, or one of our ships being destroyed by a foreign power?

We wonder why the Lord lets the world stand with all this coming about, when He could end it all just by telling Christ to make His return, to take away those living for Him. But He waits, hoping for a few more to believe in Him. Becoming a Christian won't free you from the world's troubles, but it will help you to handle them. And the Christian is promised his trouble-free life when this one is over. If you'll read about it in the Bible, you'll come to realize that it will be worth the wait.

Talk to Him about it.

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Although I played football in high school, I wasn't big enough...I made it because of my speed, which was from my Dad's genes. But my main love was track...possibly because I didn't have to rely on anyone else. And my cue to increase my effort during a race, was when I could hear footsteps coming up behind. And if you want a tip for your next race it's this: Don't look back.

And that can be said for the Christian life, also...don't look back. Jesus himself said, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62).

And think positive. Don't be afraid you can't "keep your hand to the plough" (sic). Let me tell you about my "Fifteen minutes of fame."

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When I was on the track team at Arkansas State, I ran the 440 and the 880 yard dashes, and was anchor man on the mile-relay (We used “yards,” not “meters” as race measurements in those days). We were at Ole Miss, and since we were the traveling team for that meet, we didn’t carry the entire track team, but Ole Miss had all their men out, so we were behind in points, and had no chance of catching up when the final race...the mile relay came up.

Each of the four on a relay team runs a quarter-mile (440 yards), and as each of their runners came around in that mile relay, we got farther and farther behind. As runner number three was in his final turn, I asked the coach “What do you want me to do, coach?” (expecting him to say to just loaf...you’ve run two races already, and we can’t win this one). But he looked me in the eye and said, “I want you to win it.”

Well, when I got the baton, the Ole Miss anchor was already in the first turn, almost a fourth of the way around.

And I beat him, going away. I wasn’t even tired. It was a moral victory for our team, and they carried me off the field on their shoulders.

Well, Jesus was saying that to us as he talked of putting our hands to the plow and not looking back. He wants us to finish the race.

The Apostle Paul knew about running, too. He said, “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain” (I Corinthians 9:24). The only difference is that for the Christian, everyone in the race wins, if he finishes the course.

If you pay any attention at all to sports, you know that a team can do wonders, and finally get so good that the whole country is looking at them as the perfect team that can not be beaten. And what happens? They get beat.

Case in point...Oklahoma, who trounced every team they met during the 2003 season...embarrassed most of them, and by the time they played Kansas State, all the sportscasters were saying, no matter what happens in this game, Oklahoma is headed for a major bowl and will stay in that number one spot. And so Kansas State chewed them up and spit them out, 35 to 7.

And that's not an isolated case...I read a story about Boston College in 1946, that was in the same glorious season as Oklahoma...so good that when their last game was coming up and was going to be a patsy, they went ahead and reserved space at the famous Coconut Grove restaurant in Boston for their victory party.

And in that final game, their lowly opponent trounced them so badly that they canceled their victory party. And on the very night that they were to be there, the Coconut Grove restaurant went up in flames, burning to death hundreds of patrons. Boston College's loss of a ball game saved the lives of probably every man on that team and their girl friends, as well as the coaches, and the main college officials! One of those who didn't live, was the (at that time) famous cowboy movie star, Buck Jones.

A big reason for such a big loss of life was that the exit doors opened inward, and with people piling against the doors, no one could get out. It was the cause of a new law that doors of businesses open outward. But I've noticed that there are still business doors that don't do that.

But that's not my point...their loss turned out to be the best thing that could have happened to them. No, my point is that we mustn't get so puffed up at what people think of us...we must be concerned about what Christ thinks of us. First Corinthians 10: 12 says "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall." Let our life reflect humility.

That doesn't mean to be shy, fearful, overly-reserved, timid souls...rather, it means for us to be thankful to God for whatever talent others see in us, and act accordingly.

We are not our own; we belong to the God who made us. In my day, we said, "Don't count your chickens before they hatch." And that means for us not to clear a place on the mantle until they hand us the trophy.

That comment doesn't have anything to do with evolution, the main topic of this book. But the story about Oklahoma, and the one about Boston, were just too good to leave out.

### The Technology

We're getting more and more new words. Or at least they're new to me. A good one is "teraflops." it was used in a news story when a series of microchips were arranged so that they could perform more than a trillion calculations per second. Actually, the new speed record was one-point-oh-six trillion operations per second. The previous record was 3.68 GIGA flops. But that's only 3.68 billion calculations per second. Brother...how slow can you get.

One person in the computer industry compared it to Santa, saying that if the machine were Santa Claus, it could deliver gifts to every American in less time than the blink of an eye. The Intel company set the new record, but IBM was already building a faster supercomputer capable of three trillion operations per second. That's three thousand billion, I think We can't comprehend it.

And yet so many of us question the God and His ability. He, who made this earth and gave the ability to men to work such miracles. And in comparison to God's knowledge, all the minds of all the people ever born, or ever to be born in the future, compare to God like a pinhead to the universe.

But many still pooh-pooh the idea that God can be everywhere at once...can heal an illness...or can call all Christians to meet Him in the air when what we call the "Rapture" takes place. The Christians who are alive at that time will not die, but will be changed...given the ability to rise into the sky to meet Christ...while those who have already died will also rise with new, incorruptible bodies, to join Him.

The spirits of those who have died and gone to Heaven, will enter those new bodies, will be resurrected, and all will join Christ as He fulfills the prophecies laid out in the Book of Revelation. And how long will it take for that resurrection? Oh, maybe about 1.06 teraflops.

I wonder what evolutionists and atheists think about cloning. Christians generally seem to feel that scientists are going too far. So far as has been admitted, the first successful cloning was on a sheep. There have been others, and you may be sure that a great deal is going on in laboratories around the world. God made a variety of languages to stop the building of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11<sup>th</sup> chapter); how much more may He do, at some point of cloning!

There are so many things to consider...would the original and the clone have identical brains and identical thinking? Would the clone not have a soul? If not, what would be its future. If the clone is built to be spare parts for the original, as some are talking, wouldn't the clone rebel against dying to keep the original alive? You see, there's no end to the repercussions.

And last but not least...this would be creating life, which must be left in the hands of God. And THAT is why He may be preparing to put an end to existence as we know it on this planet, with those who believe in Him going with Him to Heaven, the place He has prepared for Christians. And with non-believers going to hell for eternity. That will be the end of the world, which even the scientific brains are more and more agreeing is coming near.

But aside from cloning and the rest of this world's confusion...if you die today, do you know where you'll spend eternity? Talk to the Lord about it, while you have time.

I've mentioned "GIGO" at another place in these writings. It means, computer-wise, "garbage in; garbage out." If you put errors in, you'll get errors out. And so I'll tell you that the following was taken from my computer, and the writer is not named. However, it's worth thinking about as it applies to God and Creation.

In it, a college professor who doesn't believe in God chooses to pick on a student who does. His first prod is get the student to admit that God made everything, and therefore God created evil.

He asks another Believer student whether he has ever seen, heard, tasted, or smelled God, and the student answers, "No...all I have is faith."

The student's rebuttal is to ask the professor whether there is such a thing as heat and cold. The prof says "yes" and the student points out that since "cold" is merely the absence of "heat," there is no such thing as cold.

He notes that there is no darkness, since it is simply the absence of light; that death is just the absence of life.

Further, the professor admits he has never seen the process of evolution, and the student asks the class whether anyone has seen, felt, or smelled the professor's brain. And he reminds the professor that science can't even explain a thought, and it uses electricity and magnetism, but has never seen nor understood it.

And the student closes by stating that evil is simply the absence of God, and so God did not create evil.

It was evident that if there is an argument as to “God vs. Science,” God wins.

It has always irked me, that evolutionists make their statements as fact. For example, here’s a typical newspaper clipping, headed “Ancient Jawbone Found.” The “discovery” was made in Madrid, Spain.

To quote from the Kansas City Star: “A small piece of jawbone unearthed in a cave in Spain is the oldest known fossil of a human ancestor in Europe and suggests that people lived on the continent much earlier than previously believed, scientists say. The researchers said the fossil found last year at Atapuerca in northern Spain, along with stone tools and animal bones, is up to 1.3 million years old.” The source nor writer of the item is given.

My thinking is that they missed the age of the fossil by about 1,294,000 years, since Man was not in existence until about 6,000 years ago.

Those nature shows on TV are beautiful and interesting, until they date something at a billion or so years of age or its beginning. Educated guesses.

And here we are, back again, to “If life evolved from something that washed ashore, where did the ocean and beach come from. The theory of evolution stems from that book by Charles Darwin in 1859, while the basis of the Creationist’s faith comes from many writers over hundreds of years of eye-witness accounts.

It’s much easier to believe in Creation than evolution. And evolution takes much more faith.

### The Thanks

When things go right, who does the evolutionist or the atheist give thanks to. Or do they just attribute it to luck. Or nothing...just not thinking of being thankful.

Do you look at some person now and then who never seems to give a thought to the Lord, or where his living comes from?

By the way...if you fall in that category, now would be a good time to change your attitude. Talk to the Lord about doing it HIS way, and He'll accept you. In fact, He's been waiting all this time for you.

If you happen to have looked at my website, you've seen my "slogan," I suppose you could call it, that says "When you talk to God, say "thanks" as often as "please." It's a good thought to remember. A thankful heart just feels better mentally, and that makes YOU feel better, even physically.

Years ago, before I turned KMAM/KMOE-FM over to my daughter Melody, I decided one Thanksgiving to call some phone numbers at random and ask what that person was thankful for. And do you know, I didn't get much response. Maybe it surprised them, but with some, not much came to mind. They just couldn't think of anything to be thankful for at the moment.

Well, the fact is that you can be thankful that you're able to hear the phone, walk to it and answer it. Three things, right there! Be thankful when you eat that the store had food to sell and you had money with which to buy. Thankful that you're healthy enough to eat.

There are people who work themselves down, getting lots of money so they can buy a filet or anything else on the menu, but by then they have illnesses that won't allow them to eat it. Why not join me right now, in being thankful!

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Isn't it strange that so many surveys are taken, yet you rarely know anyone who's been a part of one? And you'd be surprised at how many people have no strong opinions.

Back in the 40's, a popular song said, "You never miss the water til the well runs dry," and it's true. Few give much thought to how easy it is for us to go into a church to bow down to our God with no fear...not even a thought...of the

freedom that allows us to do it.

We see so many things wrong with our government, but we should be thankful daily that our religious freedom is still a reality. Granted, some take advantage of the term "freedom," to cause school confusion, for example, but they don't hamper our own right to worship.

In today's confusion about things like AIDS, even offering thanks over our meal in a restaurant takes on new meaning. Part of that prayer should be to ask God's protection as we eat food which has been prepared by people we don't know.

This could well be today's interpretation of the scripture that "He will give his angels charge over thee," and "If they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them." Those scriptures were not given to us so we could tempt the Lord's promises; they're to give us confidence in a faithless world.

Thanksgiving isn't a DAY to give thanks; it's a reminder to give thanks EVERY day.

Jesus pays a lot of attention to a person's attitude. Among my "Conquest" articles, I've talked about that scripture that says, "pray without ceasing," pointing out that it doesn't mean you have to be bowing constantly, I've mentioned this elsewhere in this book, but I'm reminded again of that monk in the book, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court." He wanted to "do something" for the Lord, and had decided that bowing was a godly act, so he figured the more times he bowed, the better guy he was. Not so. It was the Apostle Paul who said to pray without ceasing, meaning to have a prayerful attitude at all times.

You can prepare, through prayer, on your knees, but you'll have to get up to reap the harvest.

And that brings us around to having an attitude of thanks at all times...not just around Thanksgiving Day (which hasn't been around all that long, officially). That's what Jesus wants from you. Not just celebrating a day, but to be thankful for something all the time.

Remember I told you about my Mom teaching me to play the Glad game?" It's hard sometimes, but you can at least try. You know, Jesus even said that as much as giving a tithe to His work is can be a "not good" thing, if you give grudgingly...because if you feel you have to...you're wasting

your giving and not obeying Him. Remember the widow's mite that Jesus talks about in the Bible...she gave two pennies in the offering, while a rich dude gave a big check. But Jesus said the widow had given more than the rich man, because while he gave of his abundance, she had given all she had. That's found in the Bible in Mark 12: 42-44.

So try to remember to keep a good attitude about things. So why not make every day a thanks giving day.

My wife, Louise, tells me to always be positive. Does that mean that instead of saying "I didn't have a good day," that I should say, "This HAS been a BAD day?"

I don't think that's what she's driving at. She's telling me in another way, what my Mom always urged upon me... (I'm mentioning it again) to play "The Glad Game." Are you positive enough? For example, do you say "thanks" often enough? Not just to friends, but to your Main Friend, Jesus. As I've said before, you should say "thanks" to Him as often as you ask for a favor.

This is a time when it's easy to be all negative. Aids, government overspending, children killing children, schools teaching things that disagree with the Bible because it "offends" some, evolutionists who are convinced our world "just happened," without the help of a God. Taxpayer-funded pornography, abortion, medical plans that won't work...a never-ending list.

But I remind you that Christ is still in charge. He's hurting because of the way the world is acting, but He's giving us more time in hopes that some will turn from the unbelievable ways we're acting.

What can you do? Your part is seeing that YOU do right, no matter how the rest are taking advantage of the world's confusion.

Until our leaders realize that people must be taught that with privilege comes responsibility, we'll have to just see that each of US does his part to keep the world on an even keel.

Be positive...think on the good things. Be thankful for what you have. Any time is a good time to do that.

Staying on the subject...If you can hear this, be thankful! Give thanks for sight, hearing, smell, taste, feeling...so many things most folks take for granted. In one of the seemingly few things the Feds have done right, was to set aside to help you remember, and as I said back a couple of pages, we call it "Thanksgiving."

So what's on your mind. Taxes, murder, gun laws, airline strikes? Take a moment to remember that NONE of those things came from God. Everything He made was good. And still is. If a garbage dump blocks your view of a beautiful sunset, the bad part was MAN-made. The beauty of the sunset was God's handiwork.

Today, put the man-problems out of your mind and let your thoughts dwell on good things. Maybe a nice dinner...or your health, or good friends. Forget taxes, government and those who would have you disregard God's goodness.

There's a story about two angels who came to earth, each with a basket. One was instructed to fill his basket with petitions...requests from the people for God to answer. The other was to fill his basket with the prayers of thanks in the world. As you can imagine, the petitions were many, but the basket brought to gather "thank yous" was still almost empty.

Do your part to help fill the right basket. Give thanks today.

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Don't look now, but there are people who are trying to get all mention of God erased from your memory. And we aren't just talking about atheists and evolutionists. Oh...you already knew that? And you feel they may be right?

Let's talk a bit more about this nation's special day that we call "Thanksgiving." Would you take the words of George Washington, Abe Lincoln and other patriots who guided our country through those early days that brought it to greatness?

For over 200 years, American presidents have called on us to celebrate our Thanksgiving Day by reflecting on God's blessings. George Washington proclaimed that it is "the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protections and favor."

He was commenting after Congress had asked him to “recommend to the people of the United States, a day of public thanksgiving and prayer.”

Abe Lincoln? On the same subject, he said that since our national blessings “are the gracious gifts of the most high God, it seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people.”

But that was in the “old days?” I beg your pardon...President Clinton declared our November holiday as a “National Day of Thanksgiving. And he added, “On Thanksgiving Day, we set aside our daily routines to acknowledge the bounty and mercy of Divine Providence.”

John Kennedy said of Thanksgiving Day, “let us gather in sanctuaries dedicated to worship and in homes blessed by family affection to express our gratitude for the glorious gifts of God.” And Ronald Reagan said, “Let us thank God for our families, friends and neighbors, and for the joy of this very festival we celebrate in His name.”

And although our Supreme Court is doing its part now in trying to weaken God by mis-interpreting the Constitution, it wasn't always that way.

Only a few years ago, in the action, Lynch versus Donnelly, the Supreme Court said, “Our history is replete with official references to the value and invocation of Divine Guidance in deliberations and pronouncements of the Founding Fathers...President Washington and his successors proclaiming Thanksgiving, with all its religious overtones, a day of national celebration.” And concerning that case, Chief Justice Warren Burger said, “The Constitution does not require complete separation of church and state; it affirmatively mandates accommodation, not merely toleration, of all religions, and forbids hostility toward any.”

And here it is again...my little saying, “When you're talking to God, say “thanks” as often as “please” is especially timely at our Thanksgiving holiday. Think about it.

Let's just take a closer look at the words, “ Thank you.” You've probably said it several times during the past day. For opening a door...for handing you your change at the store...for

passing the salt. For the smallest, most insignificant things.

And so why not a "thank you" for the big things. For the things that really matter. For that intricate balancing mechanism in your body that lets you walk. For strength to lift your arm. For sight to see the food on the table. For the healing that happens when you cut your finger.

It's so very easy to forget to thank the Lord, isn't it. An old song says "The Best Things In Life Are Free." But someone else said, "The best things in life aren't things." They're the blessings we receive from God.

Sight, smell, sunlight, rest, memory...you could make a list for a lifetime, then as you passed into Heaven, find your list just beginning.

But it's natural to get out of bed each morning thinking what we have to do, rather than thanking God that he's given us another day in which to do it. We think of having to cook, rather than thanking Him for the food; to having to go to work rather than thanking Him for the job.

But the things of life are there for the doing, and they just naturally press the thought of God out of the picture. The garbage has to be taken out. There are teeth to be brushed...a porch to be swept.

Perhaps that's why Jesus suggested that we gather together regularly in Church. Just as you're most likely to find apples in an apple orchard, you're more apt to think of God in His House. More apt to finally sit quietly for a few moments and think of the One who's to be thanked for all the good things, and none of the bad things in your little world.

+++

Can it be that someone cares about you? Peter said there is (I Peter, fifth chapter, seventh verse). Someone so aware of you that He even numbers the hairs on your head! (Matthew 10:30).

Why don't you go to a church next Thanksgiving season. Or better yet, visit a church now. Even to a Wednesday evening service, to "test the waters." See whether there really is a calmness...a feeling that there is a good life waiting somewhere for you.

Going to church won't guarantee that life's troubles will stop. If that were true, the Peace of God would become a

commodity that would be bought and sold to the highest bidders.

But going to church may let some heavenly sunlight seep through the cracks of the door to your heart, and remind you that God will help you bear the day's troubles.

Drop in to a church this week. But wherever you are, there's a place waiting for you. God cares. So why not LET him!

### The Life and Death

If you've heard a few sermons, you may have heard the quotation from the Bible "His word will not return to Him void." That means that no matter who quotes from the Bible, it's not wasted, and even coming from a bad person, it's nevertheless true.

I've told you that I frequently write down thoughts that impress me, as given by various speakers. I have one that was preached by a man who later fell to temptation and left his church and his wife, for another of the congregation. But a thought he had planted earlier is just as true now. He said "We're not to adjust the Word of God to our culture; rather, we are to adjust our culture to His word."

That goes hand-in-hand with a message Brother Ben Haden preached here on KMAM/KMOE, in which he told of a mainline denomination that had just appointed a three-year study of homosexuality as it concerns the church, membership and ordination of officers, and ordination as ministers of the Gospel. Brother Haden added that this was the second three-year study that denomination had commissioned.

And he said "what do you think they'll find in the next three years that they didn't find in the first study? Do you think they'll find that God has changed his mind? Or will they have figured out some rationale that God does not condemn homosexuality. How do you think they'll work on that," Brother Haden said.

He quoted another church leader who said (at that time), "After all, it is 1993." As though the Lord didn't know that, he added. And Brother Haden said "The idea that God's Word is not up-to-date is confusion, because God's Word is eternal.

He is not going to change his mind on adultery, on fornication, on lying, on alcoholism, on homosexuality, or any other of the sins that have become life styles. To do a study and then ignore God's Word is another example of those who at judgment day will cry out, "Lord, did we not do great things for you?" and He'll say "Depart from me...I never knew you."

It's going to be the same with those who don't believe in God and His Creation. It won't matter how they try to reason with God, that they meant well, and it seemed right at the time. It bears repeating, that there is only One Way to Heaven, and that's through Jesus Christ. (John 14:6, Acts 4:12)

## The Holidays

### The New Year

What do you have in mind for the new year. A game of "Let's Make A Deal" with the Lord? New Years Resolutions are like that, you know. Fine, until something comes along to make them inconvenient.

Marriage today is a lot like that. Choose what's behind the curtain, and if you don't like it, get out of the deal.

Accepting the Lord is like a marriage, too. The words of repentance are really saying "I take thee, Lord, for richer or poorer, in bonds or as free...in sickness or health...what You choose for me." And although faith can move mountains, the Christian life is no bed of roses, and does not guarantee good health and money in your jeans. If that were true, the Apostle Paul would have been healed of his thorn in the flesh, and wouldn't have been in jail so much. And when Peter met the lame man at the temple gate, he wouldn't have had to say "silver and gold have I none."

No, God knows what we can bear, be it poor or rich...both have their attached problems. Elvis, Marilyn and others proved that money isn't everything.

David sung in one of his psalms "I want the company of Godly men and women in the land; they are the true nobility." So go into the new year with your eyes open, but with them on Christ and God, His Father, who created all things. Take what life gives, and be ready for the Heaven. Indications are that Time's clock is winding down.

37BT Bill Thornton Dec 15, 1993

## Friday (Easter)

Suppose a day could talk. One of my hobbies is song-writing, and I'm including one I wrote as if Good Friday could tell how it felt to be the day Christ died.

Why do they call me "Good Friday"  
When I was the day He died...  
Why do people remember me...  
And the horror that happened...  
on a cold hillside.

How can they bear to remember  
The Day, and that cross of wood  
I am That Day of nails and thorns  
I would kneel and repent if I could.

(Chorus)

I stand in the shadow of Sunday  
And I am content to be there  
I bow to that Easter's glory  
That no other day can share.

I am That Friday...forgive me  
Wash the mem'ry; erase the stain  
Only remember He died for you  
And rose...and rose...again.

### Mother Love

You've heard the expression "God couldn't be everywhere so He gave us mothers."

It's a nice saying and has sold a lot of wall ornaments, but it isn't true. God CAN be everywhere. But His love shows through to us through the Mothers of the world.

My Mom was a Christian from the time I was old enough to know what was going on, and I can remember when I was young enough for her to hold me in her lap and sing to me as she rocked. "My Little Buckaroo" was one that I've remembered and sung to my children, and now my grandchildren.

You can't have a loving mother without some of it rubbing off. If you don't mind, I'll give you a poem I wrote for her on Mother's day in 1979. I call it "The Exchange"

"What would I like to do for you...  
 What gift, this Mother's Day  
 I'd like to take the cares you bear,  
 and throw them all away.  
 I'd like to wave a wand and say  
 You'll never sigh again...  
 And ah, if it were in my power Mom,  
 you'd never suffer pain.  
 Your garden would be full of flowers,  
 each month of every year  
 And life would never give you cause  
 to shed the smallest tear.  
 But those are not my gifts to give...  
 the Lord has those for later  
 They are the things you're working for,  
 by serving Our Creator.  
 Thinking now, it isn't fair,  
 in our getting each other...  
 In me, you only got a son.  
 But me...I got a Mother!

37BT Bill Thornton      April 22, 1993

### Daddy's Shoes

A few years ago, I wrote a poem for my Dad and It's called "Daddy's Shoes." It goes like this:

When I was young, I'd try on Daddy's shoes  
I'd scoot around, and everyone would smile.  
They'd pat me on the head and say, (amused)  
"Don't worry, you'll grow to them, afterwhile..."  
But now, a lot of years have come and gone,  
And looking at His life, it's plain to see...As hopefully, again I  
try them on...  
His shoes I find...are still too big for me.

I'm sure you get the point. My Dad preached for 50 years, to the kind of people Jesus came to save...the down and out, the poor, the kind that sometimes had given up hope.

And there's simply no way to estimate how many he led to the Lord through his preaching and his example. I was one of them, and that's what my poem is about, that I wrote many years later.

Yes, he saw the poem and he knew how I felt about him. And I told him many times how proud I was of him. Because although physicians can often save a life, Dad saved souls. And that was infinitely more important.

Tell your Dad that you appreciate him. You have no idea how it will help him.

37bt Bill Thornton April 28, 1993

### Fourth of July

Some folks are so wrapped up in their “religion” that they can’t see the forest for the trees. Of course we know that the first and unbending requirement to become a Christian is to believe in the heart that Jesus is the Christ.

But some folks seem to think it’s the whole picture. Actually, that heart also feels a change, and with that, a person should find that he or she has become more considerate of others. And that doesn’t mean just for other humans. It includes heeding the needs of even animals. A dog put out on a leash that gets in the hot sun as the hours of the day change. Or even a pet with a fenced-in shelter, when the weather is summer hot or winter cold. And remembering that in that winter weather, that pet’s water dish is going to freeze.

And animals don’t like the fourth of July. They’re very sensitive to sound, and they can’t hold their paws or hooves over their ears to shut out the noise of fireworks. They don’t remember last year, since they don’t have reason, and even if they could, they can’t escape from a leash, pen or fence. I’ve notice that few people give a thought to this animal problem.

if you care about others, Christ will in turn, care about you. Really it boils down to the mindset...a person who is nice to others will generally be nice to animals. And I’ll leave you with a tip to the person looking for a mate: Watch the prospect when he or she isn’t noticing...if that person shows care for children, old folks and animals, you probably have a keeper. 37BT Bill Thornton June 23, 2008

### Trick or Treat

You probably already know that satanists consider October, the Halloween month, is to them what Easter and Christmas are to Christians.

A case in point: A minister was on a plane and noticed the person next to him had his head bowed in prayer. Afterward, the minister commented his appreciation to have a fellow Christian beside him. "Oh no," the person quickly said..."I'm a satanist. I was praying to him.

Another case...a minister and his family were in a restaurant when they noticed a group at another table, bowed in prayer. He also commented later to them, only to find that they too were satanists. They told him they were in prayer against the pastor of a church in that city...a fellow pastor that this minister knew personally.

As halloween has taken on new and dire meanings...out of the scope of kids soaping windows...we Christians must counteract what is happening. One thing I'm doing is to put picture-stories about Jesus in the trick or treat sacks that are brought to my door. Candy too...but also something that one child might look at later, out of curiosity, and be influenced to learn more about Christ.

37BT Bill Thornton 11-12-1994

### I Believe In Santa

Do you believe in Santa Claus? If you don't, do you think it's alright for children to believe? I do. If it's true, as the Bible says, that it will take childlike faith to enter Heaven, then I believe it's this very kind of faith that gives each little child the Hope of Christmas. hopes in Christmas. Great faith that Santa would come. There would be a time when <sup>2</sup>he would come for me...in the same way each of us looks for Christ's coming. This is a great and wonderful expectation, and we will not see Christ without the faith of a child.

And that special time always happened. Even though Santa didn't always bring my hopes and desires, it always worked out. If I asked for a sled, that special person (whom we call Santa) knew it didn't snow enough where we lived for a sled to be a wise request, and he had the intelligence to know that I would be satisfied with his way. And so we, as Christ's children, sometimes ask amiss, and must bow to the greater will and intelligence of our Heavenly Father, who knows what's best for us, even if the answer is sometimes "no."

Very often, Christ sends His answers through earthly messengers, just as Santa-faith comes into reality with the help of Mother and Dad. And so I join every child each year, knowing that something special will happen on the night of Christmas Eve, and tomorrow will dawn in a special way.

And it is this childlike faith that I cling to as I wait for that special time known only to God, when Christ will come again. Let's look at Santa as our children's first lesson in real faith in action. Santa represents everything that's good, and might be looked on as a way for each youngster (as he or she grows to the age of accountability) to understand the first step of faith in Christ.

I've read of many young people who were influenced to the bad by sinful things, but I have yet to hear of any child who rejected Christ because he believed in a Santa who represents love, joy and happiness.

Yes...I approve of Santa Claus.

### Jesus Day

In looking at several Christmas songs I've written...as I've mentioned at other times, that's a hobby of mine...a common thread seems to run in all of them, and that's the fact that Christmas is no longer handled as it should be.

For example, the emphasis on gifts has brought the stores to a point that they're now pushing Christmas even before Halloween. And some things are in short supply even before Thanksgiving, for shoppers who had something particular in mind. And those so-called discount stores, who only stock things that are big sellers, are out of things you're looking for, weeks before Christmas.

Several years ago I wrote a song I called "Jesus Day," that talks about what it would take for us to give Christmas back to Christ:

"Take away the snow, and take away the mistletoe,  
And take away the Santa and the sleigh...  
And maybe, maybe then...ah maybe you'll begin  
To understand our celebrating Jesus Day.  
"Take away the bells, and take away the wishing well,  
And take away the games we people play...  
Then maybe you'll remember,  
why this time in December...  
Is for a special person...it's Jesus' Day.

Take away the holly, the parties and the glow  
That always overflow...this holiday.  
Bring Christ back to Christmas...  
ah, how he has missed us...  
Let's remember Christmas...is Jesus' Day.

Take away the glow, of champagne with its bubbly flow...  
The drinks and toasts that seem to never cease.  
And bring back Christian prayer,  
and loving folks who really care,  
Then maybe we can see the Prince of Peace.

Take away the crowd, the party that is much too loud,  
And bring back Christian love that's gone astray  
Then maybe we'll remember, why this time in December,  
Is for a special person...it's Jesus' Day.

### The Story of “Conquests”

I believe it was in the 1940’s that Al and Vidy Metsker organized Youth for Christ. Then when they put Channel 50 TV, a Christian station of course, on the air in Kansas City, they also had a monthly magazine they called “Conquest,” and various writers wrote inspirational articles for it.

I was one of those writers. When the Metskers retired, their son, Ronnie, took over, and a few years later the station was sold and the magazine was no longer published. But I continued writing, using the name “Conquests.”

I had put radio station KMAM-AM on the air back May 11, 1962, and KMOE-FM January 15, 1975, and in the course of time I “filled in” for an area minister from time to time when that person wasn’t able to have a program ready for our Sunday broadcasts.

And that led to my using one of my Conquest articles and some of my songs (song-writing is one of my hobbies) as a regular Sunday morning program, which is still on the air at this writing in 2010.

Some of those articles make up portions of this book, and as a closer, I’ve finished with “The Rest.” which are various Conquest articles that might be of interest to some of you. I’m continually adding to that list. I hope you enjoy a few of them I’ve included here.

## The Rest--The Conquests No Lost Cause

I was in Junior High school during World War Two and followed all battles, using pins in a world map to keep tabs. What I didn't know until years later, was that the Japanese lost the war just six months after it started, although they wouldn't quit until all hope was lost three years later.

As briefly as I can recount...when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, you could compare us to David and Goliath, literally. The Japanese had been fighting China for years and had battle-tested fighter planes that could fly circles around our best. We had no battle training while they were veterans at killing. We still thought the battleship was king, while the Japanese knew this would essentially be won or lost in the air, and had us outlandishly outmanned in every way. And they planned the Battle of Midway just six months into the war, which could be a springboard to Hawaii and even our West Coast.

As the Japanese neared Midway Island, we located them and sent TBF torpedo planes at their carriers and every plane was shot down with no hits on the ships. All seemed lost...a total waste...as our boys crashed into the ocean.

But no...when they attacked, the Japanese planes flying protection above the Japanese ships came down to help destroy our boys, and at that moment, our dive bombers arrived and within minutes had destroyed three of the four Japanese carriers heading for Midway.

And when all was said and done, a prediction made earlier by the leader of this armada, Yamamoto, came true. He had said that if they didn't beat us in six months, they would never beat us. And it came true. (continued, next page)

When Christ died on the cross, it seemed to be another lost cause, but it only strengthened Christianity and kept it going. Because without his fulfilling prophecy by coming back to life for us, the words "Christ" and "Christians" would not be in our vocabulary, and we would still be lost in sin, making daily sacrifices trying to get by on our works. Talk to the Lord and tell Him "thanks" for what he was, and is, and will be...our hope for eternity. 37BT 10-3-03

## Bad Notes

When you're playing a musical instrument and you hit a wrong note, you often can "cover" your mistake. As a matter of fact, there's a saying that we people who play "by ear" never make a mistake...we just work it into the song and nobody notices.

You can even do it when singing...I often deliberately sing different notes or add in, so the song suits my style. And they say that Bing Crosby got his famous "Boo boo boo boo" sound when he forgot the words and filled with that nothing phrase. But you can't do that with a computer. Hit a wrong note and it quits on you. Balks like a mule. And nothing will start it going again except to push the right button.

Following Christ is something like the computer thing. You can't go through life pushing the wrong buttons and expect a Heavenly payday at the end of things. Christ knows we make mistakes, but he doesn't wink at it if you do wrong intentionally, or willingly. He said if you set your aim at obeying the Law and then fail in one thing, you've failed in all.

When a highway patrolman stops you for speeding, he isn't concerned that you keep your car mechanically perfect...you used it to break the law, and you get a ticket.

If you're hesitating about becoming a Christian because you figure you can't live it, you're pushing the wrong buttons. Tell the Lord you're ready, like a baby, to go one step at a time. Take care of today, and tomorrow will take care of itself.

### The Golf Club

I heard an inspiring story on TV from Reverend Joel Osgood, pastor of Lakewood Church in Houston.

He said golfer Arnold Palmer was invited by the King of Saudi Arabia to come to his country for a golf activity. He agreed, and the King sent his private jet to get Arnold.

And he had a wonderful four days of golf with the King. When it was time to leave, the King said, "We've had such a wonderful time, I want to give you something. What will it be? Well, Arnold answered that he had such a good time, there nothing more needed to be done. But the King insisted, and finally Arnold said, "Alright, give me a golf club."

Well, Reverend Osgood said Arnold Palmer watched the mail...wondering whether it might be a gold club with his

name on it, or even one encrusted with diamonds. After all, we're talking a KING here. Finally, a letter came. Arnold thought this was strange...he was expecting a package. But when he opened it, he found a deed to....a 500 acre golf CLUB here in the USA!

And Reverend Osgood likened this to how our God thinks. God has said "My ways are not like your ways, and my thoughts are not like your thoughts." And he said in another place, "I have great things in mind for you."

We must remember this. God has greater things than we can imagine for us. Let's don't magnify our problems...let's magnify our GOD, asking Him what His will is for us. And living for Him will allow Him to help us.

Get on God's wavelength...don't think GOLF club...think golf CLUB!

37BT Bill Thornton October 27, 2000

### The Telegram

I was a 13-year-old paperboy on an Army Airbase when World War Two began, and as I watched the flying cadets train, my hope was that I could be a fighter pilot one day, too. People who ran that base still have a reunion each spring, and I rarely miss. For example, one year as I walked in to register, a voice called out, “here’s our paperboy!”

We talked of our memories as a film was made, and one lady said that her job had been to deliver telegrams when someone was killed or wounded in action.

I thought what a terrible message to deliver! Then later, I saw an old movie from 1943 (which was about the middle of that war) and Mickey Rooney, as a teen-ager, had that task as a Western Union messenger boy. I should remind you that there were many adults in those days, coming out of the Great Depression, who hadn’t been fortunate enough to learn to read or write. I watched as he went to a small house where a mother asked him to read the telegram to her. I couldn’t have delivered that message.

What a fine place Heaven is going to be! No such messages. No bad news...no tears. How can a person trade that promise for the bad things of this life! If you haven’t given your heart to Christ, I hope you’ll do it now. Realize that even good people must admit their faults and ask Christ to forgive them, and then promise to live for Him for the rest of this short life on earth. Mean it, then do it, and from this moment the Promise is yours.

Remember the prostitute that was thrown down before Jesus, with those accusers waiting to see what He would do, only to hear him say, “Let the one who is without sin, cast the first stone.” And one by one, they slunk away. Then He told the woman, “Go, and sin no more.”

He has the same promise waiting for you. Do it.

## Barabbas

A great many of them are in the book of Genesis...first man, first woman, first farmer, and so on...

And I often wonder what happened to Barabbas...the first person to live because Jesus took his place. Barabbas was a murderer and a notorious criminal. No ifs, ands, or buts...everything he was charged with was proven and he was in prison for it. But for some strange reason back in that barbaric time, there was a time each year when a prisoner was given his freedom, so when Pilate wanted to release Jesus, the crowd screamed out to release Barabbas the murderer instead, and to crucify Jesus, who had done nothing wrong except to be misunderstood as he healed the sick, blind and lame.

You've heard of it happening on movie sets...the temperamental star plays sick and the stand-in takes over, and turns out to be really good.

Then the original starts looking for ways to get rid of this problem who has come along. Of course there's no way to know what happened to Barabbas. Maybe he went straight, even coming to believe in his Savior. Or maybe he went back to his old tricks. There have been movies made as Hollywood writers have supposed endings, but the Bible doesn't say.

One thing we can know...that Christ died for us, too, and we have the same chance to live for Him as Barabbas did as he slunk away from the Crucifixion. But if we refuse to accept The Offer, we'll get a chance to talk it over in hell, with those who crucified the Lord.

Better choose the way one of the thieves did, who hung on either side of Jesus on Golgotha...ask Him for a place with Him in Heaven. He doesn't turn anyone away.

37BT Bill Thornton October 3, 1995

### The Greatest Curse

The curse God put on the serpent in the Garden of Eden may have been worse than we generally suppose. For example, it's clear that before that, he could walk and talk. He was apparently on a human level.

That means he quite possibly was a warm-blooded creature. However, after the curse was put upon him, even fellow-serpents couldn't comfort each other through such a small thing as body warmth. Can you imagine waking up in the morning, in a bed just as cold as when you got in the night before?

Can you imagine a loving embrace as cold as the earth you're standing on? And remember, God told the serpent, "Dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life." That's in the first book of the Bible, Genesis 3:14.

And as a matter of interest, it's possible that God had given all animals the abilities which the serpent had, and they all became sufferers because of the sin of one animal, just as we humans were swept into a sinful nature along with Adam and Eve.

That's conjecture of course. But this we know; that lying and trickery was Man's downfall. And it still is. What a day it will be when we reach Heaven where there'll be no sin, no aging and no goodbyes. Because there'll be no passage of time.

The moment we call a lifetime here, is nothing in comparison to the Heaven we look forward to. Don't let anything sway you.

### Sure Thing

Take yourself back to your days as a youngster for a moment, and let's do some "what if." Let's say you're a young man in your prime, and your dad has sent you to buy a tool he needs for working on the family car.

And suppose you meet someone along the way who says you're going to be made the leader of the whole country. Of course you'd laugh at him and go on to get the tool for your dad. It's a good thing that a young man named Saul didn't do that. He was looking for his dad's donkeys when a prophet named Samuel told him that God had chosen him to be the leader of Israel.

Oh, Saul questioned such a statement. He reminded that he was of the smallest tribe in Israel, and his family was the least important of all, so the prophet must be mistaken.

But the prophet was right, and Saul became king. I should remind that this Saul lived several hundred years before the Saul in the Bible's New Testament...the one whose name was changed to "Paul" when he changed from a killer of Christians, to their most important spokesman. This is the Saul that later became jealous of David, who had killed the giant Goliath.

But to get to the point of this rambling. You have been chosen to have riches and unfailing health. And protection from all danger and hardships. That "unfailing health" is called "everlasting life" in the Bible, and the land you're promised is Heaven, with no death, no pain, and no passage of time.

The catch? To simply believe that Jesus is the Christ, and to live as He taught. To make Him number one, instead of the Chiefs, or the house you've been saving for.

And it's better than buying lottery tickets. This one is a sure thing.

### Thursday

Do you remember the story of the woman caught in adultery and brought before Jesus. The men meant to trap Jesus in an answer that would allow them to compromise His teachings, no matter what he answered.

They told him how they had caught her in the act. And while they accused, Jesus knelt and wrote something in the sand. Didn't say a word to them all through their railing about this awful woman.

Then He said "Let you who is without guilt, cast the first stone." And one by one, they sheepishly sneaked away, leaving no one to condemn her. And so Jesus said "Neither do I condemn thee...go and sin no more."

Notice that He didn't say what she had done was alright. But he was ready to forgive if she would change her ways.

But here's my point: What do you think Jesus may have written in the sand. We considered this in a Sunday School class, and the teacher said He may have written something like "Thursday night...8:30 p.m.," knowing that these men were more acquainted with the woman than they cared to admit, and had made up a plan to meet at her place Thursday night at 8:30.

Did Jesus cool them, or WHAT! He knew their own misdeeds, and by now, they knew that He knew...and so on.

My Sunday School teacher gave me a brand new insight on that parable about Jesus. Another good reason for even us adults to continue going to Sunday School. We can always learn. Try it.

### Time

Out in Las Vegas, there are no windows on the gambling places, and no clocks inside. Probably the same in KC and other locations. They don't want you to be aware of time. Inside is a huge room, chock full of machines, with persons feeding money and pulling handles.

Strange...people know the odds are terrific against getting a winner. But they also know that the machines are set to feed you just enough wins to keep you spending. Gamblers have even dubbed the machines "one armed bandits," because they take your money. Lots of people go there with a certain amount they intend to spend, saying that's the amount they saved up for vacation, and the way they spend it is their business. And that's true.

But just like the first drag on a cigarette, or the first swallow of an intoxicant may grab you and eventually ruin you, gambling is also a quiet thief.

A good philosophy is to stay away from anything that might get control over you. Stay completely away, because no one knows whether they're the one it will ensnare, eventually taking all.

Most things can be taken in moderation, but you never know when an invisible line is crossed that is almost impossible to retrace. My advice, and the Bible's advice, is "don't take the chance." The Bible says "shun the very APPEARANCE of evil." If it LOOKS questionable, you can be a bad influence on your children and on others.

But worst of all...you may be tying a millstone around your own neck. Don't let yourself get tied to things that will ruin your short space in this life. 37BT Bill Thornton  
July 11, 1996

### Turn Around

A minister-friend (Rev. Jack Sanders) once told of when he was about five years old, that he followed a flock of guineas from his farm home, across a 40-acre field, to the people in another farmhouse, who owned them. Of course he had no comprehension of time, and after awhile, his family was frantically looking for him. Finally this farmer friend, the guinea-owner, called the lad's Mom and asked if she was looking for him. Relieved, the Mom came after him, and on the way through a peach orchard, got herself a switch. In those days, the world was more sensible, and realized that a switch to a youngster's legs, not only sent him homeward, but also made him remember a lesson about wandering off. And he said it was a long way across that 40-acre field. And he remembered that when he would try to run ahead of Mom, she gave him another little switch. Finally, realized this wasn't working, and instead of running AWAY, he turned around and ran TO her. At this, she gathered him in her arms and all was forgiven!

Isn't that the way with Christ! The minister's point was that when things aren't working out...when you've tried all those things that don't satisfy for more than a moment...the thing to do is to quit running from the Lord; to TURN AROUND and run to him. Believe me, He's waiting with open arms to forgive those mistakes. Just as He said when He was here on earth, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathered her chickens under her wings, and ye would not."(Matt 23:37)

Jesus Christ is aching to take you in His arms, to forgive and forget all, and to add your name into His Book of Life. If you're truly sorry for ignoring Him, you can make a change right now, wherever you are.

Ask for His forgiveness and start over. You can do that, because He makes you a new person when you become a Believer. Talk with Him about it.

Incidentally, you see what has happened to youth discipline since Dr. Spock's error. Before his death, Dr. Spock saw, and admitted, that he had been wrong about letting children do their own thing, no matter what. But it was too late. Don't wait until it's too late for you to make your life right.

### Bedtime Stories

When our children were little, I made up stories to tell them at bedtime. After all, you can only get through “Goldilocks and the three bears” so many times before you start falling asleep before the children do. One I called “The Little Red Lollipop,” that wanted to be chosen, but before some youngster would choose it, the store owner would come in and refill the jar, leaving the little red lollipop at the bottom of the jar continually...never chosen to be taken home by some little boy or girl. Of course it ends well.

I was reminded of that story as I read Paul’s letter to the Romans (In the Bible as Romans, 9th chapter)...where he talks about how some people have a hard time while others have an easier life.

In the Living Bible, he said “Are you going to criticize God? Should the thing made say to the one who made it, “Why have you made me like this?”

You and I came into the world, deserving to be jars for garbage. But Christ changed that when He died for us and our sins, and gave us a choice of being jars to put flowers in. I’m now reminded of an old man, dirty with beard discolored with tobacco juice, who gave his life to Christ after Dad went to a shack to pray for the man’s wife.

The old man saw something during that visit...called Dad back and was converted on the front porch of that hovel. The next Sunday he was at church...clean and neat...a new man outside AND inside. His wife was able to again picture the man she had married years ago...back from the grave, as it were. You may not be in the condition that old man was, but your heart can be changed, just as his was...by talking to the Lord about it right now. Do it.

37BT Bill Thornton June 6, 2002

### Turning A Big Ship

If a sailor falls overboard, especially at night, he had had better hope one of his buddies sees him go overboard. Because it can take a mile of ocean for it to even turn around, much less find a head bobbing in the water.

And even worse, sea swells can be big, even with no storms, so the person in the water may only be seen at the top of a swell. And if it's nighttime, chances are the sailor will never be seen again. If you're on deck at night, you want a life jacket and flashlight secured on your belt.

I was radioman in a "drone" squadron, in the air branch of the navy when I was in service. We'd be sent to various places to fly the drones, small aircraft that looked like a fighter, but had no pilot on board, to let ships or land forces use them for realistic target practice. By the third day of practice, they would be good enough to shoot some down.

Once our unit was aboard a ship in rough waters, and during the night a man on watch came to tell us one of our portable generators had started by itself. There are two radiomen per unit, so we went topside, and sure enough, one of the generators we use to supply power to catapult a drone into the air, had started. Probably shorted by the salt water spray. The waves were house-high, I suppose, so I used one hand to hold us aboard, and the other one to hold the other radioman, while he worked on the generator.

Jesus is like that...our safety man. The one who holds on to us in dangerous times. The one, like in the famous story, who carries us, leaving only one set of footprints in troubled times. If you don't know Him, stop right now and talk with Him about your situation. Don't worry if you aren't yet acquainted with Him. He already knows you. Just start talking. Give your heart to Him. He'll turn your ship around. 37BT April 10, 1993

### Remotes

A few days ago, my wife was having trouble turning the TV on, and after a time of frustration, she finally realized she was trying to turn off the TV with the telephone.

You may laugh, but it seems that half the world doesn't know what to do when the VCR machine starts blinking 12:00 a.m.

Or maybe it's blinking 12:00 p.m. Who knows. At any rate, Louise had a right to be confused. Right next to the phone, which in our case looks like a remote, sits another remote that we use to get captions on whatever we're watching on TV. That's because we added the VCR a long time after we got the TV, and the two aren't compatible unless you use both the remote controls.

But wait...there's also a separate remote for the VCR. And don't forget that the TV has its own remote. So that makes three remotes, plus a phone that looks like one. And when we turn on the TV, we must remember to then push the "satellite" button so we can run through the 250 channels that the dish opens up. If all that sounds confusing, just let it go at that. Just so I know how to operate it!

What if God was like that. Having to call someone for help before you could get through to him. What if a voice would say, "If you want the gate, press one, and so on.

But the Good News is that is not like that. When you need the Lord, you just call out to him. No wires or buttons...no busy signals...no static until you figure out things. Just speak out, wherever you are, and tell Him you need Him. Some unbelievers call that a weakness, asking Him for help. But look at the trouble they get in, trying to handle life by themselves.

Accepting Christ doesn't do away with life's problems, but it gives you someone to lean on...to have faith in, that with His help, you can make it. Being a Christian gives you strength for the day and hope for the afterlife. That's when the payoff comes. Think about everyday life with habits that harm your health, or cost you your family and job, or leaves you broke. Oh yes, that evil one lets someone win a lottery or have some good fortune now and then, but that's his bait to keep people hoping they'll be next.

So don't be misled. He had no lasting good plans for you. And his number one trick is to tell you there's plenty of time later, to turn your life around. Talk to the Lord about getting on His side.

37BT Bill Thornton June 13, 2005

### Heavenly Beauty

Will we know each other in Heaven? Yes, we will. The Bible bears that out in First Corinthian 13:12 where it says "we will know as we are known." And will we still be "pretty" or "not so good looking" in Heaven? The answer to that one is "no," in my opinion. Like the face of a loving mother, who's beautiful, no matter how many lines of worry are on her brow, we'll have an expression of beauty when we get to Heaven...our face will look like our souls, I think. And a beautiful soul can wear any face and with no sin there, will be a lovely thing to see.

I kidded with the minister who gave the sermon, telling him I hoped I wouldn't look like my driver's license picture. Well, I won't. Or if I do, you wouldn't notice. I think the old adage "beauty is only skin deep" will be even truer there, than here now.

A few years ago, our pastor at that time was preaching on how God accepts everyone, no matter if they're really ugly looking. And he looked at one a man near the front and said, "Isn't that so, Brother \_\_\_\_\_." And quick as lighting, the fall guy said out loud, "You ought to know!" I should have sent it to a magazine that has a brief it calls "The Perfect Squelch." It was a winner.

At any rate, if you want to be truly beautiful, become a Christian. The way your new life will change you, will make a difference in your walk, your talk and your thinking. And that will spill over to your face. Do it.

37BT Bill Thornton February 19, 1995

### The Political Christian

Remember the slurs thrown at President Jimmy Carter when he told the press he was a "Born Again" Christian? It would be even worse now. I've thought about how the country would react to a Christian candidate at a press conference, who would only give scripture in answer to questions about his stand on the various issues.

I'll give you some examples, but will have to give you sentences with the chapter and verse to get my point across. But picture the press scurrying to Bibles, to find out what was said...On divorce, Matthew 19, five and six..."What God has joined together, let no man put asunder." On Women's Lib...1st Corinthians 11 and three "the head of the woman is the man." On jogging, 1st Timothy four and eight..."bodily exercise profits little." On federal spending, 1st Corinthians 14 and 40, "Let all things be done decently and in order." On welfare, 2nd Thessalonians three and ten..."If a man does not work, neither should he eat." Or 1st Timothy five and eight..."If any provide not for his own, he is worse than an infidel."

On gays, a long list, one of them being Romans chapter one, verses 26 and 27..."Women turned against God's natural plan for them and indulged in sex sin with each other. And the men, instead of having a normal sex relationship with women, burned with lust for each other, doing shameful things and getting paid with the penalty they deserved." On prejudice, the Love Chapter, 1st Corinthians 13. On child abuse, Proverbs 13 and 24..."If you refuse to discipline your son, it proves you don't love him."

Get the picture? There's a scripture for anything the press corps can ask, including on drugs, smoking, drinking and gambling, with the Bible speaking against excess in any matter or action. But if you only answered with chapter and verse from the Bible, it would drive them crazy. Or is it already too late!

## Roses

I've walked through the azalea gardens in Virginia in the springtime...when the flowers were in full bloom and people along the Eastern coast made a big day of making the tours.

The cherry blossoms in our national capitol make a special time. The leaf colors in New England every autumn cause the roads to clog with spectators of nature's perfection.

Or IS it perfection. If you'll walk up close to that dazzling display...close enough to peer down into the folds of a rose, for example, it's difficult to find a really perfect one. Close inspection brings out the imperfections that hadn't been noticed by the casual passer-by.

It's that way with people, too. No matter how fine everything seems to be, when you get down to the close inspection, usually there's something to spoil the view. It's now popular to dig into the backgrounds of people in the spotlight. Much more than in decades past.

For example, news people always took pictures of President Franklin Roosevelt that didn't show his wheelchair. Now they would relish telling of anything he'd ever been treated for.

I'd remind you that the Bible says that you will be judged with the same harshness that you now judge others. Have some mercy when a fellowman fails. He has a hard enough time even when things are going RIGHT.

Give him the benefit of a kind word and leave the judging to Christ. It'll go better with YOU at that last great judgment day, when we all stand before Him.

37BT Bill Thornton October 11, 1994

### Poor Taste

If you've ever joined the crowds and taken a tour of Elvis' home in Memphis (Graceland) you'll see red walls and other gaudy decor and furniture that the "trained" eye would consider to be in poor taste today. But it was fancy in his time. The house and grounds cost a fortune in 1960 money, but Eun-doing. Of course we must realize that an entertainer who reaches the status he did, is finally not his own. The colonel built him to a point where he had busloads of people on his payroll and they soon learned to depend on him. The shows he did, along with the movies, recordings and other things overwhelmed him. Finally he was taking pills to be awake for his next show, then around daybreak, he was taking pills to go to sleep so he could be ready for the next. This is why so many of the big-name entertainers get caught up in drugs.

I believe Elvis knew that gospel music was where he belonged. One of his most significant awards came from a gospel album he recorded. But as I've already said, by this time, he was not his own. He had abused his body...his temple...to a point of no return.

The Bible says (I Corinthians 3:16-17) "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." And in the 6th chapter, it says, "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price..."

The words "bought with a price" of course refers to Christ becoming a sacrifice for us on the Cross. And so our body can be compared to Elvis' Graceland home...we're not to put junk in it. If each of us is a temple, let us put only the best words and actions there, so if Christ comes calling, we won't be embarrassed.

Elvis had grown up on modest surroundings, and he decorated "his way," as the song goes that he and Sinatra made into hits.

And as much as I like Elvis, the fact remains that he used poor taste in the ways he treated his body, too. It put him in an early grave...if I'm not mistaken, at the age of the Mother he loved.

37BT Bill Thornton October 16, 2003

### This Younger Generation

Alright young people...you'll have a great time at the State Fair...but we'd remind you of a few things: The Model-T Fords you'll be going in, are hardy vehicles, but be sure to take along some baling wire to use for repairs. Some roads are good gravel, but you'll hit some dirt roads that can really shake up a mobile. And carry at least one spare tire for each wheel. Oh, and be sure to take some song books, because you'll want some music to help pass the time singing. But just sing the nicer songs, like "A Mighty Fortress is our God." Don't get carried away with new stuff like "Majesty."

And when you get there, don't spend all your money the first day. Two dollars won't last the whole week if you just squander it away. And you fellows, stay away from girls. A bag of popcorn goes just half as far when you have to share.

Now Folks, I've been speaking with tongue in cheek...to remind you that the young folks work and play and even worship in a different way than we did. I remember when I'd be listening to Glenn Miller or the Guy Lombardo orchestra and my folks would say, "Turn off that noise."

And so, although we love the songs we grew up singing..."Rock of Ages" and others...we must grant our young folks some leeway...their songs and their rhythms are sung to The Lord, and we might compare their jumping and swinging their guitars to the shouting that used to be a part of us.

It's difficult for me, too...to see this "different way" pushing in on "the way we've always done it," but remember: God's word will not return to Him void, and as the Apostle Paul said, even those who preach Christ just to make money or out of jealousy of him, let Jesus be told. Have patience with the young!

37BT Bill Thornton March 10, 2008

### Me, Myself, and I

You think you know yourself, but you don't. I've read that those in the military have a fear of how they'll act when the chips are really down...when they're in battle, being fired at, whether they'll stick or run. I wrote a song about my own question:

I HAVEN'T LIVED TOO BAD A LIFE  
 BUT NEITHER HAVE I BEEN TOO GOOD  
 I'VE FOLLOWED IN MY DADDY'S STEPS  
 BUT NOT AS CLOSELY AS I SHOULD

AND CALLS FROM CHRIST TO MAKE HIM FIRST  
 STILL PROVES TO BE MY HIGHEST TEST;  
 TO REASON THAT I'M NOT THE WORST  
 PROVES ONLY THAT I'M NOT...THE BEST

#### (CHORUS)

AND THOUGH I WANT TO, STILL I LAG  
 NOT KNOWING MY OWN MIND, IT SEEMS  
 AS ONE FOOT MOVES, THE OTHER DRAGS  
 WHILE ONE HAND HELPS, THE OTHER SCHEMES

MY MIND INVESTIGATES THE WORLD  
 MY HEART RESENTS, WITH TENDERNESS  
 BY DAY MY HEARTSTRINGS ARGUE "NO"  
 BY NIGHT MY NATURE CRIES OUT "YES..."

IF I CAN EVER GAIN THE WILL  
 THE MORAL STRENGTH TO CONQUER ME  
 I HOPE THE LORD CAN USE ME STILL  
 THIS IS MY PRAYER...THIS IS MY PLEA

37bt Bill Thornton 3-20-79

### Why God Says No

When I was a pre-teen, I prayed time and again for a bike, but didn't get it until I got a paper route and could buy one. God had said "no" because He wanted me to learn that the Bible isn't a wish-book, and wanted me to learn responsibility. Because He had a plan for me.

When I was in high school, and was editor of the school paper, no one told me I had writing talent, and might get a job at the local newspaper, and although World War Two was on, the school was able to get typewriters for a class. And these trained me for a job God had for me.

When I later worked for a pharmacy and the owner wanted to pay for my schooling to take over his business when he retired, but God put in my mind, the responsibility of holding a person's life in my hands as I filled prescriptions...possibly because of that plan He had for me...

And so when I went to college on a track scholarship, it's possible that I could have gone far on the strength of that talent, but the Korean War was on, and God put it in my mind to volunteer for service to my country, because He had plans for me...

And when my test scores were such in the Navy, that I had a chance at pilot training, God turned it aside because He had plans for me.

And when the Navy then told me I could go into training to be a control tower operator, I passed it up, to go to a communications lab. God was still guiding me His way, and said "no," because He had plans for me.

After my time in the service, I finished college while working at a radio station, and one of my journalism classes taught me how to work with the FCC to build my own broadcast station. God was heating up his plan for me.

And during my 50 years there, computers came along and I had to learn to use them for my business, which led to my setting up a website, where I'm now writing two-minute religious articles that at this time have reached 59 countries on every continent except Antarctica. I've coined a title; "website missionary." I don't accept donations; this is a labor of love, and I'm doing more for the Lord now, than I had ever

dreamed.

Time after time, God had said "no," because He had a Plan for me. And He has one for you. Think about it.

[www.billthorntonconquests.com](http://www.billthorntonconquests.com) 6-17-12

### Pets In Heaven

Will animals...specifically, our pets...be in Heaven. That causes concern among many people, because pets can be very loyal, and can become as close as human family members to many people.

I've often said that Heaven will be what you want it to be; if you appreciate the beauties of nature...love to camp out...God will see that you're satisfied with what He has created in Heaven for you. That's why I didn't feel that I was adding to scriptural meaning when I once wrote a poem I call "Dog Heaven." It was after some close friends lost a dog they loved very much. Let me recite it to you:

Will your dog be part of Heaven? There are arguments on this... Many feel, if Heaven's perfect, Dogs will help provide that bliss.

In the Bible there's a verse that says LOVE won't demand its way; Is not mean, or unforgiving, and when trouble looms, will stay.

Is there one you know who's like that? Sticking closer than a brother? one who'll lick the hand that beats him? Truer, even than your Mother?

Loves his master, sick or healthy? Loves one who forgets to feed him? Follows, whether poor or wealthy? Faithful when his master needs him?

Yes, the love and the devotion, taught in every Bible story, Found in pedigree or mongrel...SHOULD be part of Heaven's Glory!

And although the Bible doesn't say it in so many words, let me offer these: In Isaiah 65:25, Isaiah is prophesying the birth and life of Christ, then it seems that he begins talking about Heaven...our afterlife...when he tells of a time when the wolf will dwell with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; the lion and the calf will be together and a little child shall lead them. He goes on to say the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and the lion, which is of the cat family, will eat straw, and this tells me they'll be in a place without deaths being necessary as food for each other. And here's my thought that's not in the Bible: If there'll come a time when the "lion

will eat straw like an ox," it would be like that if animals were in Heaven...they would not eat humans or other animals, but would be tame like the cow. The Bible doesn't say, so...if not, why not.

These thoughts continue in Isaiah 16:15. Notice too that in the New Testament, Mark (16:15) says to preach the gospel to every creature, and why should creatures need to hear the Gospel. And so God may mean "animals" in this verse. And Revelation 5:13 speaks of creatures in heaven.

And in closing, I offer this...that the love we're told we should have for others, is found in dogs, to a much greater degree than in us humans.

If humans had that type of love and devotion, there would be no divorces...no abused, neglected or abandoned children...no elderly people who wonder why their loved ones forget to visit...no thefts, no locks and no jails.

And so if God decides to allow pets in Heaven, it's alright with me.

### His Way

I'll close with this. When Elvis and Sinatra came out with the song "I Did It My Way," I had bad feelings about it. Of course both of them had big hits of the song, and some people still request it from time to time to be sung at their funerals.

But neither Elvis nor Frank did it their way at the final curtain. Elvis' downfall was drugs, maybe through no fault of his own. His popularity required pills for sleeping and awaking, and they finally took their toll. Sinatra lived to an elderly age, but His Way didn't last. I decided to change the words to Paul Anka's song. Here's my version, for what it's worth:

### His Way

When Christ...shall call me home...and so I face...the final curtain  
And He...opens the Books...He will be fair...of that I'm certain  
I know...the time will come...that I will shout...in praise for this day  
To Him I'll bow...and I'll be proud...I did it His way

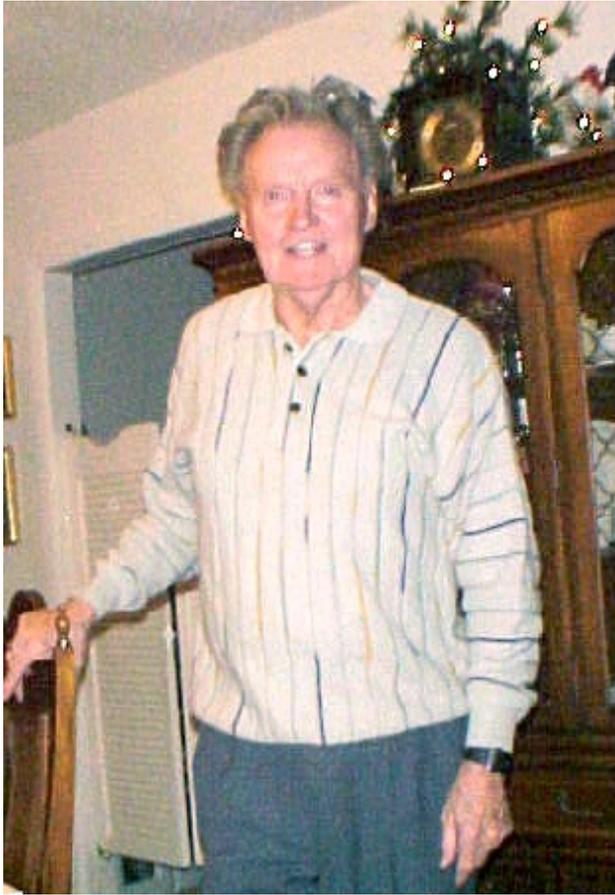
Regrets...I've had a few...but He forgave...my weak intention  
Oh yes...He stayed with me...and saw me thru...without exemption  
When I...felt sad and lost...He'd call to me...and beckon this way  
And now today...I'm glad to say...I did it His way

Sometimes...I'm sure you knew...I bit off more...than I could chew  
It grieved, the Lord to see, when I would try, to do it my way  
Then standing near, He saw my tears, and He shone in...just like the sun's  
rays...And then I gave...gave all to Him...and did it His way.  
(chorus)

For what is man...to think that He...can in his hands...hold destiny  
Tho he's a king...has everything...and all his life...just takes the highway  
Ah when at last...the die is cast...we'll do it Christ's way  
(Yes I can say...I'm glad this day...I did it His Way)!

37BTwords 1990? Music 4-5-93

(Adapted from Paul Anka song "My Way")



[www.billthorntonconquests.com](http://www.billthorntonconquests.com)  
[musicman37@embarqmail.com](mailto:musicman37@embarqmail.com)

