

No Reason to Believe the Atheists . . .

If the solar system was brought about by an accidental collision, then the appearance of organic life on this planet was also an accident, and the whole evolution of man was an accident too.

If so, then all our present thoughts are mere accidents – the accidental by-product of the movement of atoms. And this holds for the thoughts of the materialists and astronomers as well as for anyone else's.

But if their thoughts – i.e., of Materialism and Astronomy – are merely accidental by-products, why should we believe them to be true? I see no reason for believing that one accident should be able to give me a correct account of all the other accidents.

It's like expecting that the accidental shape taken by the splash when you upset a milk-jug should give you a correct account of how the jug was made and why it was upset.

- by C.S. Lewis

“Truth Does Not Fear Investigation”

There's a good saying that brethren have used over the years to show our sincerity in what we practice and preach: "truth does not fear investigation." The idea is that if one is genuinely concerned about doing right, he'll not be afraid of someone else questioning what he does. By frequent examinations and regular defenses one is constantly kept "in check." If by an "investigation" one's preaching and/or practice is proven true, great. If however it is proven to be false, there's a since in which this is also great, for now the sincere individual can make the necessary changes to get back on track and be right.

Unfortunately, not everyone is interested in truth. Some are content to go on in their error hoping no one will ever challenge them. If they are questioned, too many write it off as being "bothered" and ignore the "investigator." How sad!

Those fearful of investigation need reminding of what Peter wrote, "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you..." (1 Pt. 3:15). When a person gets to the point where they cannot defend or give an answer for what they're doing, it's time to do something else. While error may clam up, get aggravated and run from it - truth does not fear investigation. What about you?!

- by David McPherson

Indictments of the Social Gospel

THE SOCIAL GOSPEL is a philosophy in religion that the church should concern itself with worldly problems rather than spiritual ones. It is more interested in ecology, biology, psychology and sociology than in theology. It is more concerned about preserving the whooping crane and alligator than about preaching Christ the emancipator. It spends more time fighting earthly pollution that MAY damage the body than with fighting spiritual plagues that WILL certainly damn the soul.

THE SOCIAL GOSPEL is more interested in feeding the body than in nurturing the soul. Its goal is education, not salvation; recreation, not sanctification; fraternity, instead of eternity. It concerns itself with the "new morality" rather than with immortality; birth control rather than self-control; ministering to the "inner city" rather than seeking the heavenly city; slum clearance rather than with spiritual perseverance.

THE SOCIAL GOSPEL philosophy is more interested in helping men make a living than in helping them make a life. It is more concerned with civil rights than with spiritual fights; civil laws rather than spiritual flaws; revolution rather than revelation; civil disobedience rather than spiritual obedience; communism rather than faith, repentance and baptism.

THE SOCIAL GOSPEL is a lame duck spiritually because it is without the power to fulfill the lasting needs of the human race. It preaches Christ as a great social reformer, rather than as a Spiritual Savior. It limits His work to earthly benefits for mankind; and Paul said, "If in this life only

we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (1 Cor. 15:19). Social 'Gospelism' can only leave man spiritually naked!

- by **James P. Needham**

God Wants Us to Be Thankful

Throughout God's Word we are instructed to be thankful for His blessings. Here's a sampling of such verses:

1 Chronicles 16:8 -- "Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people."

Psalms 97:12 -- "Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."

1 Thessalonians 5:18 -- "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Ephesians 5:20 -- "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Colossians 3:17 -- "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Have you ever wondered why God commanded us to be thankful? Does He need this? Is He somehow dependent upon us to voice our gratitude to Him? Is there something about His nature that craves this and can't do without it?

The answer to all these questions is, of course, NO! God is not dependent upon us in any way. He doesn't need us - we need Him! His instructions to us concerning giving thanks are like all of His commands -- they are for OUR good. Observe: "And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes ... for our good always" (Deut. 6:24).

When we take time to thank God it serves to remind us of our total dependence upon Him. It helps us to realize our own weakness and frailty. It keeps us focused on Him and eternity. "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts ... and be ye thankful" (Colossians 3:15).

- by **Greg Gwin**