

CSA News

The Creation Science Association for Mid-America

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man" Psalm 118:8

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The Bible: Literal, Symbolic or Pro Choice? Part III by Tom Willis

Why Do Folks Rewrite the Bible?

In Part I & II we learned that the meaning of metaphors in serious text is normally the same as metaphors in serious speech: to add color or emphasis to the description of a person, place, event, etc. Of course, there are some serious, comedy and other writings (and speech) that are heavy in their application of metaphor, or other figures of speech. We noted that, the Bible has passages that seem to be entirely, or largely, figurative, e.g., the parables of Jesus, and most apocalyptic prophecy. We **know** this is true because the authors are meticulous to warn us of it. "The ten horns are ten kings" (Dan 7:24, Rev 17:12), and "He spake a parable" (13 times in various forms in Matt, Mark, Luke and John) are examples, "Warning, figures of speech ahead."

We also learned, most of you already knew, that some folks seem "gifted" at crafting persuasion, each capable of leading some people to believe that any vain and idle speculation about Scripture is equal to truth. This can be done with other serious texts, the Bible is the favorite target of revisionism. Why?

"Judge Not..."

I suggest that the pervasive reason is much the same as that of the thief... because so much profit is at stake in revising the Bible's meaning to make it acceptable to fallen man. A "church" that includes many unregenerates is potentially more "profitable" than a pure one, especially when the leader is unregenerate.

"Profitable" is in quotes above for two reasons. First, "profit" may mean different things to different people. The thief may not truly profit from a life of crime, but he perceives that he will benefit in some way. The liar may not receive a monetary reward, but may hope for some sort of benefit, even if only that of a child avoiding parental discipline. Thus, by "profit" I mean "in the eye of the criminal," not the standard capitalist meaning of the term. Second, "profit" is in quotes because of the command, "Judge not, lest ye be judged..."

Since "judgment" of folks appearing to be God's people is undertaken by virtually every Bible author, and since God's people are commanded to be discerning and to "weigh what the prophet says," I have taken "Judge not" to mean "Judge content and action, but not motive." Even unbelievers can recognize when something is said or done that is wrong. They manifest this daily in the passing of laws and in their continual judgment of murder, racism, etc. But only God can know the real motive (reason) behind what was said or done. Therefore, "profit" above refers to "some real or perceived service to the motives of the wrong-sayer, or wrongdoer." I can not know the real reason he perverts Scripture, but certainly **can** know whether his position is true, and **am actually called to judge and to condemn false prophecy, teaching and behavior (as are you)!!!**

Also, while we cannot **know** the motives for wrongdoing, in criminal justice, motive is a part of every trial to help understand why a person would do such a thing. Thus we claim our search for



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Glenn Kailer - R.I.P.

Glenn was a pastor who felt that the specialized vineyard battleground of Creation vs Evolutionism needed more workers, and he felt sent to this vineyard. Pastoring was his first love and he returned often to it, only with the congregation's understanding that he would be gone often. Glenn had a good and active mind, and a truly liberal education from many colleges, but he felt he got his "education" at CSA. Whatever laurels he had, he never rested on them, or on anything else.

Some of his gifts from the LORD included: creative thinker and master wordsmith. He could take a true, but plebeian remark from your pen or mouth and craft it into an unforgettable masterpiece. You have heard it said, "I never forget a face." While it was largely true of him, I don't recall him claiming that. But, it was also true that he never forgot a profound remark about the most important issue of our day - Creation vs Evolutionism. Glenn understood, as do all the opponents but few of our self-proclaimed allies that origins beliefs were not science, but formed the apologetic basis of your religion.

Glenn was dogged during the last 20 some years with diabetes. He lost two legs, his kidneys and one eye, but his ministry hardly slowed, much less stopped. While the cause

motive will be a bit more pure. We will merely assert the obvious, that some “very profitable motives” **exist** for rewriting Scripture. Unlike a criminal trial, it is not necessary or even Scriptural that we claim to know the motive for a given behavior. But the mere fact that “profit” is certainly available to those who trash Scripture, and in larger doses than for the few who preach and teach the pure Word of God. Now, Christian readers should KNOW that the REAL PROFIT for preaching and teaching the pure Word is immeasurably greater than it is for distortion of same. But, the unregenerate are not likely to know this (yet). If they truly understood the profit associated with treating the Bible seriously and honestly, it seems unlikely they would remain unregenerate or continue to trash the Bible.

Are you saying, “All who distort the Bible are unregenerate?” Heavens to Murgatroy, no! That would be judging them, which I am incompetent, and commanded not, to do. There are godly men who are misled by bad teaching, etc. ad nauseum. But, of the distorters of Scripture mentioned in the Bible, and quite a few are mentioned, most were deemed unregenerate. And, certainly most of those in history, from Muhammad to Joseph Smith, and founders of countless other cults, were undoubtedly unregenerate. Each taught and pretended to believe that his distortion(s) was (were) true.

What is the Profit in Distorting Scripture?

Consider the view of Jesus in one such instance: **“But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?”** (Matthew 15:3)

[He then showed that their tradition was in direct violation of a clear commandment of God (in Scripture).] Then, Jesus added: **“Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.”** (Matthew 15:7-9, Mark 7:9-13)

The teaching, as explained by Jesus, allowed a Pharisee to avoid the command to honor (in this case, support) his parents by claiming all his resources are devoted to God. There was a clear monetary profit motive for distorting Scripture!

Simon in Acts 8, had a large following based on sorcery. He wanted to buy the power to dispense the Holy Spirit, (apparently, he would sell it like Cokes or candy bars). But the Scripture states that God gives the Holy Spirit to whom he chooses. The Apostles rejected his offer.

In Acts 16 a girl with demons made her masters much money by soothsaying. Paul delivered her, but the loss of revenue angered her masters. Mammon and truth seldom mix well.

Rome was notorious for teaching that certain contributions to the Roman Church would free people from a nonexistent Purgatory. Countless similar things they did as well, but a retelling would serve little purpose here.

Islam claims to be based on new revelation correcting “error in Scripture,” somehow caused by Christians. From the beginning, Mohammed's chief “evangelism” strategy consisted of conquest in which the army got 4/5 of the booty, “the prophet,” a mere 1/5th. Consider only the 1600 Jew families they killed or drove out of Medina. Estimate the profit on selling the house, business, money and other possessions of 320 men (1/5th of 1600). Islam is a one more “profitable” perversion of Scripture.

When I was a young Christian, Penny and I were on the Church Council and conducted children's church. It became obvious from sermons and Council that the pastor had grandiose schemes including fulfilling his dream to preach to a thousand, but the Gospel had no priority. We decided to leave but my brother saw none of this and even criticized me for leaving. In less than a year he and a small group of men gave the man a choice of leaving quietly or facing charges of administering physical therapy to female members. This would-be pastor's goal was not big, just a comfortable living that a thousand members could provide and a little license. Truth was in his way.

Charles Darwin's father viewed Charles as incompetent, so sent him to seminary thinking a country preacher's job was the limit of Charles' competence. A brief perusal of Darwin's writing illustrates a man who either knew little Scripture, or willfully distorted it to “win” rhetorical points, profitable for his crusade against Christianity.

Throughout history, cults have distorted Scripture and become profitable. A pattern of gain for the unregenerate seems clearly to be pagan religion or perversion of Christianity, which Darwin wrote that he hated, especial “the doctrine of hell.”

Most Seminaries have many teachers who are unbelievers, but are well paid to “educate” potential pastors.

My point? It seems well documented that many unregenerate folks view “the church” as a good, even lucrative, haven from honest labor. There is an enormous body of regenerate believers on earth. But, as in Biblical times, there are, always have been, and always will be (until the restoration), “wolves in sheep's clothing.” Satan leads these folks by the nose. They are unsaved, it should surprise no one that they are good at distorting Scripture, they have a crafty leader. But why pick on the Bible, and not Homer, Plato, etc.? “Elementary my dear Watson, Christianity is true. Why would Satan waste time distorting the manifestly absurd?”

Thus, a comfortable, profitable, haven from honest labor seems to be at least one common “profit” motive for Scripture perversion, but it is not the only one. Another frequent reason is an overzealous desire for “Church growth.” When “growth” replaces Truth as the goal, truth suffers at the hand of “growth” zealots.

Glenn (Continued from page 1)

of death is not clear, it was undoubtedly related. All his friends, including especially, yours truly, chewed on him for being careless about his diabetes. The facts are that I know meticulous diet watchers who did not live as long. Glenn's life is a large testimony to the meaning of the “Bondage to Decay,” and to the way a Christian man reacts to it. He was asked by a close friend whether he ever had negative thoughts about his health. Answer: “I cannot afford negative thoughts about my health.”

He traveled extensively and was a regular exhibitor and speaker at more than one large convention, including the North American Christian Convention, which he virtually never missed.

Glenn seldom missed an opportunity to teach on Creation, but Glenn himself will now be missed. All who know him will agree that, like Paul, Glenn certainly has earned his rest.

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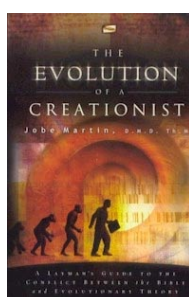
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for Mid-America**

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CSA Meeting - Tuesday, Mar 7, 2006

**Mathematics in Nature
and the Nature of Mathematics - Part II**

By: Bob Farwell

It is often claimed that mathematics is the one subject that cannot be taught from a distinctly Biblical perspective. Having taught math, Bob does not agree and has violated that claim for years. Like other aspects of science, in Math, we typically find that God was using higher principles of math before man was even on the scene to pretend he had invented mathematics. There is so much material on this subject, and it is so new to so many, that Bob felt it could not be covered in one meeting.

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CSA Meeting - Tuesday, Apr 4, 2006

The Nature and Origin of Information in Nature

By: Kevin Anderson

It has been said that if you could put a million monkeys with typewriters in a room, over time, perhaps millions of years, one of the monkeys would type Shakespeare's Macbeth. On the surface, this seems logical until you examine the true nature of information, as it relates to the development of life. After all, information needed to operate a biological machine, even as simple as a one cell organism, needs to be relevant to the machine in its environment at the time it needs it. Can changing the information through random-chance errors result in information more complex and more relevant? As we will see, the nature of information shows that any error puts a "monkey wrench" in the works.

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by: Steven Austin, Ph.D. Geology

Sponsor: Calvary Seminary,

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