

The DEFENDER - June 2019



“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: The Truth vs. Fake News

When I was in school, in the 1950's and 60's, evolution was taught as a theory, albeit on fairly equal footing with creationism. Today, however, evolution is taught as a science in the classroom, and anyone who disagrees with that and rejects it is accused of being anti-science. Two critics of evolution, unsurprisingly, are Ken Ham, president of “Answers in Genesis,” and the many scientists who work at the Institute for Creation Research.

Regarding the former, Mr. Ham takes on the abortion issue by pointing to the facts of real medical science, as opposed to the fake news of the pro-death crowd. The pro-abortion left claims that when a woman gets pregnant, there is not another human being growing inside of her. Their claim is that it's just part of her body. Real science, however, has proven the unborn child has 100% human DNA. Humans only produce humans, so the unborn baby is not a frog or a dog or a Brussels sprout. It's another person, completely distinct from its mother, even down to its fingerprints. The pro-choice argument completely ignores biology and genetics. And God. How else do you get away with murder?

The Christian scientists over at the Institute for Creation Research have tackled the evolutionary timeline—the one that says humans have evolved from a chimp-like ancestor almost six million years ago. More fake news. If that were the case, then there ought to be many more billions of people living today, or just as importantly, buried in the fossil record. With the world's population now approaching eight billion, the evolutionary story falls completely short. There should be many more of us.

The biblical model of the earth being re-populated from Noah's three sons and their wives, starting 4,500 years ago, fits perfectly with the number of people living today. A recent computer model for population growth included variables like age of reaching maturity, minimum child spacing between births, and age of menopause. They also factored in probabilities like polygamy, multiple birth rates, and the risk of death according to age. Their conclusion was that it's of no great difficulty to obtain the current world population from three founding couples in four and a half thousand years. Another one in the win column for creation. And evolution? Nothing but more fake news.

Rev. John Dekker, D.D. who began the In Defense of Truth ministry 56 years ago this month, maintained that liberalism started when people began taking liberties with the Bible. God's timeline from the Garden of Eden to the present day, using the genealogies found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, are clear that we live on a young earth. I'll also rest my case for Creationism on scripture—the 139th Psalm to be exact. And finally, I'll stand firm on God's Word where He warns the purveyor of fake news in Deuteronomy 4:2, to “not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it ...” “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even unto the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

Rev. David Lewis

Bible Basics for Christians

Part IV – Righteous by Grace Alone

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

The inbred natural deceit in the heart of every descendant of Adam (Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 1:18, 3:10) along with an inherent enmity against God's commandments brings a formidable, even impenetrable, barrier to any real understanding of God's grace; "Because the carnal [natural] mind is enmity against God: for it is NOT subject to the law of God neither indeed can be, so then they that are in the flesh [unregenerate] cannot please God" (Rom. 8:7-8). Scripture further informs us that; "by grace are ye saved, through faith ... the GIFT of God: NOT of works ..." (Ep. 2:8-9). Could there be an understandable definition of Biblical grace?

God gave His only begotten Son to die in our place. If one murdered our only son we might wish to exact retaliatory violence which constitutes vengeance. We could insist the authorities punish the felon and that would be justice. Mirroring Christ we might forgive the convicted criminal. But who would strive to have the murderer pardoned and then adopted into their own family as a son – none but God who did that for His lost sheep (Ep. 1:4-7,11-14). This transcendent conception is found ONLY in Bible-based Christianity.

Some have defined this exclusively Biblical concept of grace variously as: undeserved pardon or unearned mercy or unmerited favor – and each is a sufficient definition because outside of God's grace; "the wages of sin" remains physically and eternally – death (Rom. 6:23).

Initially God asks only one thing from sinners and that is simply to "believe" Christ's gospel (John 3:16) after being "drawn" to Christ (John 6:44,65). God's enemies (Rom 5:10) begin to recognize a new growing desire to travel the "NARROW WAY to life eternal" (Matt. 7:13-14; Luke 13:23-24).

God sovereignly grants saving faith to His elect children based on His mercy alone and NOT from any obligation to any descendant of Adam. His reason to save some from a justly condemned race is not based upon any independent or inherent goodness one may claim. Salvation rests solely on the grace of God that He chooses to bestow on condemned sinners who lived in sin and rebellion against Him. Those who pridefully boast in self-proclaimed righteousness and self-assumed saintliness (Luke 18:9-14) and who tout their "wonderful works" are particularly rejected by Christ (Matt. 7:15-23).

Those born again by God's will (John 1:13) by His GIFT of faith through grace ALONE, recognize they can give nothing for it nor add anything to it (Acts 8:18-24). Sinners are simply called to believe that Christ died for them in their place for their sins becoming for them an acceptable sacrifice before God. In this way both God's holiness "AND" His love and mercy are satisfied. God's grace is a gift so that it cannot be earned since earnings are rewards for work done. All that convicted, sentenced criminals can hope for, but never demand, is an Executive Pardon – and that, too, mirrors grace. Only God can justify the ungodly by the implantation of a faith given solely as a gift (Rom. 4:4-5).

Man's so-called "works of righteousness" offered for salvation is an insult to God's sovereignty in His calling home His lost sheep (John 5:25, 10:27-28) and a diminution of His deserved glory (Is. 64:6; Rom. 11:6). Since to break just one of God's commandments makes us guilty of breaking all of them (James 2:10-11) so that if we enter eternity with that single sin unforgiven and uncovered by the blood of Christ (Heb. 9:12-15, 10:15-19) we will suffer eternally along with all unforgiven liars, thieves, blasphemers, idolaters, fornicators, adulterers, harlots, abusers, robbers, murderers and Satan and his demonic hordes and all who refused God's call to simply; "BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

The Scriptures lead us to see God as He intended us to see Him. He created EVERYTHING and therefore is the ultimate cause of everything. While He does use sinful men and their deeds to achieve His purpose, only men and fallen angels are the IMMEDIATE or PROXIMATE cause of the sinful conduct. God does not sin nor is He subject to scrutiny under any system of law. However, after He gave mankind His Commandments, He condescended to come Himself and perfectly keep them.

His grace being limitless extended to giving to us His only begotten Son to die in our place. Although eternally Divine, Jesus became also fully human. God the Holy Spirit miraculously overshadowed Mary of Nazareth (Luke 2:26-35), and no man can fully comprehend how the Creator (John 1:1-3,14; Col. 1:13-17; Heb. 1:1-3) could be born a tiny baby. In Christ's divinity, He had neither beginning nor ending (Heb. 7:3). He was, is, and always will be Eternal God (Deut. 33:27); none are like Him (Ex. 15:11) doing spectacular wonders (Is. 40:22-23) as our benevolent Potentate – King and Lord immortal (1 Tim. 6:15-16).

God's omnipotent power and grace is best realized by Christians seeing His unwavering faithfulness (1 Cor. 1:9), His inexhaustible goodness (Ps. 33:5; Rom. 2:4), His mercy (Ps. 103:17; Titus 3:5); His unailing love (Ep. 3:17-19), all of which He dispenses impartially and universally. The Apostle said we can never be separated from His love (Rom. 8:35-39). We can never fully understand Him, however (Job 11:7-9) or His ways (Rom. 11:33-35).

Man's greatest thoughts can never truly appreciate God's grace. It helps to view it alongside man's sinfulness and depths of darkness. Man goes astray from birth (Ps. 58:3) by human inheritance (Rom. 3:23) with a sin-infested, cursed heart (Jer. 17:9; Matt. 15:19). Humanity is contaminated by sin (Rom. 3:13-18). The inherent spoliation not only ignores due worship of God and Christ, it bows to everything else insulting God (Rom. 1:20-25). Pride filled man takes God's name in vain on venomous lips (Ex. 20:7; Rom. 3:13b). Unregenerate sinners cannot sleep until they have corrupted another soul (Prov. 4:16) and rejoices in their downfall (Jer. 17:5; Matt. 7:26-27). They hate God's children of light (John 3:19-20).

The unsaved lack pity and abhor that God shows grace to anyone lest they see their own evil in contrast. Small wonder since this flows naturally out of mankind's depravity and pride filled perverseness toward Christ whose hands made them from dust (Gen. 2:7) and only sought to give man life more abundantly (John 10:10) but they preferred wickedness (Luke 11:39b) and murder (11:48-51) like their evil father (John 8:44).

The efficacy of God's grace was evident before mankind was ever created for His Son was; "slain from before the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8) when also the elect were chosen (Ep.

1:4) and eternal life initiated (Titus 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:9) when God's kingdom began (Matt. 25:34). God created mankind in His own image and likeness (Gen. 1:26) and gave them dominion over the earth (1:28). God pronounced the ultimate defeat of man's enemy (3:15) by the finished work of Christ who would die in their place as was symbolized when Abraham offered Isaac (Gen. 22). God provided a substitute to save Isaac (Gen. 22:13-18).

God the Father's grace is shown in His giving His only begotten Son to die for His chosen. The Son manifested grace in setting aside His power and becoming poor that believers can be rich (2 Cor. 8:9). He hid His divine royalty to become a servant (Phil. 2:6-8). He left a throne to be born in a stable and His bed a feed trough (manger – Luke 2:7) because He came to serve (Matt. 20:28). Even though He veiled His glory as the eternal Son, He took our flesh upon Him being also fully man (the hypostatic union) yet without sin (Is. 53:9; John 8:46; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15, 7:26; 1 Pet. 1:19, 2:22).

Christ showed grace in enduring bitter rejection as no other (Heb. 12:3). He had no home (Luke 9:58) sleeping under His stars and the elements (John 7:53, 8:1). His "friend" betrayed Him (Matt. 26:14-15) and was denied by another (26:69-75). He endured an illegal trial and was interrogated by wicked Jewish and Gentile rulers (Matt. 27:2) was tortured and crucified (27:31). By grace He did NOT call the 10,000 angels (Matt. 26:52-54) but for us He became "obedient unto death" (Phil. 2:8). The great Creator became a "man of grief" (Is. 53:3) and bore the wrath we deserved – forsaken of God (Luke 23:44; Matt. 27:46). Such is the unparalleled grace of Christ.

Even though Christ physically suffered and truly died, it was not the end, "Up from the grave He arose with a mighty victory o'er His foes" (Matt. 16:21, 20:18-19; Mark 9:9, 14:27-28; John 2:19; Acts 26:23). So, grace to believe to the saving of one's soul comes not to men by their righteousness but from God as a GIFT to those who believe in Christ (Rom. 6:23). Man can boast of nothing (Rom. 3:19-20, 26-28) because remission of sins comes only from trust in the blood of Christ (Heb. 9:22) which alone is acceptable to a holy righteous God (1 Cor. 3:11) thankfully Christ finished the work for us (John 17:4; Heb. 4:3).

To all who humbly and willingly call upon the Lord for forgiveness shall be saved (John 1:12-13; Acts 2:21; 13:48). "There is therefore NOW no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus ..." (Rom. 8:1). Christ promised if we confess Him, He will confess us before the Father (Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9-10, 13) and we will hear; "Well done thou good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21) and "thy sins are forgiven ..." (Matt. 9:2-6). Now we walk freely that "way that leadeth unto life" and that by grace alone (Matt. 7:13-14; Luke 13:23-24).

Keep looking up.

Chief Source:

Author:

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William MacDonald

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God Knows Everything – Do You Believe?

By Nancy Long

Psalm 139:1-18

1. O Lord, Thou hast searched me, and known me.
Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understandest
my thoughts afar off.
Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and are acquainted
with all my ways.
For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord Thou knowest
it altogether.
5. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid Thine hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain
unto it.
Wither shall I go from Thy Spirit? or wither shall I flee from Thy
presence?
If I ascend up into heaven, Thou are there: if I make my bed in hell,
behold, Thou are there.
If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts
of the sea;
10. Even there shall Thy hand lead me, and Thy right hand shall hold me.
If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be
light about me.
Yea, the darkness hideth not from Thee; but the night shineth as the
day: the darkness and the light are both alike to Thee.
For Thou hast possessed my reins: Thou hast covered me in my
mother's womb.
I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:
marvelous are Thy works; and that my soul knowest right well.
15. My substance was not hid from Thee, when I was made in secret,
and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.
16. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in Thy
book all my members were written, which in continuance
were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.
How precious also are Thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is
the sum of them!
If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when
I awake, I am still with Thee.

God has used this particular psalm, I believe, to change my life to alter it in such a way that's allowed me to "see", and to know, that there are absolutely no adequate words to explain "**GOD**"!!! Also to realize more fully that God is God and I am not!!! Several years ago, a young friend of mine, and I, memorized Scripture together. One verse a week over the period of a few years, reciting to each other either by way of phone or face to face. We developed quite a close relationship over these many months, while, even more importantly, we became closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My young friend died in 2016. She was not even 60 years old, younger than my oldest child. Although we were a generation apart, God used our friendship to bond us in a special way, and put to use His Word to do it.

The total amount of verses in Psalm 139 is twenty-four, although for this particular article, I focused on the first eighteen. Six whole months, one half year, it took us to commit this passage to memory. That seems such a long time, but I have to say, I don't think I'll ever forget how much these words have impacted my life.

How can anyone describe a God like this?! What words can be used to make clear, or convey a verbal image, of such majestic power?! God is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent; three strong and powerful words in the English language characterizing One who is **all knowing**, and **all powerful**, and is **present everywhere at once**!! Doesn't just the thought of this stretch your mind to its maximum potential?!

I would ask you to meditate on, and ponder, the above Psalm. Please don't quickly read through it. See if it doesn't reach down into the deepest recesses of your being to inspire an extreme sense of reverence, wonder, and awe!

Who can possibly know us more intimately than the Divine Creator, the One who tenderly formed and "fashioned" each of us into the image of **His** choosing? He knows us better than we know ourselves! How can it be that God has such an amazing ability to know **all** things? The psalmist has no answer, saying, "*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it*", and to quote Isaiah 55:9, "*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*" God's ways are different; **nothing at all** like the ways of men!!

God not only knows us in the deepest sense, but we, who are His children, have the promise of His everlasting love and protection, and can be assured of His constant attention and provision (Jer. 29:11). Much comfort will be ours when we ultimately come to the understanding, and appreciate this truth and **accept** it. "*The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms*" (Deut. 33:27). Our heavenly Father **will** take care of each of us in the situations where we've been placed, and has vowed to **never, never**, leave or forsake His own (Heb. 13:5b). He **will not** because He **cannot** break His promise!! A secure place, a shelter, a haven of rest What a beautiful, peaceful sanctuary in which to dwell!!

Our Sovereign God, to whom belongs all praise, honor and glory, has an inexhaustible supply of love, mercy, and grace. Whatever we as believers ask, or perhaps even think to ask, He is able to do **still** more **abundantly** more **exceedingly abundantly** more (Eph. 3:20). The supply is limitless!

The question: Do you believe?



Seek Ye Out the Old Path

By Hank Arthur

Jeremiah, that old time prophet, was commissioned from on high.
He relayed a message from Jehovah, a road map for you and I.
He advised us to seek out the old path and walk therein,
To find peace for our soul and stop wandering around in sin.

He said, seek ye out the old path that leads to heaven's open gate,
Stop putting it off, submit to the Lord, you can't afford to wait.
He said, the old ways are the good ways, from them we should not depart.
The old ways are God's ways, follow them always with your heart.

God showed Jeremiah a picture of a place he would never see.
Then God showed him a time in the future that embraced you and me.
Later God sent to us a love letter, they nailed it to a cross.
Follow His footprints on the old path; you will never suffer loss.



Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 AM
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 PM
Friday Night Youth Group	7:00 PM
Summer Movie Night (June 21st)	8:30 PM