

“I’ll Stay at My Post Until...”

Pailo Cemetery near the city of Tacloban, on Leyte Island in the Philippines, was very still. Officers and men of the United States Navy stood silently in long straight lines, each heart was deeply stirred. The minister, William Prigger, was finishing the burial service for one hundred thirty-one men, killed when a Japanese kamikaze suicide plane devastated and nearly destroyed the American battleship Nashville.

The men present watched and listened, and knew that, so easily they also might have died with their comrades. Suddenly the plaintive notes of “Call to Colors” rang out and the flag that had been flying at half-mast slowly rose to the top of the flagpole. The honor guard had paid their tribute to fallen compatriots. The men stood at the salute, never to forget that tragic day when destruction burst from the Pacific skies (Ivor Powell, *Bible Highways*).

To these Americans it seemed inconceivable that fanatical Japanese pilots would willingly sacrifice themselves for their Emperor. Their U.S. superiors had said such would be the case. They were told that the kamikaze flyers would be a menace to all Allied ships. When the enemy launched the treacherous attack, the sky seemed filled with planes, and bombs were soon falling everywhere.

Then came that horrifying screaming sound of a plane hurtling toward the ship’s deck and one hundred thirty-one men died. They rushed the wounded to the hospital, and the grim fight to save lives continued day and night. In the quietness of the Pailo Cemetery, the unfortunate victims of enemy madness were buried with full military honors.

One young man, Harold Adams, seemed more upset than the rest, and with face intensely grim he said: “Chaplain, those men died for us!” “Yes, I know. What do you think we should do about it?” Adams said, “I don’t know what you are going to do. I don’t know what others are going to do; but I’ll tell you what I intend to do. When the ship is out on the ocean again and general quarters sound, I’m going to my battle station. I’ll stay at my gun till every enemy plane is shot out of the air and every enemy ship sunk to the bottom of the ocean. Yes, I’ll stay at my post until that for which these died becomes a reality in this world.”

Can you honestly say you are “looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people for his own possession, zealous of good works” (Tit. 2:13-14)?

Are you fighting the good fight as His soldier? Are you finishing the course? Are you keeping the faith? “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7). After being immersed into Christ the True Emperor (Gal. 3:27-28), every Christian must stay at his post until every evil agency is swept from the battlefields of life, until each hateful thing in national and international life is destroyed until those glorious principles for which Christ died sways all who will listen.

Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ (Col. 2:8).

Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (Mat. 28:19-20).

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith (2 Tim 4:7).

The kingdom of God is eternal. “For thus shall be richly supplied unto you the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 1:11). To work for it, to extend its influence, to please its King—these are the greatest achievements in life. Are you working, extending, and pleasing?

Terry Hightower, Vega, TX

BELVEDERE BEACON

“Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)

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The Pride and Arrogance of Man

The haughtiness of man is often exhibited in his “super attitude” toward God and spiritual things. The evolutionist examines the complexity of man and teaches that humans evolved into existence over billions of years. Yet, the Bible teaches that God created man in His image on day six (a literal twenty-four day, not an eon of time) of the creation week (Gen. 1:26-27). The teaching of evolution is a blatant attack on God and His Word. The evolutionist has an open disregard for the Bible and the existence of God with a vehement outcry of dishonor.

One may expect to see dishonor from those who reject and have no respect for God. Yet, the pride and arrogance of “religious people” is easily seen in much of their favorite expressions in use today. Have you ever thought about the arrogance of the statement: “Would you accept Jesus?” This statement is one of pride. Why? It implies that man knows what is best for himself. It should be that man obeys the teaching of Jesus so the Lord will accept him. Another expression of pride is: “Join the church of your choice.” Again, this expression implies arrogance on the part of man. The Scriptures teach that one is added to the church once he obeys the Gospel. It is written, “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47).

God has never, nor will He ever accept the pride and arrogance of man. Solomon wrote, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Pro. 16:18). It is a humble heart and contrite spirit that is acceptable to God. Friend, let us all humble ourselves before God and always do as He requires. Because it is written, “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time” (1 Pet. 5:6).

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.

Morning Worship 11.00 am.

Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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EXPELLED!

(No Intelligence Allowed)

This is the title and subtitle of a movie released earlier this year by Ben Stein that was shown at some movie theaters and is now available on DVD. I don't usually recommend movies of any kind. However, after viewing the DVD recently, I would highly recommend that all view this film. If you have children, view it with them and discuss its content as it will help them and you in being able to combat the errors of evolution.

Specifically, this movie shows how the very idea of "intelligent design" is put down by many in the scientific community. I did not mention the words "God," or "creation" and did so for a reason. The movie explains how that scientists, with high credentials, are ostracized by their peers in the scientific community and have even lost their positions in academia because they dared to suggest that the evidence from science could (not even must!) imply intelligent design as being the cause of the existence of the world, the universe, the solar system and indeed all of the galaxies that science has been able to probe. Most of those who are interviewed clearly are not religious people and, in many respects, hold to most of the tenets of modern science that rejects God.

The concept that "intelligent design" could account for the beginning of matter and of life is clearly being ruled as "inadmissible" by many in the scientific community without regard to the evidence that is presented. Those who would even speculate that "intelligent design" might account for the origin of all things are immediately regarded as being on the "lunatic fringe" and nothing that they say or write could be anything other than the ramblings of fools and not worthy of scientific study. Such is strange given the fact that science is supposed to deal with the evidence and those who have propounded the idea of "intelligent design" have offered evidence to back up their conclusions. Rather, it seems that many in the scientific community would rather reject the evidence out of hand rather than examine it for fear that the evidence might lead to the conclusion of "intelligent design" rather than the conclusions that they have reached. It appears that many are scared to examine the evidence for fear doing so might make their atheistic, agnostic or skeptical ideas look silly.

During the course of the movie, Ben Stein interviews one of the leading British Scientists, Richard Dawkins and asks him about the origin of the universe. He indicated that it was a slow process – but didn't know how. When asked about intelligent design, he said that an earlier civilization in the universe could have evolved that designed a form of life and seeded it on to this planet. However, when pressed further by Stein about how that earlier civilization came to be he went back to the idea that there was a slow process, but he didn't know how it started. As with all such, he reverts back to some matter that was able to produce life but could not say where or how the matter came to exist. Thus, Dawkins, like so many others cannot come up with a first cause but because of preconceived ideas rule out intelligent design because they cannot accept that God might be involved. The Bible tells us that it is the fool who has said there is no God (Psalm 14:1).

Academia has decided to expel Intelligent Design (God) from the discussion of origins, so much for academic freedom! We need to do all we can to confront these "elite" who rule God out of court but yet not have scientific evidence to back up their decision and challenge them to allow open discussion and to be willing to defend their position rather than pontificate and expect all others to roll over and accept their "superior wisdom."

I would be happy to loan the DVD for those who would like to view it.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron's sister who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter and Tim Smith.

The Arnold children were all sick Sunday and unable to be out.

Lanny Niver had a surgical procedure to alleviate pain in his back; he is to have another procedure later this month. Linda Chumbley is also to have more of these procedures to help alleviate her back pain that she suffers in addition to the problems of fatigue brought on by her "good" leukemia.

Our next pot-luck will be after the morning worship service on December 14. Plan to stay and enjoy this time together.

How Great Thou Art!

Humpback whales are about 40 feet long at maturity and weigh about one ton per foot. They carry a thousand pounds of barnacles, and when they jump or "breach," they extend themselves totally in the air, and then free-fall back into the ocean. You can see the splash five miles away.

Humpback whales travel down to Hawaii from Alaska every year to calve in the warm Hawaiian waters. Year after year, each family comes back to the very same place around the island. When the calves are born (they weigh about five tons), they are born breech—or tail first. If they were born head first, these air-breathing mammals would drown during the birth process. As a baby whale is born, another humpback whale comes alongside and pushes it up to the surface to help the baby take his first breath of air.

The humpback whale sings a *song* that can be heard more than 50 miles away under water. Every one of these whales sings the same song. Each year, the song changes slightly, and every humpback whale in the world will sing that year's song. Amazing! Incredible! What a display of the wonderful creative power of our God!

Author Unknown