

Half Birds

Several years ago the media was a buzz with a report of the remains of a “bird-like” dinosaur found in Argentina. It claimed this creature could have flapped its forearms like a modern bird. Paul Recer, Associated Press reporter, quoted an Argentine scientist as saying, “This gives powerful new evidence that the gentle world of birds evolved millions of years ago from the ‘terrible lizards’” (“Bird-like Dinosaur Found,” *Wichita Falls Times Record News*, May 21, 1997).

Once again we have a gullible, sensation-crazed press falling for the old evolutionary propaganda. A scientist finds fragments of bone, uses a flawed dating technique to make it *millions* of years old, and then proceeds to put the pieces together to explain an elaborate preconceived theory. No one doubts because he says he is a scientist!

The televised news conference revealed the silliness of this approach. The scientist had displayed a silhouette of what he hoped the animal had looked like. There was this huge outline of a dinosaur based on twenty bones (many of the bones were pieces or fragments of bone). How ridiculous! If you have a jigsaw puzzle of 100 pieces and 95 of them are missing, you cannot possibly claim to know what the completed puzzle looks like. But this shows the basic flaw of the evolutionist. His blind belief in the theory of evolution forces him to draw such unwarranted conclusions from meager to nonexistent evidence.

The alleged dinosaur was named *Unenlagia comahuensis*, which means “half bird from northwest Patagonia.” You may have seen half-of-a-bird, but have you ever seen a half bird? Did a mama dinosaur give birth to a half-bird dinosaur baby? The Argentine scientist claims that *Unenlagia* “lived on a dead end twig of the evolutionary branch which led eventually to modern birds.” This was a convenient way for him to cover his tracks.

The scientist also claimed “birds are living dinosaurs.” It bothers the evolutionary *community* immensely because they cannot explain the sudden disappearance of this very successful part of the animal kingdom. Some try to blame it on a supposed asteroid for suddenly wiping out the dinosaurs, but what about the “half bird” dinosaurs? This doctor theorizes that dinosaurs just “evolved” into hummingbirds! They are just one of those “missing links” which do not exist anymore.

The biblical account of Creation makes more sense than the speculation of the evolutionist. God spoke the earth and its living creatures into existence, including dinosaurs and birds (except man whom he “formed”—Gen. 2:7).

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BELVEDERE BEACON

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

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Where Is the Scripture?

The trend with many today is to concentrate less on the Holy Scriptures, and more on other things in the pulpit and in Bible classes. Listeners are made to wonder: “Where is the Scripture?” In visits to congregations in recent years, I have left saddened because preachers or teachers used very little Scripture in the pulpit or Bible classes. In one instance, the preacher did not read or quote even one Scripture in his Bible class. How could this be called a “Bible class” at all? We also see this problem when preachers do not give the plan of salvation from the Scriptures when they extend the invitation. Do we assume that everyone knows what to do to be saved? Or, do we think that members no longer need to be put in remembrance of these important truths? This cannot be the case, according to Paul (1 Tim. 4:6) and Peter (2 Pet. 1:13-15; 3:1-2). Do children and youth not need to be grounded in the first principles, and adults as well, in this matter? Have some lost confidence in the Gospel to convert and to convict? Paul certainly did not. He said: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16). Does not God command us to: “Preach the word” (2 Tim. 4:2a)? Sadly, book, chapter, and verse preaching is rapidly vanishing from many pulpits today! Could it be that some actually think that their words are greater than God’s Word? This sad situation can only be remedied by returning to a “thus saith the Lord.” Precious souls need to frequently hear the plan of salvation from the Scriptures preached, because the Word of God is “able to save your souls” (Jam. 1:21b). “The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord *is* sure, making wise the simple” (Psa. 19:7).

One who thinks so little of the Bible, and so much of himself, that he will fill his lessons with human sentiments, while leaving his audience starving for the truth, ought to humble himself and repent! When men who have a genuine reverence for God and His Word fill our pulpits and teach our Bible classes, then church members will be encouraged to: “Fear God, and keep His commandments” (Ecc. 12:13), but not otherwise. Church leaders ought to demand this kind of preaching/teaching!

In the long ago, God commanded Jonah: “Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee” (Jon. 3:2). The preaching that God has always demanded is the preaching of His word, and not man’s! “If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God” (1 Pet. 4:11).

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:		WEDNESDAY:	
Bible Classes for all ages	10.00 am.	Bible Classes for all ages	7.00 p.m.
Morning Worship	11.00 am.		
Evening Worship	6.00 p.m.		

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WHO SETS YOUR STANDARDS?

A student at a private school has been suspended for attending the Prom at a public high school. Some are outraged by the decision of the Heritage Christian School in Findlay, Ohio, a fundamental Baptist school. Being ignored in all of this is the fact that the school has a contract that the students and parents sign that forbids such activities. Further, the school, being aware that the student planned to attend, advised him ahead of time that he would be suspended for attending and further, he was advised that if he engaged in other activities that they specified, he would be expelled.

In expressing opposition to the action of the school, it has been expressed that such action shows how “out of touch Christianity is with modern realities” and this is the reason why Christianity is losing ground. It was further suggested that Christians need to get a “P.R.” person to promote Christianity.

Today, we find that with political parties, when one party loses support that the opposing party is free with advice telling the losing party that if they are ever going to win, they need to become more like them. How could that be a winning strategy, except for the one giving the advice? Then there are ones within the losing party that echo the same strategy. How can they think it will win them elections?

With the situation that has arisen over this prom we see, from what we stated earlier, there are those in the world who are seeking to tell Christians how they need to change to be “in touch with modern realities.” Being interpreted, that means that Christians should loosen up their standards to attract more people. However, even worse, there are “quislings” in the church who have espoused the same philosophy and seek to work from within to loosen up not only moral but doctrinal standards in order to attract people from the world and from denominationalism. We see examples of this when biblical standards of morality are discarded because the world does not follow these standards and we see it in changes to the worship (adding instrumental music, drama, etc.) and opening the doors of fellowship to those who are not in fellowship with God.

Christians are commanded: “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God*” (Romans 12:2). One paraphrase reads, “don’t let the world squeeze you into its own mould.” When we allow the world, or worldly Christians, to entice us to change or drop biblical standards, we are allowing them to squeeze us into their own mould, to conform to worldly standards and not biblical ones.

Christians are also taught: “*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you*” (II Corinthians 6:17) and “*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light*” (II Peter 2:9). How can Christians be separate from the world when they follow worldly standards? How can Christians be a “*peculiar people*” (or special people for that is the meaning of the word) when they allow worldly standards to be those they use to justify their words and actions?

Let us not be fooled, let us never allow the world or worldly Christians define the standard of morality that we follow, but let us follow biblical standards. Let us not be fooled, let us never allow the world or compromising brethren to define the standards of doctrine relative to worship, fellowship or in any other way but to stand firm for the doctrine of Christ and “*contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints*” (Jude 3).

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick’s aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron’ sister who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter, and Tim Smith. DeJon Mitchell had back surgery at Shriner’s Hospital in Greenville on Monday and will be in the hospital for several days but is doing well.

Michael Farmer’s mother had cataract surgery last Wednesday and is doing fine.

Ron Wilson has gone to Houston, where Cynthia has worked for about two years, to help her move. She will be home for a short period before going to M.I. T. for graduate work. Kimberly has an internship this summer at the company Cynthia had worked for, and has gone to Houston. Jennifer is working with a boarding stable in Athens, Georgia for the summer. This will continue through the school year.

Lanny Niver had tests this week. He is waiting for results but is facing possible back surgery but is on bed rest.

Sister Grimsley asked for prayer for her daughter in laws, one is to have surgery this week, the other has cancer.

Scriptures on Holiness

Match the Scripture references below to the verses that are quoted:

1. “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”
2. “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”
3. “And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.”
4. “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety.”
5. “And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the Lord of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.”
6. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.”
7. “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend *is* his name.”
8. “For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour.”
9. “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”
10. “For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.”
11. “And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”
12. “But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”

a. Exodus 19:6 b. Psalm 111:9 c. Isaiah 6:3 d. Romans 6:22 e. Romans 12:1 f. 1 Corinthians 6:11 g. 2 Corinthians 7:1 h. Ephesians 4:23-24 i. 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4 j. 1 Thessalonians 4:7 k. 1 Timothy 2:9 l. 1 Peter 1:15-16

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