

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

No. 72

February 2018

The Danger Of Assumption

Introduction

There are three funerals which come to mind, two of which I attended, but they were all different. Without mentioning names or places, they were spread over several thousand miles and in different parts of the world.

1) Funeral Number One

- a) It was a lovely funeral (if a funeral can be called “lovely”) on a gloriously warm day, the deceased was very highly respected as witnessed by 150 plus at the gathering. Hymns were sung, a couple of prayers were made, and several spoke very highly of the individual.

2) Funeral Number Two

- a) Like the first, this also was on a wonderfully warm day and also witnessed by perhaps 200 people. Great respect was paid to the individual and while no hymns were sung, there were multiple references to God and the Lord Jesus. The individual officiating sought to speak tenderly of the grief all face in such a situation. That which was interesting was the number of those who spoke highly of the individual with much sincerity, seldom seen.

3) Funeral Number Three

- a) Like the others it also was on a warm sun shining day, however, in sharp contrast there were only about 8-10 people at the site and not a word is recorded concerning how kind the individual was. The only sounds were the shuffling of feet and the sobbing hearts. There is no record of any hymns sung, and not even a printed “memorial sheet”.

In thinking about these three funerals, I ask the question: “Which of the above would be considered the ideal individual?” Herein lies the danger of assumption, for while the first two were wonderful human beings which was evidenced by the attendance of many, the third was Christ, the Son of God. How easy to assume that the third was some evil doer who was executed by law. The Bible informs us to, “Judge nothing before the time” (1 Cor. 4:5).

The Assumptions Of Our Day

We live in a world of pseudo science, contriving deceit, and mass acceptance due to that which Dr. So in So said. For instance, we have heard for years of “Global warming”. Pictures have been presented as if it was a true fact, yet when the “Admuston” started on its voyage to measure how the ice, etc., had depleted, they discovered to their horror that the ice was thicker, up to five feet thicker, and had not depleted. Across the world lights were put out, people were encouraged to

cycle, cars which ran on electricity were all the developments of false data and wholesale acceptance because So in So said it. People assumed he knew more than they. It is also the same on the religious level. People are being led astray by the questioning or accepting the assumptions of others. For instance, in Bristol on September 18th 2014, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said that he questioned the existence of God! This man who is the professed “spiritual” leader of some eighty million Anglicans, told his audience that sometimes he would ask God, “. . . isn’t it about time you did something - if you’re there?” Those last three words speak volumes. How many Anglicans will now also question God for if the highest religious leader indicated the questioning of God’s existence, then, in their minds, there must be an element of truth in it.

It is by many a denial or assumption that God does not exist. It is my belief that behind every face of bravado in the denial of God is a fearful individual, who like the proverbial ostrich, would rather deny God exists than face such a reality. While healthy and alive it is easy to deny the hereafter and blindly assume that when an individual dies he is like a dog, no future, just going down as a name in history. This leads me to the question, “Why do I believe there is God?”

The denial of the existence of God is an opinion, a faith opinion, a belief, a choice made, which leads to the observation. Since a belief is always based on evidence, the question becomes, “What is the evidence no one such as God exists?” Let’s face it, “Because” is not an answer. Rather give factual, provable, observable evidences that God does not exist or acknowledge that it is just an assumption that one hopes is true. Even when the atheist association of the UK had signs put on various buses, the only thing they could say was, “God does probably not exist” or similar wording. They could not state it as a fact for they have zero evidence for their belief.

Why Do I Believe God Is?

The reasons are many but I will mention just a few.

- a) The cosmos
- b) The conditions for life to be maintained of any form
- c) The animosity and rejection of God and the scriptures
- d) The survival of Israel
- e) The orderliness of the universe
- f) The unveiling of truths no one other than the Creator would know
- g) The personal experiences of people which go far beyond coincidence
- h) The one hundred percent accuracy of the Bible in the original writings
- i) The perfections of creation
- j) The second law of thermodynamics

In this paper we will only consider the first of these.

The Cosmos

- a) The book of Genesis begins with a sweeping statement which indicates a number of truths. It states, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). This verse clearly teaches that the heaven and the earth had a beginning, and that beginning was the result of a creative act of God.
- b) When that beginning was we cannot tell for we have no idea if any time expired between when God made the earth and began the reconstruction of it. There can be no doubt that when it was created it had the appearance and characteristics of duration just as Adam and Eve had the appearance of grown adults, or the vegetation in the garden had the appearance of age.
- c) In this simple ten word statement God refutes some of the false teachings man has devised. It stands like a sentinel against:
 1. Atheism, for “in the beginning GOD”
 2. Pantheism, (the doctrine that God and the universe are one) for, “In the beginning GOD created the heaven and the earth”
 3. Fatalism (the doctrine of chance), for “GOD created”
 4. Materialism (the doctrine that matter has always existed) for, “In the beginning God CREATED”.
- d) “In the beginning God created the heaven” (Gen. 1:1) and that included “black holes”, “galaxies”, plants etc. Then almost as an off the cuff statement, “He made the stars also” (Gen. 1:16). Apart from the Genesis record, both the psalmist and Paul also tell of why God created the sun, moon, and stars, etc. (Gen. 1:14-16). The Psalmist wrote, “The firmament sheweth His handywork” (Psa. 19:1-2). Paul wrote that they declare both His “eternal power and Godhead” (Rom. 1:20). For almost 2000 years it was denied that there was a beginning, so where did the heavens and universe come from? Those who deny the existence of God are reduced to two arguments. Regarding the beginning of the cosmos, though the greatest minds do acknowledge it did have a

beginning, the cosmos created itself from nothing which is what Richard Dawkins wrote, “The universe evolved literally out of nothing.” *The Ancestor’s Tale: A Pilgrimage to the Dawn of Evolution* (First Mariner Books, fifth edition, 2005), p. 613). Stephen Hawking said the same thing, that the universe came from, “Nothing” (USA Today, September 2, 2010). In effect what they are stating is, “at a point of time there was nothing and that nothingness turned itself into all the billions of galaxies, stars, and planets making up the entire universe. In other words, the universe in its broadest meaning had a beginning. This is to scientists and cosmologists a stupendous discovery to such an extent that Stephen Hawking said, “This might be the greatest discovery of all time”. Man, up until the 20th century, assumed that the universe never had a beginning, believing that energy, mass and space always existed. He taught, based on his assumptions, that the total number of stars which existed was approximately one hundred million! It was when Edwin Hubble discovered that the universe was expanding he calculated that there had to be a beginning. Einstein fudged the equation to deny the implications of a beginning of the universe. It was Sir Fred Hoyle who called it, “The Big Bang” for they could not acknowledge a Creator. Edmund Willaker gave the understanding that the beginning of the universe was due to the divine will”.

- e) Sadly, if these men had simply read the words written, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”, years of time and misplaced energy could have been saved. As Romans says, “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools” (Rom. 1:22).

Lifting this danger of assumption to a spiritual level, it is acknowledged that across the world man has accepted the teaching of men in pulpits who, as the Archbishop of Canterbury would tell his followers, “Do the best you can and in the end God will, as it were, put your good deeds on one side of the scale and sins on the other side to see where the individual will spend eternity. Or, as one highly respectable lady told me, “My priest comes three times a week and I do the best I can”. They assume these men are correct. Tragically, all too often they ignore the teachings of the Bible which deals with truths and not assumptions: “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Psa. 14:12; 16:25). God in the scriptures has told us, salvation is without works (Rom. 4:6; Eph. 2:9); salvation is a gift from God (Rom. 5:17; 2 Cor. 9:15; Eph. 2:8). There is only one way to reconciliation with God and that is through the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary (Jn. 19:30). The facts are:

- a) Man is incapable of providing his own salvation for he is by birth a sinner, and without strength (Rom. 5:6).
- b) By the law no one is justified before God. The scriptures are clear, “By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight” (Rom. 3:20).
- c) There is no sense in looking to others to help for, “All the world is guilty before God” (Rom. 3:19).
- d) Eternal life is “the gift of God” (Rom. 6:23).
- e) Salvation is secured alone through “Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:23).
- f) An individual can live life now knowing they will never be in Hell, and at the moment of death will be with the Lord in Heaven.

Conclusion

To make the assumption that there is no God and that man is a mindless accident without purpose is to deny evidence from multiple sources which all cry out, “God is”. As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, I am very happy to know that I am not a mindless accident and that in wondrous grace and mercy through love, the Creator has a purpose for me. I know that when I die my spirit will enter the celestial courts and I will never hear the cries of the lost nor know the blackness of darkness forever.

. . . . Rowan Jennings

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