

Hidden Cross

December 2008

God giveth and taketh away

Last month one of my close friends, Henry Johnson, passed away. Henry helped me with all of my ministries—he was helping me put together lesson packets for my Sagadii tutoring ministry, he helped me with my dinosaur DVD project, and he was a subscriber to my newsletter.

God took Henry away from this world, and I felt crushed. But afterward, I realized how precious it was for God to give me so much time with Henry, even though it was only for a few months over the phone.

Well, Henry is now off the receiver list of HCN, and since most of the forwarded stuff I sent out in the last few months came from him, don't expect as much of that anymore.

But as we say goodbye to Henry, please join me in welcoming Ken Peirce, a friend of Henry's, as a new subscriber.

Selfishness

Selfishness is a word I invented. I found that sometimes when wanting to witness to someone, ideas would come into mind like “you would bother that person”. Such thoughts are examples of selfishness—pretending to do something to be selfless (not bother the person) when it is really selfish (you don't want to go out of your way). Don't be selfishless.

God is Exotemporal

A lot of atheists claim that things must have a beginning—if God is the Creator, who created the Creator? This is a misunderstanding of fact that God is eternal—He exists outside of time. But since we have eternal souls, some get confused, and think eternal means starting and continuing forever. Perhaps a better word is exotemporal (exo-outside of, temporal-time). Since this generation was raised more on sci-fi and video games, this would convey the message that God is outside of time, and help to properly define eternal as being without beginning or end. God is exotemporal.

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Sylvia Browne—Final Conclusion

50 predictions tested

6 were correct

6/50, or 12%

Sylvia Browne is not a psychic, this is sure. Considering her accuracy rate, she is most likely a fake. If she had a greater accuracy rate, then I would conclude she was in league with the Devil (which she may be on occasion, but the 12% accuracy rate is not proof of accurate predictions). In comparison, surviving Russian Roulette with a 6-chambered

revolver with 5 bullets has the chance of 1/6, or 16.67%. That is 4.67% more likely than this 'psychic' being correct.

We looked at 50 predictions. Statistical analysis says that if your sample is 30 or more, you are most likely to be accurate to the larger population (in this case, the larger population would be all of her predictions/claims/whatever else).

Some will undoubtedly claim that we should check more reports. I could have, but I wanted to stick to famous things, things anyone could go and check for themselves, like Reeve never getting electrode implants, the Hornbeck case, and the 2007 predictions. Transcripts and video clips can both be found online. Check Youtube to get clips of the Montel Show to see these false predictions yourself.

Please know that I did check out several other readings and predictions, and they often were just as bad or worse (like one case where Sylvia says that a girl was shot when she just collapsed in her room, and later saying that it could have been Toxic Shock Syndrome. How exactly do you confuse a gunshot and TSS? One is a type of poisoning, and one is getting shot by a gun.) I decided against these because they were private cases, not public ones, and you, reader, would not have as easy of a time checking them out for yourself.

You can find several websites about this online, but I highly suggest watching the show yourself on Youtube, since the channels carrying Montel won't run her episodes where she has been proven wrong (it is classified as disturbing to the people involved and people could lose their jobs for running them) so it isn't like you can see them on TV – you have to find the clips for yourself.

Central Interpretive Motif

Central Interpretive Motif is the central theme of the Bible, and thus becomes a person's main way of interpreting scripture. This is the thing in your mind (conscious or subconscious) that determines how you see scripture.

Each person may have a different CIM, and there are many that are right. However, many people have bad CIM's, and these people are often heretical in their theology, teaching, and preaching.

We are going to look at 7 famous people to see what their CIM was/is and how it influenced them. Then, I will explain my own CIM.

We will look at:

- Martin Luther (Grace)
- John Calvin (Sovereignty of God)
- Todd Friel (Majesty of God)
- Joel Osteen (Inclusiveness)
- Gene Robinson (God is Love)
- Creflo A. Dollar (Prosperity)
- Dan Barker (Goodness of Man)

Martin Luther (Grace)

Martin Luther, the big mover of the reformation, had the CIM of Grace. This is because Martin Luther used to be a member of the Catholic Church, and seeing things

such as indulgences (buying one's way into heaven) and work-righteousness upset him once he had read the scripture. He came up with the 5 Solas.

- Sola Gratia (By Grace alone)
- Sola Fide (Through faith alone)
- Sola Christos (In Christ alone)
- Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone)
- Soli Dei Gloria (To the glory of God alone)

John Calvin (Sovereignty of God)

John Calvin believed that God was sovereign, in complete control. This led him to create the Calvinist TULIP doctrine.

- Total depravity
- Unconditional election
- Limited atonement
- Irresistible grace
- Perseverance of the saints

Todd Friel (Majesty of God)

Todd Friel, host of the Way of the Master Radio, has said that his CIM is the Majesty of God. He has said that this CIM allows him to hold both the love of God and the justice of God in a good balance.

Those three people—Luther, Calvin, and Friel—are Christians, and their CIM's are good and Biblically acceptable. Now let's look at three non-Christians or false converts and their CIM's, as well as why they are not right.

Joel Osteen (Inclusiveness)

Joel Osteen says that the Bible is meant to help everyone from all religions. He said that he hopes everyone of all religions can benefit from his sermons.

However, Jesus said I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the father except through me (John 14:6). All paths do lead to God; one to the Father and the rest to the Judge.

If Joel really believes that, he is only making the unbeliever's lives more comfortable to go to hell from. No true Christian would do such a thing. Charles Spurgeon said, "Have you no desire for others to be saved? Then you are not saved yourself, be sure of that." It appears that Joel does not have desire for others to be saved, so he is not saved.

It may even be that he thinks everyone is going to heaven, and we see how that CIM is just a path to heresy.

As Todd Friel says, "nearly all heresy starts with a low view of scripture".

Gene Robinson (God is Love)

Gene Robinson (the first openly gay bishop of the episcopal 'church') believes that Christianity is all about love, love, love, love, love. God loves us for who we are.

If that were true, then God would never have said, Vengeance is mine, (Romans 12:19). If God is love, and love only, then God is not just or righteous, and therefore not worthy of worship. And if God is love and love only, he would not punish those who would

refuse to worship him, but that is precisely what he promises. And if God is love and love only, he is not worthy to have pronouns capitalized when they refer to him. And so on.

But God is both loving and righteous; Jesus said, “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you.” (John 14:2). The same is God’s ability to have multiple views at once, both loving and righteous, kind and just.

Creflo Dollar (Prosperity)

Creflo Dollar and many other African-American preachers preach that Jesus came and died on the cross so that you could have a new car or get more money, own a bigger house or get a nicer job.

But Jesus said, for I tell you the truth, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter heaven (Matthew 19:24). Why would Jesus come to make it harder for people to get into Heaven?

Jesus came to free us, not from credit card debt or a bad credit history, but from our sins. This kind of ‘preaching’ (which should be called ‘pros-parody’, since it isn’t the true gospel) is not only heretical, it is an outright insult to the God who suffered and died for us on the cross.

Dan Barker (Goodness of Man)

Dan Barker comes to read the Bible with the assumption that man is inherently good. This view makes him see God’s punishments (such as Hell or the Flood) an wrong. In fact, this truth is best illustrated in the lyrics for one of his songs:

*You can't win, you can't win
With original sin
It doesn't even matter how intelligent
Or kind you may have been
You just can't win*

You can hear him sing this on Way of the Master Radio March 28, 2006 Hour One 15:18-15:27.

This is clearly unbiblical because the Bible says that every man did right in his own sight (Deuteronomy 12:8) and also that the thoughts of man were only evil continuously (Genesis 6:5). These clearly show that men are not good in and of themselves, but that they are inherently evil.

Brock Lee (Complexity of God)

I read the Bible keeping in mind that God is complex. God is everywhere yet no unbeliever can see Him. He is just and righteous, yet loving and merciful. He is vengeful yet forgiving, and wrathful yet kind. God created everything that exists and still He chose to die for us. In the very names of the descendants of Adam the Gospel is laid out. The hymn is true – our God is an Awesome God.

I took a class on chemistry in college. Try to imagine all of the chemicals around you—the screen, the plastic, the silicon in the keyboard, the rubber, the solder, the gold used for the contacts in the keys—and imagine how each of these behaves with chemical reactions, nuclear reactions, and electrical reactions.

Now imagine thousands, millions, billions, even quadrillions of these. Most people only ever think of chemistry on the small scale like in class experiments—baking soda and vinegar, fire and paper, etc—but most never stop to imagine the chemistry around them.

And that is just one area of science! Physics, Chemistry, all these other fields of science are needed to understand the creation. How complex is the creation! And the creator must always be more complex than the creation.

Now it's your turn!

I want each of you to think of your own Central Interpretive Motif and discuss this with people you know. And please keep in mind that opposite CIM's can both be correct.

One of my brothers in Christ was talking with me and said he thought God did things in simple ways. I agree with that. Now most will probably think that is contradictory, but it isn't.

Take computers for instance. In the beginning, you needed to know exact program line codes to find files. That was difficult and time-consuming to use. Now, they are quadrillions of times more complex, yet they are simpler to use. How? They are user-friendly. Anyone can use a computer, but for those who want to understand them more in depth, there is plenty to study (operating systems, optical drives, memory systems, file structures, programming, networking, types of files, etc.)

The creation is simple enough for everyone to understand (if they want to) yet complex enough so that no matter how long you live or how deep you delve into study of it, you will never, can never understand it all. I am not saying that it is less intelligent to believe in a simple creation, but merely that it is a different viewpoint, and both a simple and complex view are good and correct.

Scriptural Interpretation

Genesis 1:16

16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

Level 5—Scientific

If the earth is in the center of the universe, then the earth would also be in a gravity well. This would allow for even the most distant star to produce light on one day and for the earth to receive it on the same day because if this was true then the closer you get to earth the slower time would travel, so that at lightspeed you would leave one star far far away from earth and end up on earth on the same day which you left. The entire thing is very complicated.

Christian Quiz

Since we looked at some bad central interpretive motifs, including Dan Barker's, this Quiz is on atheism. Pick the verse or chapter that corresponds to the argument.

1. The heavens declare the glory of your hands

A. Psalm 4

B. Psalm 14

- C. Psalm 19
- D. Psalm 119

2. The fool has said in his heart there is no God

- A. Psalm 4
- B. Psalm 14
- C. Psalm 19
- D. Psalm 119

3. The fool has said in his heart there is no God

- A. Psalm 18
- B. Psalm 44
- C. Psalm 53
- D. Psalm 62

4. Scoffers in the last days

- A. Psalm 118
- B. 1 Peter 1:5
- C. 2 Peter 3:3
- D. 1 John 1:9

5. Destination of atheists

- A. Isaiah 33:14
- B. Revelations 21:8
- C. Romans 14:23
- D. All of the above

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?
E-mail me at Vertisai [at symbol] hotmail.com

And while you are on the net, check out the following websites:

WayoftheMasterRadio.com
nbcowatonna.com
Ianjuby.org
Livingdinos.com
Omniology.com

The answers are: C B C C D