

Once we learn the mechanics of the Plan we will conclude by noting a few examples of how the believer who knows and understands the Plan is able to fulfill the Plan.

First of all we we will study the mandate to **know** the Plan, then we will study the mandate to **understand** the Plan and finally we will study the obligation to **fulfill** the Plan. In so doing we will develop the mechanics of executing the Christian way of life.

E-10/11

B-10/13

(8)

"DIVINE ACADEMY vs. COSMIC ACADEMY"

THE CHRISTIAN WAY OF LIFE

I. Know the Plan:

A- The Divine Academy vs. the Cosmic Academy

- 1- The Scriptures are very clear that there are two systems of thought which may be learned by the human mind.
- 2- There is the curriculum which is found in the Bible and is taught and understood through a system of grace.
- 3- The content of its subject matter is absolute truth.
- 4- The second curriculum is developed by Satan Himself and is taught and understood through a system of delusion.
- 5- The content of its subject matter is the unmitigated lie.
- 6- The delusion occurs because the lie is presented as if it were truth and is camouflaged by rhetorical and visual veils.
- 7- We call this the cosmic system and often refer to it by its Latin equivalent: *cosmos diabolicus*. ★

SEE ARTICLE:

BETHELL, TOM. "THE NEW COMINTERN." THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR. Nov. 1994, pp. 18-19.



The New Comintern

by Tom Bethell

Last month I noted what a bizarre movement American-style liberalism has become. Since then, the feminist-dominated conference on population in Cairo brings us more evidence. So, for that matter, does the Clinton administration's desire to install an anti-American defrocked priest as president of Haiti. This month I'll try to examine in a little more detail the ideas that animate contemporary liberalism. But first a few reflections on Cairo.

According to the *Wall Street Journal's* summary, Vice President Gore "chided the world" on the opening day of the conference. What had the world done now? It was guilty of a "willful refusal to take responsibility" for its population growth, he said. What a silly man we do have as vice president. He never seems to suspect that the dire news his staff feeds him serves a political end. Global warming, did someone say? He will set off down the corridors of power and round up the votes to save the planet. Another crisis averted! He's the liberals' pet wind-up pol. The conventional Beltway wisdom is good enough for him. The notion that there may be such a thing as politicized science hasn't yet crossed his mind. Wait, now there's a population explosion? Women's rights being neglected in the Third World? Another worldwide crisis! Off to Cairo he goes, there to chide the world.

The conference brought to mind a couple of old left-wing phrases. "Ugly American" was one. Another was "Yankee imperialism." One or two delegates were even heard to mutter the word "genocide." But for obvious reasons the American news media didn't

put these signs of native restlessness in the headlines. They know *good* Yankee imperialism when they see it. The idea that America might be less than popular when it tries to foist the latest progressive notions onto the world is something that the *New York Times*, for one, will play down.

One thing this tells us is that modern-day liberalism is driven by global ambition. The United States is a mere sliver of its concern. In that respect liberalism resembles the Catholic Church, with which it is ever more conspicuously at odds. It's the whole world that must be reached—before it's too late. I realize that belief in a looming population crisis antedates modern liberalism. By the 1950s, population was on the Ford Foundation and Rockefeller family agenda. But this was more naïveté than ideology. Gullible scientists, World Bankers, and liberal Republicans thought the Malthusian calculus was reliable (although it was refuted by British census data while Malthus was still alive),



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and guilt-edged heirs worried that the hungry hordes might one day come ashore at Montauk and Greenwich.

Today it's all far more ideological. Most of those who have bothered to look at the data know that calories per capita are increasing and that the "crisis" is as remote and unreal as ever. It is now more cynically viewed as an opportunity: a pretext to break down traditional customs and mores; to fix up the natives with condoms, spermicides, and jellies; to "empower" the women; and to send Bella Abzug and Jane Fonda abroad as missionaries for the American Way. (All this talk about the lack of women's rights in the Third World is off target, incidentally. It's the very *idea* of rights, for men or women, that still hasn't caught on in most parts of the world. In the resulting politics of power, women are inevitably at the mercy of men.)

Here is a depressing change that we should ponder. In the 1950s, '60s and '70s, it was the Soviet Union that carried the ball for the progressive cause, bringing the good news of collectivism unto the Third World and duly enrolling converts in Moscow's Patrice Lumumba University. Now America is the missionary, preaching a politics of "change," with a license to annihilate imperfection. Under Clinton, we seek to export the latest left-wing notions to the world. Sen. Barbara Mikulski of Maryland hoped that, if only the Vatican hadn't intervened, the conference would "plan the status of women around the world." The conference bore the convenient "U.N." fig leaf, but this increasingly disguises the goals of American leftists.

An anti-Catholic ex-priest—"Father Aristide" as the *New York Times* so reverently calls him—has become our

emissary. Exemplar of Democracy! At odds with the Vatican, he's the soulmate of every alienated intellectual who disapproves of the way God made the world. As FDR said of Trujillo, he may be a sonofabitch but he's our sonofabitch. I said above that Aristotle is anti-American, but Hillary Clinton could make out a case that he's pro-American, and that I'm the one who's living in the past. (So get with the program! Your country right or wrong, remember?)

The real complaint is not that world population is getting too big, but that the rest of the world is ignoring our antinatalist lead. Given the increasingly skewed demographics, with Third World growth masking our shrinkage, it's unlikely that the West will be able to sustain its hegemony for more than another generation. We are still rich enough to buy countries with foreign aid, and to propagandize our contraceptive vision, but as we're barely reproducing ourselves that window of pedagogy will inevitably close.

It's worth noting that the new American emissaries and world-chiders have become disenchanted with the idea of economic development. The evidence is by now overwhelming that capitalism brings not only prosperity but also something close to zero population growth in its wake. In fact, the evidence is so strong that the Vatican's lack of enthusiasm for capitalism should be reexamined in that light. Nonetheless, with the collapse of the socialist vision, the left has largely lost interest in economic matters. Even if capitalism does have the side effect of suppressing population, it's still not something they want to preach to the world. They would rather go right to the business of setting up abortion clinics and skip the capitalist phase.

"Yeah, I've heard that 'development is the best contraceptive' for twenty years," Al Gore said, when William Safire reminded him that as nations get richer, families get smaller. Does one detect a certain disenchantment in Gore's reply?

The problem is seen this way: If the rest of the world were to go capitalist, its people would end up consuming resources as avidly as we do now, thereby accelerating the ruin of the environment. We can't have them

bulldozing habitat, driving around on freeways, and living in air-conditioned apartments. We can't level up. Not without abandoning our most cherished beliefs.

Paul Ehrlich, doomsaying ecologist at Stanford, said the other day that the one way to "guarantee the destruction of civilization would be to try to achieve equity in material consumption globally by leveling up consumption from the bottom." Oh, so that's it. We have to level down. The "overdeveloped," rich countries will have to find ways to curb their wasteful consumption, not encourage others to emulate them. No doubt this message was long ago delivered to Gore & Co., but for public consumption it is rarely put so bluntly. Ehrlich believes, incidentally, that the present population "has already exceeded Earth's carrying capacity."

But the collapse of socialism also brought with it a more fundamental disenchantment for the left. Since the French Revolution, their hope has been that, once human institutions were reformed—in particular, once private property was abolished—human nature itself would be transformed. For a long time, then, the progressive vision, although utterly utopian and improbable, was one of hope: People would be better in the future. Morally superior! This notion appears fully fledged in the writings of William Godwin, Shelley's father-in-law, and can be traced through John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, the Fabians, Alfred Marshall, and on into the twentieth century. The Soviet Union and its satellites became laboratories for its fulfillment. "The average human type will rise to the heights of an Aristotle, a Goethe or a Marx," Trotsky wrote in 1923. "And above these heights new peaks will rise." One might say that this vision imbued the left with hope from 1789 to 1989. New Soviet Man nonetheless failed to appear.

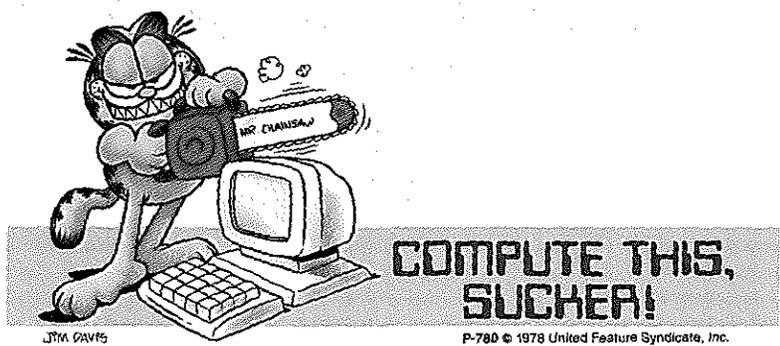
The left, which in its various guises and disguises has for some reason been the predominant political force for change for the last century or more, thereby experienced a great setback and disappointment. Not only did socialism fail to produce the goods, it also failed to produce better people. It is remarkable, incidentally, how difficult it is to find anywhere in print a candid acknowledgment of this disappointment, which

must be widespread. But such an acknowledgment would also constitute a kind of defeat, and the progressive forces haven't given up yet. In fact, they still seem to be as potent as ever, which is remarkable in view of their prolonged reign of error. Notice that President Clinton hasn't hesitated to expend vast political capital on behalf of undermining traditional morality, putting women in combat, expanding the role of the state, and so on. No conservative politician—with the possible exception of Margaret Thatcher—has worked half as hard to shrink the state as Clinton has to expand it.

The Progressive Forces bear the scars of their disappointment nonetheless. The great sea-change is that hope has been replaced by the predominant emotion of disgust: Disgust with the human race that failed to rise to new peaks, failed to evolve, failed to transcend its "selfishness." Oh, I know, they haven't given up on re-education yet, and there are some poor souls who think that New Sensitive Male will be a suitable stand-in for New Soviet Man. But there, too, new peaks will fail to rise, and disappointment awaits. Remembering to say "she or he" and installing women in the military will not change the way we are made.

Mankind's disappointing failure to evolve on schedule accounts for the great shift to environmentalism as the focal point of progressive aspiration, and for the new messianic zeal for population control, which is rather more aggressive than the old, defensive stratagems of the Population Council. It also explains the change from the old Scientific Planning to the new Paganism—retrograde and Earth-worshipping. Perhaps this is how the New Age should be construed: If we are to be denied a Utopian future with perfected people, then let us go back to a pre-Edenic past with no people at all. If the human breed is to persist in its greedy, despoiling ways, then let Mother Earth not be sullied by it. Recall that in their more extreme scenarios, some of the population controllers openly proclaim that their goal is to reduce the present population of the world down to about half its size. Don't expect them to stop there. □

GRACE CURRICULUM JOHN 8:30-32
Cosmic " " JOHN 8:44
" CURRICULUM ITIM 4:1



JIM DAVIS

**COMPUTE THIS,
SUCKER!**

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- 8- Thus we have the Divine Academy of Grace Instruction versus the Satanic Academy of Cosmic Instruction.
- 9- Every member of the human race matriculates in one or the other of these academies of thought. *I JOHN 1:5-7*
JOHN 8:31-32, 44; I TIM 4:1
- 10- Our functions as students in either of these academies is consistently defined in the Bible by the verb:

ΠΕΡΙΠΑΤΕΩ - \peripateo\

Literal: To walk around; to walk; to go about; to move along on foot; to advance by steps; the gait of a biped in which the feet are lifted alternately with one foot not clear of the ground before the other touches.

This literal process became a way of describing one's manner of life and thus we have the following figurative use of the word:

Figurative: To pursue a course of action or a way of life; behavior; personal conduct; the status in which one lives.

There is a synonym of περιπατεω which has a military application:

ΣΤΟΙΧΕΩ - \stoicheo\ To march under a system of authority or under a principle of discipline.

These two words are used in the New Testament to describe the believer's daily lifestyle based on his enrollment in either the Grace or Cosmic Academy.

(End CWL-004. See CWL-005 for continuation of study at p. 41.)

- 1- Stoicheo means to walk in line, or to keep step.
- 2- We see this word used in *Galatians 5*:

v 25 - Since we live by the Spirit let us keep in step with the Holy Spirit.
- 3- All believers are required to march to the same cadence and under the leadership of the same Drill Instructor: the Holy Spirit.
- 4- Basic training is Bible class. This is where we learn the commands, the orders, and the code of conduct.
- 5- Our life becomes so ordered that we fulfill the command of *Galatians 5:25* to “march in step with the Holy Spirit.”
- 6- The verb peripateo appears in such passages as:

Romans 6:4 - Walk in newness of life ...

This is the first time peripateo is used in the New Testament epistles and obviously refers to a way of life.

- 7 - **Romans 8:4** - We do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Holy Spirit.

The word for flesh— $\sigma\alpha\rho\kappa\acute{\iota}\varsigma$ \sax\—indicates a lifestyle which is dictated by the sinful nature by means of its trends, lust pattern⁷, strengths, and weaknesses.

- 8 - The sin nature's trends are toward either lasciviousness or asceticism; its lust pattern is motivated by a desire for power, approbation, pleasure, murder, anger, money, et al.; its strengths are expressions of human good and evil; and its weaknesses are the commission of personal sins: mental attitude, verbal, and overt.

- 9- **1 Corinthians 3:3** - Are you not carnal and walk as the unbeliever?

The old English word "carnal" is used to translate the word *sarx*: or flesh. It is another way to describe the way of life practiced by the believer who is out of fellowship due to unconfessed personal sin.

- 10- When a believer commits sins and fails to confess them, or worse, refuses to acknowledge that he is leading a life dictated by his sinful nature, then that person imitates the lifestyle of the unbeliever. He "walks" as an unbeliever.

- 11- **1 Corinthians 7:17** - As the Lord assigned to each one whom He elected as status in life, so let him walk.

God has a perfect Plan for every believer. Through Bible study each person identifies his place in that Plan.

- 12- It is the obligation of every believer to discern his function in the Plan of God and then "walk" in that status.

- 13- If you are a pastor, walk as a pastor; if you are a businessman, walk as a businessman; if you are a soldier, walk as a soldier; if you are a scientist, walk as a scientist.

- 14- Whatever you do, you are to conduct your daily affairs from a Biblical inventory of ideas.

- 15- When you do, you will be "walking in newness of life" and "by means of the Holy Spirit."

- 16- In order to achieve such a lifestyle it is first of all required that you know the Plan. And knowing the Plan starts with a knowledge of Jesus Christ.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

BIBLIOLOGY - STUDY OF THE CANNON OF SCRIPTURE.

THEOLOGY PROPER - STUDY OF GOD.

ANGELOLOGY - STUDY OF THE ANGELIC CREATION, ELECT AND FALLEN.

ANTHROPOLOGY - STUDY OF MAN.

HAMARTIOLOGY - STUDY OF SIN.

SOTERIOLOGY - STUDY OF SALVATION.

ECCLESIOLOGY - STUDY OF THE CHURCH.

ESCHATOLOGY - STUDY OF PROPHECY.

CHRISTOLOGY - STUDY OF CHRIST.

PNEUMATOLOGY - STUDY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

SATANOLOGY - STUDY OF SATAN.

E-10/13
B-10/16 A

"THE TWO ACADEMIES AND SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY"

⑨ Principles:

- 1- Spiritual birth demands a post-salvation spiritual life.
- 2- Following salvation there is always a lag time between our spiritual birth and the development of a spiritual life.
- 3- But just as an unbeliever you had equal privilege and equal opportunity to believe in Christ for eternal life, so after salvation you have this same equality to learn, understand, and execute the Plan of God.
- 4- It is never too late to start; it is never too late to begin taking advantage of your assets. If you are alive, God has a purpose for your life.
- 5- The human soul will not believe the lie until it first of all rejects truth.
- 6- The Apostle Peter discusses the two academies in *2 Peter 3:16-18* and indicates that each has its own curriculum and subject matter.

B. Peter's Evaluation of the Two Academies:

- 1- Peter concludes his second epistle with a critique of Paul's epistles in which he recommends them to the serious student of the Plan.

2 Peter 3:16 - As also in all of Paul's epistles, speaking in them concerning these things **[advanced doctrines]** some of which are hard to understand. These doctrines the ignorant and unstable distort as they do the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

CHAFFER, LEWIS SPERRY. "PREFACE." IN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY, VOL 1 of 8 VOLS., DALLAS: DALLAS SEMINARY PRESS, 1949, pp. v-vii.

PREFACE

(which every student should read with care)

Systematic Theology, the greatest of the sciences, has fallen upon evil days. Between the rejection and ridicule of it by the so-called progressives and the neglect and abridgment of it by the orthodox, it, as a potent influence, is approaching the point of extinction. It is a significant fact that of the upwards of two score accredited and notable works on Systematic Theology which have been produced in this and other countries, an exceedingly small portion is now in print and the demand for these works is negligible. The unchanging emphasis in the Scriptures upon doctrine, which subject is referred to in the New Testament more than forty times and is that to which a Christian is to "take heed" (1 Tim. 1:3; 4:6, 16; 2 Tim. 3:10, 16; 4:2, 3), stands as a silent rebuke, whether heeded or not, to all modern notions which belittle the importance of Dogmatic Theology, and also stands as a corrective to those who neglect any portion of it.

It is no secret that the average minister is not now reading Systematic Theology, nor will such writings be found to occupy a prominent place in his library. Shocking indeed this condition would have been to ministers of two generations ago—men whose position was respected in their day because of their deep knowledge of the doctrinal portions of the Bible and whose spoken ministries and writings have gone far toward the upbuilding of the Church of Christ.

The present situation is not one of passing moment. As well might a medical doctor discard his books on anatomy and therapeutics as for the preacher to discard his books on Systematic Theology; and since doctrine is the bone structure of the body of revealed truth, the neglect of it must result in a message characterized by uncertainties, inaccuracies, and immaturity. What is the specific field of learning that distinguishes the ministerial profession if it is not the knowledge of the Bible and its doctrines? To the preacher is committed a responsibility of surpassing import. Men of other professions are tireless in their attempts to discover the truths and to perfect themselves in the use of the forces belonging to their various callings, though these be in the restricted field

of material things. The preacher is called upon to deal with the things of God, the supernatural and eternal. His service is different from all others—different as to aims, different as to available forces and, of necessity, different as to adequate preparation. Few clergymen's libraries will include even one work on theology, but a medical doctor will assuredly possess a worthy work on anatomy. A form of modern thinking tends to treat all matters of doctrine with contempt.

No substitute will ever be found for the knowledge of the Word of God. That Word alone deals with things eternal and infinite, and it alone has power to convert the soul and to develop a God-honoring spiritual life. There is a limitless yet hidden spiritual content within the Bible which contributes much to its supernatural character. This spiritual content is never discerned by the natural (*ψυχικὸς*), or unregenerate man (1 Cor. 2:14), even though he has attained to the highest degree of learning or ecclesiastical authority. The natural capacities of the human mind do not function in the realm of spiritual things. The divine message is presented "not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (1 Cor. 2:13), and the Spirit has been given to the regenerate that they might "know the things that are freely given to us of God." When, on the ground of scholarship, unregenerate men have been permitted to dictate to the church what she shall believe, she has descended from her supernatural character to the level of a human institution, and it is safe to conclude that men are unregenerate who deny the only ground upon which a soul may be saved.

Acquiring the knowledge of the spiritual content of the Bible is a life task. The great preachers who have moved the hearts of men with divine power have been saturated with Bible truths secured through a first-hand, daily study of its text. General facts of human learning may be acquired by the usual means, but spiritual truths are apprehended only as taught to the individual heart by the Spirit.

No student of the Scriptures should be satisfied to traffic only in the results of the study of other men. The field is inexhaustible and its treasures ever new. No worthy astronomer limits his attention to the findings of other men, but is himself ever gazing into the heavens both to verify and to discover; and no worthy theologian will be satisfied alone with the result of the research of other theologians, but will himself be ever searching the Scriptures. However, a full-rounded introduction is needed and a method of study must be established if either the astronomer or the theologian expects to continue with ever increasing efficiency.

only successful method of combating error is the positive declaration of the truth of God. A Spirit-filled, truth-imparting preacher will have little time or disposition to descend to mere controversy, but will give out the supernaturally efficacious message of God, against which no error can ever stand.

While it is true that the Bible is the source of the material which enters into Systematic Theology, it is equally true that the function of Systematic Theology is to unfold the Bible. In its natural state, gold is often passed over by those with undiscerning eyes. Likewise, the treasures of divine truth are observed only by those who are trained to recognize them. In his years of classroom discipline, the theological student should be taken over the entire field of doctrine that he may be prepared to continue his research in every portion of the Bible throughout his ministry, being prepared to proceed intelligently in every phase of the divine revelation. Apart from such a complete introduction to doctrine, no preacher will be able to hold truth in its right proportions, nor can it be assured that he or his auditors will not drift into the errors of unscriptural cults, or into modernistic unbelief. After covering in a general way the entire field of his profession, the physician or lawyer may serve the public as a specialist in some particular aspect of that profession; but the theologian should not specialize in any department of the truth. Doctrinal faddists have been the cause of untold harm in the church, and the only way of avoiding this danger, or that of securing preachers who will not be "tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine," is to provide a required discipline in Systematic Theology which incorporates a complete consideration under a competent teacher of the essentials of each doctrine with due recognition of the relation of each doctrine to every other doctrine. Rationalism has ever been seeking admission into the Christian church, but it found little welcome so long as theological seminaries gave even an abridged Systematic Theology its rightful place. It is a short step indeed from the ignorance of doctrine to the rejection and ridicule of it, and it can be safely stated that there is no rejection of sound doctrine which is not based on ignorance.

While the seminary student needs as much today to major in Systematic Theology as ever, the trend, unfortunately, is to substitute philosophy, psychology, and sociology for theology. This may be somewhat accounted for by the fact that Biblical doctrine is a revelation and the substitutes are within the range of the thinking of the natural man.

In this age, as in no other, there is a specific message to be preached to every creature and, while there are leadership men who are God's gift

from the Scriptures, does, nevertheless, draw its material from any and every source. Again, Systematic Theology has been defined as the orderly arrangement of Christian doctrine; but as Christianity represents only a mere fraction of the whole field of truth relative to the Person of God and His universe, this definition is inadequate.

III. VARIOUS DEFINITIONS

Dr. W. Lindsay Alexander defines Systematic Theology as "the science of God . . . a summary of religious truth scientifically arranged, or as a philosophical digest of all religious knowledge" (*Biblical Theology*, I, 1).

Dr. A. H. Strong defines Systematic Theology as "the science of God and of the relations between God and the universe" (*Systematic Theology*, p. 1).

Dr. Charles Hodge declares Systematic Theology has for its object "to systematize the facts of the Bible, and ascertain the principles or general truths which those facts involve" (*Systematic Theology*, I, 18).

Dr. W. H. Griffith Thomas states: "Science is the technical expression of the laws of nature; theology is the technical expression of the revelation of God. It is the province of theology to examine all the spiritual facts of revelation, to estimate their value, and to arrange them into a body of teaching. Doctrine thus corresponds with the generalisations of science" (*Principles of Theology*, p. xxi).

Dr. W. G. T. Shedd defines Systematic Theology as "a science that is concerned with both the Infinite and the Finite, with both God and the Universe. The material, therefore, which it includes is vaster than that of any other science. It is also the most necessary of all sciences" (*Dogmatic Theology*, I, 16).

Augustine denotes Theology to be "rational discussion respecting the deity" (Shedd, *ibid.*, p. 18).

The following definition is submitted by the author: Systematic Theology may be defined as the collecting, scientifically arranging, comparing, exhibiting, and defending of all facts from any and every source concerning God and His works. It is *thetic* in that it follows a humanly devised thesis form and presents and verifies truth as *truth*.

IV. STUDENTS OF THEOLOGY

The individual who engages in the pursuit of the science of Systematic Theology is properly a Θεολόγος (*Theologos*) or 'theologian.' Should

the Greek term *Θεολόγος* be used actively as indicated by its accent, it would denote one who speaks for God, but should it be used passively it would refer to one to whom God speaks. That both of these conceptions inhere in the accepted use of the term *theologian* is obvious. However, of necessity, certain requirements are laid upon the theologian and certain qualifications must be found in him if he is to make any worthy progress in the task committed to him.

V. ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

1. THE INSPIRATION AND AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES ARE ASSUMED. Though as an apologist the theologian may be called upon, as occasion may demand, to defend specific truths which belong to the domain of his distinctive science, and though among the doctrines which he defends is that of the authority and trustworthiness of the Sacred Writings, he is not primarily engaged with the critical task of proving the inspiration and divine character of the Scriptures, but rather in arranging and exhibiting the positive truth the inspired Scriptures set forth. The Bible being the chief source of all the material which enters into his science, the theologian is called upon to arrange the God-given material in its logical and scientific order. He is a Biblicist, namely, one who not only regards the Bible as the sole rule of faith and practice, but as the only dependable source of information in realms wherein divine revelation speaks. As a chemist will make no advance in his science if he doubts or rejects the essential character of the elements which he compounds, so a theologian must fail who does not accept the trustworthiness of the Word of God. It is the work of the reverent critic to discover and defend the essential character of the divine revelation; but to the theologian is committed the task of systematizing and declaring that divine revelation as it is given.

Because of the fact that the science of Systematic Theology must proceed upon the certitude that the Scriptures are the Oracles of God, this modern, rationalistic age with its doubts as to verbal inspiration, revelation, and Biblical authority, is not concerned with the science of Systematic Theology and is even turning from it with contempt. Granting the fact of the divine revelation, the science of Systematic Theology is both possible and required, and at once is discovered to exceed all other sciences as the Creator exceeds His creation.

2. THE LAWS OF METHODOLOGY ARE AS ESSENTIAL IN THE SCIENCE OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY AS IN ANY OTHER SCIENCE. The theologian

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church has preserved nothing of spiritual value, nor have her traditions added any vital element to that now preserved by God in the Holy Scriptures. Truth did have its saving and sanctifying power in the early church before any word of the New Testament was written, but the saving and sanctifying truth was incorporated into the Bible and, beyond this, the traditions of Rome accomplish nothing but multiplied errors and misleading contradictions.

The theologian is here confronted with the fact and scope of *tradition*. He should examine the Scriptures on this point with care (2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6; Gal. 1:14), and remember that Christ came into the world at a time when the Word of God was encrusted with the "traditions of men" to the point that the authority of God was, to a large degree, annulled. Christ disregarded the traditions of men and for this was condemned by the religious leaders of His day.

4. THE ORTHODOX PROTESTANT FAITH. Certain well-defined articles of faith concerning the Scriptures have been and are held by the orthodox Protestants:

- a. The Bible is the infallible Word of God.
- b. The Bible is the only rule of faith and practice.
- c. Human reason and knowledge should be wholly subject to the Scriptures.
- d. There is no inner light or added revelation ever given beyond what is contained in the Bible. The ungoverned character and danger of the doctrine of individual divine revelation, being without standards by which to test various claims, is obvious; and its susceptibility to gross error is demonstrated on every hand by the claims of those who hold these views. The Spirit does guide the individual in matters of conduct and service, but not in the formulating of doctrine which might be superimposed upon the Word of God.
- e. No authority relative to the forming of truth has ever been committed to the church or to men beyond that given to the New Testament writers.

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VII. THE MAJOR DIVISIONS OF SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

1. BIBLIOLOGY. A consideration of the essential facts concerning the Bible.
2. THEOLOGY PROPER. A consideration of the facts concerning God—Father, Son, and Spirit, apart from their works.
3. ANGELOLOGY. A consideration of the facts concerning the angels, unfallen and fallen.

4. ANTHROPOLOGY. A consideration of the facts concerning man.
5. SOTERIOLOGY. A consideration of the facts concerning salvation.
6. ECCLESIOLOGY. A consideration of the facts concerning the Church.
7. ESCHATOLOGY. A consideration of all in the Scripture which was predictive at the time it was written.
8. CHRISTOLOGY. A consideration of all the Scripture concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.
9. PNEUMATOLOGY. A consideration of the Scriptures concerning the Holy Spirit. *HAMARTIOLOGY - SIN*
10. DOCTRINAL-SUMMARIZATION. An analysis of each major doctrine in its individual character including various important tenets which, because of their independent character, do not appear even in an unabridged treatment of Systematic Theology.
11. *SATANOLOGY - SATAN & THE FALLEN ANGELS*

CONCLUSION #

The study of Systematic Theology has its limitations because of the incapacities of the finite mind; yet its study is both profitable and necessary for all who would be filled with the knowledge of God and His will, and who, because of that knowledge, would walk worthy of the Lord. Human thought has no objective comparable to the Person of God. As John Dick has said (*Lectures on Theology*, p. 6): "To know this mighty Being, as far as he may be known, is the noblest aim of the human understanding; to love him, the most worthy exercise of our affections; and to serve him the most honourable and delightful purpose to which we can devote our time and talents."

In his address to theological students, Dr. Dick states (*ibid.*, p. 7):

Theology is not one of those recondite subjects, which it is left to the curious to investigate, and in the contemplation of which, speculative and reflecting men may spend their hours of leisure and solitude. Its claim to universal attention is manifest from the succinct account which has now been given of its nature. Its instructions are addressed to persons of every description, to the learned, and to the unlearned, to the retired student, and him who is engaged in the bustling scenes of life. It is interesting to all, as furnishing the knowledge of God, and his Son, which is the source of eternal life. But in your case, there is a particular reason, besides a regard to your personal welfare, why it should not only engage a share of your thoughts, but be made the principal object of your inquiries. Theology is your profession, as medicine, is that of a physician, and law of a barrister. It should be your ambition to excel in it, not, however, from the same motives which stimulate the diligence of the men of other professions, the desire of fame, or the prospect of gain, but with a view to the

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are in jail for their roles in the 1981 Brink's robbery, in which a Brink's guard and two police officers were killed."

Denied Admission To New York Bar

So the question looms, how come the ABA has permitted Ms. Dohrn to be a co-chair of a prestigious task force?

Navy's Pro-Gay 'Diversity' Workshop Features Anti-Biblical Videotape

BY PETER LABARBERA

A pro-homosexual "diversity" day sponsored by the Pentagon turned out to be even more controversial than its advance billing, by featuring a lecture by a gay activist attacking orthodox Biblical teachings on homosexuality—all at taxpayer expense.

This reporter attended the two sessions of "Diversity Day 1994" on September 8 that dealt with homosexuality. Both were taught by homosexuals who used outdated and tendentious information to advance gay themes such as the normalcy of homosexuality. What was unexpected—and what has raised the eyebrows among religious freedom groups—was the direct attack on religious beliefs about homosexuality that occurred at each seminar.

Republican staffers on the Senate Armed Services Committee were briefed on the pro-gay content of the event and are examining options to prevent military brass from promoting similar programs in the future. Most agreed the pro-gay sessions violated the spirit, if not the letter, of last year's "Don't ask, don't tell" law banning homosexuals serving in the military.

"It just makes me sick to my stomach," said retired Navy Adm. Thomas Moorer, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in an interview with FNIF radio. Adm. Moorer accused the Clinton Administration of twisting the arms of senior military leaders into endorsing the affair: "The mere fact that the secretary of defense and the service secretaries condone and encourage this diversity education is a straight indication that it is heavily influenced by politics."

The "Diversity Day" workshops were sponsored by a consortium called the "Partners for Diversity" that included the departments of the Air Force, Army, Navy and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, as well as private groups. But the Navy took the lead in pushing the conference, with Vice Adm. George Sterner, commander of Naval Sea Systems Command, urging attendance in a memo to all hands at the NSSC. Federal workers attended the seminar on government time and received official diversity training credits for being there.

Bob Maginnis, a retired Army colonel who is now an analyst with the Family Research Council in Washington,

Mr. LaBarbera, who edits the Lambda Report, a Washington, D.C.-based newsletter dedicated to monitoring the homosexual movement, was recently named executive director of Accuracy in Academia.

We'd like our readers to write ABA President George Bushnell, Jr., 750 North Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60611, and directly ask if Bernardine Dohrn is still an ABA member, as her office says, and why she's permitted to co-chair an ABA task force. Please send us any responses.

CWL-005/44A

D.C., attended the keynote address for "Diversity Day." Maginnis reported that he saw six admirals at the speech, and 24 other active duty military including an all-service color guard.

Maginnis noted that Adm. Sterner—who oversees the development and launching of most of the Navy's advanced warships—opened the diversity ceremony by asserting that the work environment "is not a matter for moral issues."

The main speaker who followed Sterner to the podium, diversity consultant Dr. Samuel Betances, equated racism, sexism and homophobia and warned the audience not to label what homosexuals do as sinful or unnatural. After Betances equated "homophobia" with racism, he told the story of how former Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace recanted his racist beliefs. Then he said that everybody "must be prepared to unlearn" old ways.

That comment was mild compared to some of the blatantly pro-gay sermonizing that was to follow.

An afternoon seminar featured the video, "On Being Gay," starring renegade Roman Catholic writer Brian McNaught. He systematically attempted to rebut scriptures cited by Bible-believing Christians in condemning homosexual behavior. Referring to the Apostle Paul's condemnation of homosexuals in First Corinthians and other New Testament books, he said, "St. Paul had no concept of homosexuality as a natural sex drive."

McNaught also compared the Israelites' Moses-led exodus from Egypt to gay people's "exodus" out of the "closet" of their hidden homosexuality.

"Gay people were called by God to stand tall" as homosexuals, McNaught said, adding that gays must realize that God sees their sexual "love" for others of the same gender as "a very special love. . . ." He also ridiculed the Catholic church, noting at one point, "I especially like the thought of anti-gay Catholics praying to gay saints."

The fact that government workers were requested to listen to McNaught's presentation on official time has raised the eyebrows of Christian legal groups as a possible violation of the much-vaunted separation of church and state. One Christian lawyer who specializes in constitutional law said the "Diversity" seminars could have violated the establishment clause of the Constitution—which has been interpreted by courts as barring the gov-

illegal in many Calif.) in a le improbable tha their hard-earn designed to p lifestyle choice Dr. has unless fede grams."

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The Time re sity specialis a nation concepi this, Lehman in cerned, it's got want to be bi; department."

2- Peter here refers to believers who refuse to adjust to the Plan of God.

3- There may be many reasons but the end result is that in order to force the Bible to comply with their own desires, they must distort it. ★

E-10/16-A

B-10/16-B

(10)

"SELF-DESTRUCTION"

4- Because they rejected truth they are ignorant of truth and thus become unstable in their decision making and problem solving.

5- Thus poor decisions from a position of weakness results in their own self-destruction.

6- The ability to avoid this self-destruction is developed from a knowledge of the Scriptures.

2 Peter 3:17 - You, therefore, beloved, since you know in advance, be alert that you may not be carried away by the deception of unprincipled persons and drift off course from your very own support system. ✓

1- Here we see Peter addressing believers who have made some progress in the Plan by acquiring an inventory of doctrine in their streams of consciousness.

2- He warns them to be alert to those who would deceive them by distorting doctrine.

3- He calls them "unprincipled persons" thus referring to the faculty of the Cosmic Academy or to its graduates.

4- When a believer rejects truth, he will simultaneously believe the lie.

5- When a believer begins to replace his inventory of doctrine with an inventory of lies, his decision making and problem solving become distorted.

★ SEE: HUMAN EVENTS, 7 OCT. 1994, P. 6 ATTACHED

- 6- When this occurs, that person is said by Peter to “drift off course from his very own support system.”
- 7- This is a nautical metaphor used by Peter. When a captain plots a course he must obey the systems of navigation. He must recognize longitude, latitude, allow for wind or lack of it, orient to the proper stars, and thus move toward his objective.
- 8- An arrogant captain declares that he knows the way to his destination and doesn’t need the assistance of any system of navigation.
- 9- Or he may be deceived by unstable men who claim they know a better way to plot a course and convince him to follow their flawed system.
- 10- Such a captain will stray off course because he fails to rely on the proven support system, in this case the laws of navigation.
- 11- Unfortunately, there are believers who know doctrine but who for many reasons decide that another system of decision making and problem solving is superior.
- 12- They enter into a distorted lifestyle, acquire the thinking of unprincipled people, and stray off the course of grace.
- 13- Such individuals self-destruct.
- 14- In the spiritual life, to drift of course from grace refers to a failure to utilize the divinely provided support system.
- 15- God’s navigational system for the Christian way of life consists of the Filling of the Holy Spirit, utilization of the Grace Apparatus for Perception, and dependence upon the 10 problem-solving devices.

16- Those who fail or refuse to use this system will be casualties in the Angelic Conflict and are losers in the Christian way of life.

17- The Scripture characterizes the Christian loser on several occasions:

Galatians 5:4 - You who are trying to be justified by the Law have been alienated from Christ, you have drifted off course from grace [**withdrawn from the Grace Academy**].

Hebrews 12:15 - See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God and that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble and by your trouble, others are hurt.

James 1:8 - A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.

2 Peter 2:7 - Abraham rescued righteous Lot, oppressed [**stress in the soul caused by outside adversity**] by the homosexual conduct of unprincipled men [**Gen 19:5**]

E- 10/16-B
B- 10/18
(11)

"THE CHRISTIAN LOSER"
v 8 - (for by what he [**Lot**] saw and heard [**outside adversity**], as a righteous man [**a believer with eternal security although in reversionism**], living among them [**law of volitional responsibility**], felt his righteous soul tormented [**internal stress due to self-righteous indignation**] day after day [**no reversion recovery**] with their lawless deeds [**public homosexual behavior**]),

v 9 - However, the Lord knows how to rescue the spiritual man from testing [**Jesus Christ controls history on behalf of the Pivot**] and to keep the unrighteous under punishment [**divine judgment in time**] for the day of judgment [**the Great White Throne**].

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"Lifestyle of Carnality" COS PMS
RESULT: Lustful BEHAVIOR"
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N/S, S/U - QUOTE
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IT MUST SUBLIMATE

LUST PATTERNS
APPROBATION, POWER, DRUGS,
PORN, CR, SEX, MATERIALISM

v 10 - and especially those whose indulgence [πορευομαι \poreuomai\]: **to proceed in a way of life; to engage in a lifestyle**] of the flesh [old sin nature's control of the soul produces a status of carnality]—lifestyle of carnality—results in a lustful [ἐπιθυμία \epithumia\]: **the lust pattern of the sin nature**] process of defilement [μιασμος \miasmos\]: **the process of defilement, i.e., behavior**] and despise authority [καταφρονεω \kataphroneo\]: **to habitually look down upon with contempt**]—and always reject the divine institutions as inconsequential.

Revelation 3:15 - "I [Jesus Christ] know your accomplishments, that you are neither cold [you are not unbelievers] nor hot [you are not positive believers]; would that you were cold or hot [if cold, then faith in Christ would solve their problem; if hot, then Biblical problem-solving devices would be available for application]."

v 16 - "Therefore, because you are lukewarm [believers who are enrolled in the Satanic Academy of Cosmic Instruction], in fact neither hot [positive believers] nor cold [unbelievers], I am about to vomit you out of My mouth [administration of the sin unto death]."

1 Timothy 1:19 - Having and holding the content of faith and a good conscience [truth circulating in the stream of consciousness] which some have pushed aside [rejection of truth by believers], in fact, they have become shipwrecked concerning their faith [poor navigation takes them off course from grace].

1 Corinthians 3:1 - And I, brethren [ἄδελφος \adelphos \: **brothers; fellow believers**], could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh [σαρκινος \sarkinos \: **motivated by the sin nature's control of the soul due to ignorance of truth**], as babes in Christ [**new believers with a low doctrinal inventory**].

v 2 - I gave you milk to drink [**basic doctrines dealing with the foundational principles of Christianity**], not solid food [**advance doctrines of spiritual adulthood**]; for you were not yet able to metabolize it [**not a large enough inventory in the stream of consciousness to understand**]. Indeed, even now you are not yet able [**haven't yet metabolized the basics**],

v 3 - for you are still fleshly [**motivated by the desires of the sin nature**]. For since there is jealousy and strife among you [**outside adversity from people-testing has stimulated the emotional complex of sins to produce internal stress**], are you not fleshly [σαρκινος \sarkinos \], and are you not walking like mere men [περιπατεω \peripateo \: **executing the lifestyle of the unbeliever**]?

Philippians 3:18 - Many believers walk [περιπατεω \peripateo \: **executing the lifestyle of the unbeliever**] of whom I have often told you and now tell you even weeping, they are enemies of the cross of Christ,

v 19 - whose end ^{DESTINY} [**the result of their lifestyle**] is destruction [**self-destruction due to rejection of truth**], whose ^{LIFESTYLE} god is their appetite [**emotions**], and whose glory is their shame [**no rewards**], who set their minds on earthly things [**misplaced priorities**]. ^{EVIL IN ACTION} ^{DESTRUCTION}

E-10/18
 B-10/20
 (12)

"THE SPIRITUAL SKILLS"

James 4:4 - Do you not know that friendship with the world [**priority emphasis on inconsequential things which are typical of the unbeliever**] is hostility toward God [**He is placed in a low priority position**]. Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 1:23 - If anyone is a hearer of the Word [**attends Bible class and listens to the message**] and not a doer [**refuses to take advantages of the assets imputed to him for application**], he is like a person who looks at his natural face in the mirror [**the Scripture reveals his failures**]

v 24 - for once he has looked at himself he goes away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of a person he was [**no orientation of self regarding corrective instruction of Biblical truth**].

2 John 8 - Look out for yourselves [**the only way to do this is to know enough doctrine to realize when you are off course**] so that you may not loose your momentum [**enter into reversionism**], but that you may receive a full reward [**divine blessings for both time and eternity**].

v 9 - No one who keeps on advancing out of bounds and does not remain on the playing field through the doctrine of Christ [**Divine Academy of Grace Instruction**] has fellowship with God; the one who remains on the playing field [**Grace Academy**] has fellowship with both the Father and the Son.

- 1- From these passages it becomes clear that the believer in Jesus Christ can and does fail through personal sin and involvement with the activities commonly associated with the lifestyle of the unbeliever.
- 2- It also becomes obvious that although you cannot lose your salvation, you certainly can be the recipient of divine discipline and miss out on divine blessings.
- 3- It is also apparent that if the believer utilizes the assets granted him in grace at salvation, he can begin to learn the process of executing the Christian way of life.
- 4- Three of these assets thus become very important if the new believer is going to make meaningful progress and become an efficient doer of the Word.
- 5- The three indispensable assets are:
 - 1- The Filling of the Holy Spirit. Accomplished by confession alone to God alone of one's personal sins. This does three things:
 - a) Cleanses the soul of all sin (*1 John 1:9*)
 - b) Restores to fellowship inside the divine power system (*1 John 1:5-8*)
 - c) Reestablishes the Holy Spirit in control of the soul (*Gal 5:25*)
 - 2- The Grace Apparatus for Perception. Explained in detail in the '89 *Basics*, this is the system provided by God by which the human mind can understand His infinite thought. As truth is learned, the Holy Spirit stores it into the division of the soul known in Scripture as the heart. We have subsequently researched biblical passages dealing with the heart and have established that it contains seven compartments which we have classified as the stream of consciousness.

(End CWL-005. See CWL-006 for continuation of study at p. 51.)

- 3- Biblical Problem-Solving Devices. Problems are inevitable in life. The only real solutions to them lie in an understanding of biblical principles. Ten major areas of divine thought take care of virtually all the problems of human life. Once they are memorized and applied, the believer is able to take control of his life by utilizing them under pressure.
- 6- These three assets--F/HS + GAP + PSDs-- are options which produce the Christian way of life.
- 7- But as long as they remain options they are powerless to resolve the issues encountered in life.
- 8- Just as physical attributes are perfected through practice, so also these spiritual assets are perfected through consistency of use.
- 9- Thus to learn of these three assets is not enough. You must use them and do so daily.
- 10- As the hands, legs, and body can be developed through training to develop physical skills, so these three assets can be developed into spiritual skills.
- 11- The more the believer uses these skills the more adept he becomes at problem solving.
- 12- The ability to maintain consistent tranquility of soul on a day-to-day basis ultimately results in the execution of the Christian way of life.
- 13- In fact, we can note a formula which demonstrates this principle:

F/HS + GAP + PSDs = CWL
- 14- The Christian who becomes skillful in the use of these assets will fulfill the plan of God for his life.

- 15- The Filling of the Holy Spirit is the power source for learning the plan of God.
 - 16- The Grace Apparatus for Perception is the power system for learning the plan.
 - 17- The 10 Problem-Solving Devices form the power inventory which defends the soul against outside adversity.
 - 18- This grace operation prevents the believer from drifting off course from grace.
 - 19- Once salvation occurs, God imputes all the attributes of this system to every believer.
 - 20- Therefore, if you wonder what you as a believer are to do after salvation, this is it.
 - 21- In fact the next verse of *2 Peter* is a command for the believer to use his assets in order to grow in grace.
 - 22- Verse 16 tells us that when the doctrines of Scripture are distorted it results in the destruction of those who believe these distortions.
 - 23- Verse 17 exhorts the believer who has learned Biblical principles to be ever alert against those distortions of truth.
 - 24- If you let down your guard, the false doctrine taught by these unprincipled persons will cause you to drift off course from this grace support system.
 - 25- And so in verse 18 we have the command which, if obeyed, will protect the believer from this deception.
 - 26- The verse begins with an adversative conjunction:
- δε - \de\ "But." Emphasizes the contrast between the believer who drifts off course and the one who utilizes his support system.

The first duty and the “order of the day” every day for the Christian soldier is revealed in the first verb of this verse. It is the present active imperative of:

αὐξάνω - \auxano\ “keep on growing”

pres - Durative; an action which began in the past and continues into the present. The past action is positive volition to truth and that status has continued to the present. This is the key to progress in learning the plan of God. You cannot learn how to execute the Christian way of life overnight. It is a day-by-day process. The command is therefore for the believer to be persistent in his attendance at Bible class and in the utilization of the first two spiritual skills: the Filling of the Holy Spirit and GAP.

act - The positive believer produces the action by his use of rebound, attendance at Bible class, and positive response to the message communicated.

imp - Command; all imperative moods serve as a challenge to the individual believer’s volition. He is either free to accept or reject the divine mandate.

“COMMAND TO GROW”

- 1- People who are anti-authority fail to realize that when someone gives them a command it permits them the opportunity to exercise their freedom.
- 2- The command to “keep on growing” expresses God’s desire that the believer use his divine assets to learn the Christian way of life and then live it.
- 3- The believer may respond to this command either positively or negatively.

E- 10/20
 B- 10/23 A
 (13)

ISA 55:8 - My thoughts
are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways
my ways, saith the Lord.

- 4- If he responds negatively, he will “drift off course from grace” and engage in self-destruction due to ignorance of the plan.
- 5- This is the Law of Volitional Responsibility. God commands us to use assets which He imputed to us at salvation in order to learn His plan. ✓
- 6- He never commands us to do something we are not capable of doing.
- 7- His assets are sufficient to lead us to a clear understanding of His plan and to enable us to execute the Christian way of life.
- 8- Failure of the believer to respond means he must take the responsibility for his own decisions.
- 9- God does not permit human ideas, human energy, and human rationales to successfully solve the problems of the Angelic Conflict.
- 10- Therefore, those who reject divine mandates are certainly free to do so but they become losers and failures because of it.
- 11- God cannot help them until they recognize their error, confess it to Him, and then respond positively to the mandates.
- 12- Any believer who responds positively to the command to “keep on growing” will acquire a knowledge of the truth and he will be blessed as a result.
- 13- This command, because of the durative present tense requires that positive response to be a daily occurrence.
- 14- Further, the believer produces the action from his own volitional motivation to comply.

- 15- The major problem which arises after a person believes in Christ for salvation is that he is completely ignorant of *any* biblical mandates.
- 16- It is therefore imperative for him to get into a local church which can accurately teach the Scriptures.
- 17- If there is an extended lag time between salvation and growth, then this believer is jeopardized by his susceptibility to the doctrines of the Cosmic Academy. ★
- 18- Ignorant of the details, he fails to understand that if he is born again, this spiritual birth demands a spiritual life.
- 19- Whenever a baby is born, he has an innate desire for milk. He can not ask for it nor can he describe it. He doesn't even understand why he wants it. But he searches for it and, when he finds it, he knows it, and it satisfies his hunger.
- 20- Such is also true of the new believer who experiences the spiritual birth at salvation. He has a desire for knowledge. He doesn't know exactly where to go to find it but when he finds it, he knows it, and it satisfies his spiritual hunger.
- 21- This idea is expressed by Peter in:
- ★ **1 Peter 2:2** - Like newborn babies desire the unadulterated milk of the word **[accurate teaching of the Bible]** in order that you may grow up as a result of your salvation.
- 22- A new believer must enter the classroom of the local church and begin to nurture his soul on the milk of the Word--fundamental doctrines which we have examined in the '89 *Basics*.

E-10/23 A
B-10/23 B
(14)

"ARROGANT SKILLS"

★ NOLLINGER, MARK. "SOMETHING WEIRD IS COMING TO A TV NEAR YOU." TV GUIDE, 22 OCT. 1994, pp. 16-20.

Something WEIRD

Is Coming to a TV Near You

solved *Myster* seventh season episode on "life." Next Sunday an edition of *Myster* chronicling at a New Orleans month, PBS

Forsaking stakes and garlic for video-cameras, a rash of reality-based shows probe the supernatural.

BY MARK NOLLINGER

Picture this: You turn on the TV and see a young man sitting in his living room, talking. Suddenly, his body stiffens and he has difficulty speaking. The air has grown cool, he says, and something strange is passing through his body. He lifts his shirt. Scratches appear on his stomach, oozing blood. Your own skin begins to crawl as you wonder if he is under attack—from something unseen.

Must be the latest installment of *The X-Files*, right? Wrong. It's a scene from the recent "Heartland Ghost" segment of the syndicated newsmagazine *Sightings*, and what you are watching is real—or at least it appears that way. "It's *20/20* meets *The Twilight Zone*," says executive producer Ann Daniel. "What we're trying to do is look at the world of the paranormal in an

investigative way... within the context of the realm of possibility."

Welcome to TV's hottest trend: reality-based programming targeting unreality. In the latest manifestation of the tube's fascination with the supernatural, *Sightings* and other reality shows have adopted *The X-Files'* spooky dictum, "The Truth Is Out There." The result: a slew of series and specials featuring "true" stories of encounters with UFOs, long-dead spirits, psychic detectives, legendary monsters, and just about anything that might possibly go bump in the night.

The Extraordinary, a new syndicated series hosted by Corbin Bernsen, mixes tales of otherworldly phenomena with celebrities relating their encounters with ghosts and spirits. *The Other Side*, a new daytime talk show on NBC, features Dr.



A ghostly effect from "The Extraordinary" (opposite). A werewolf from "The Unexplained: Witches, Werewolves & Vampires... Are They Real?" (above). Grave goings-on in "The X-Files" (right).



Will Miller of Nick at Nite's *Why We Watch* spots, querying guests on such topics as love from beyond the grave. Fox's *Encounters: The Hidden Truth*, which investigates strange goings-on, returned this month after a limited run last summer. Un-

plained: Witches... Are They? Ancient Prophecies from Nostradamus as an Unsolved Mystery of the

EPHESIANS 4:

ΤΙΠΕΤΙΧΤΕΩ

17 ¶ This I say therefore, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

ΜΑΤΑΙΟΤΗΣ

18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

ΚΑΡΣΙΑ

αφωλα

20 But you did not learn Christ in this way,

ing WEIRD

Is Coming to a TV Near You

Forsaking stakes and garlic for video-cameras, a rash of reality-based shows probe the supernatural

By MARK NOLLINGER

solved Mysteries recently inaugurated its seventh season on NBC with a one-hour episode on "The Mysteries of the Afterlife." Next Sunday (Oct. 30), TBS presents an edition of *National Geographic Explorer* chronicling the work of ghostbusters at a New Orleans mansion. Earlier this month, PBS weighed in with an episode

of *The American Experience* titled "Telegrams from the Dead," a scholarly examination of 19th-century spiritualism, while Larry King hosted a TNT look into whether the government is hiding evidence about UFOs — a topic explored by the syndicated newsmagazine *The Crusaders* in its season premiere.

But when it comes to paranormal programming, NBC wins the Golden Tombstone award. In addition to the shows mentioned above, the network this season has already aired "Mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle" and a special edition of *Unsolved Mysteries* titled "Mysteries of Alien Beings." There's more coming. The sequel to last season's hit, "Angels II" turns up next Sunday (Oct. 30) with Stefanie Powers hosting. This Sunday (Oct. 23) brings "The Unexplained: Witches, Werewolves & Vampires...Are They Real?" Due this winter is "Ancient Prophecies II," featuring predictions from Nostradamus and company, as well as an *Unsolved Mysteries* special on "Mysteries of the Psychic Mind." →



A ghostly effect from "The Extraordinary" (opposite). A werewolf from "The Unexplained: Witches, Werewolves & Vampires...Are They Real?" (above). Grave goings-on in "The X-Files" (right).



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Will Miller of Nick at Nite's *Why We Watch* spots, querying guests on such topics as love from beyond the grave. Fox's *Encounters: The Hidden Truth*, which investigates strange goings-on, returned this month after a limited run last summer. Un-

Heed this 'Warning'

More than a half-century later,
TV taps Welles' scary idea one more time

CBS isn't taking any chances that history will repeat itself next Sunday. Every 15 minutes during "Without Warning" (Oct. 30, 9 P.M./ET)—a movie that uses real news anchors, real scientists, and a real congressman to fool viewers into thinking huge meteors are on a collision course with Earth—this message will flash across the screen: "Without Warning" is a realistic depiction of fictional events. None of what you are seeing is actually happening.

Why worry? Because the same gimmick—interrupting a regular program with news bulletins—caused widespread panic exactly 56 years ago to the day, when Orson Welles broadcast his "War of the Worlds" on radio. As preposterous as it might seem, people actually believed that Martians had landed in New Jersey. Former network news anchor Sander Vanocur figures someone somewhere will flip to "Without Warning" and think it's real, too. "I'm

Until recently, TV had largely treated the paranormal as a plot device, ranging from the eerie Cold War morality plays of *The Twilight Zone* to fish-out-of-water sitcoms like *Bewitched*, *Mork & Mindy*, and *Alf*. So why the rash of interest in allegedly real-life tales from the crypt?

WILL "TV is both a shaper and a reflector," says *The Other Side's* Miller, "but first it reflects. The motivation is to respond to cultural trends." Those trends are seen in various national surveys indicating that tens of millions of Americans believe in everything from reincarnation to ESP to UFOs. Over the last year, tomes on celestial bodies (*A Book of Angels*), near-death experiences (*Embraced by the Light*), and New Age spirituality (*The Celestine Prophecy*) have dominated the *New York Times* bestseller list. At least seven different infomercials urge viewers to seek psychic advice by phone at \$3.99 a minute, according to the Jordan Whitney Green-sheet, an industry publication. *The Psychic Friends Network*, hosted by Dionne

Warwick, has logged more than four million calls, claims network founder Linda Georgian.

"There's an exploding fascination with anything science can't explain," Miller says. Adds *Sightings* producer Daniel: "What we are dealing with are the ultimate mysteries: what's in the dark closet, what's under the bed, and what's out there that none of us knows or understands yet?"

The Extraordinary's co-executive producer Peter Brennan, a seasoned tabloid journalist who developed *A Current Affair*, says his show—which airs around the world—strikes a universal chord. "It doesn't matter if you're American or Australian, rich or poor, Hindu or Catholic," says Brennan. "These are questions we all have." The American version makes liberal use of atmospheric reenactments in telling stories ranging from a man who may have been scared to death by an encounter with a woman he said was a witch, to celebrities like Angie Dickinson recounting a near-death experience. "I don't see this



FRANK B. JAMES/CBS

playing myself, and I can't even wink at the audience and let them know I'm pulling their leg," says Vanocur, who'll be joined by news vets Bree Walker-Lampley, Sandy Hill, and Ernie Anastos (left, in Times Square).

"We have this huge responsibility not to scare the pants off people," explains Carol Altieri, CBS's v-p of program practices. She also ordered producers to yank references to CBS News and the CBS eye logo from the script.

Congressman George E. Brown Jr. (D-Cal.), who also appears as himself, says an asteroid streaked past Earth just a few months ago—"close enough to scare the hell out of a lot of scientists." Which is why executive producer David Wolper has been doing everything he can to ruin the surprise before the movie airs. "It's only a television show, folks," Wolper says. "I'm not looking to give anybody a heart attack." —Mark Schwed

as a sensationalization of unexplained events," says host Bernsen. "It's a little more mystical. To me, that's the fascinating part of life. That is the Twilight Zone, that space between religion and science that neither has an answer for."

In pursuing stories of UFO encounters, alien abductions, and interventions by guardian angels, *Sightings* adheres to a glossy approach that emulates a news program. But is it journalism?

"I'm not going to say this is hard-core journalism like that practiced at city hall or covering national politics," says Tim White, the Emmy-winning news anchor who hosts *Sightings*. "It is an effort to tell a story as honestly and as thoroughly as possible, while recognizing that many of these things can't be proven to people's satisfaction—at least at the moment."

White understands the skeptics. "My first reaction was, 'I'm in the news business—little green men aren't for me,'" he recalls. "But over time, I've gone from cynicism to skepticism."



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He cites the "Heartland Ghost" story, a topic the show revisits next week. "I witnessed this young man going through some remarkable physical phenomenon," White says. "I'm not prepared to say that he was being attacked by ghosts, or that he was having psychosomatic welts. But I've never seen anything like it."

Neither have most people, which makes the new reality shows' task—chronicling the unexplained in a credible fashion—an uphill battle. "We're looking for truth, and it's difficult to find," admits *Encounters* host John Marshall. "We have a lot of bright people who attack this with the same standards...as the conventional newsroom or newsmagazine staff. We don't want to do anything to hurt our credibility."

In his role on the *Why We Watch* spots, Miller uses humor to explain the messages of programs that parents allow their children to view. So what's the message of Miller's *The Other Side*? "That people's instinct—that there is more to existence than what they experience in their physical reality—is absolutely valid, but because it's such uncharted territory, there's a lot of nonsense mixed in with that." →

Spirited message: "The American Experience" on PBS examined 19th-century spiritualism.



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What's it all about? *Dianne Warwick* hosts the infomercial for the popular "Psychic Friends Network."

Miller, whose credentials as a licensed psychotherapist, Baptist minister, and stand-up comic seem ideal for hosting *The Other Side*, says the skepticism he brings is important. "As an ordained minister, I certainly believe in dimensions of reality beyond what we experience here," he says, "but a lot of this stuff is playing on people's fears. We're going to try to investigate what's worth pursuing and what's a rip-off." One early episode was devoted to "Confessions of Phony Psychics."

It's just that lack of evidence that leads to the most puzzling question of all: What is going on now that so many people are willing to believe in things for which there is no proof? "People are worried about American life," Miller argues. "There seems to be more sadness, tragedy, chaos, and violence, and it's very natural that people would be eagerly seeking signs of hope." Bernsen believes the phenomenon has to do with the calendar. "We're crossing into a new millennium. All of us are trying to figure things out."

Skeptics say such shows are pandering to an age-old anti-science impulse. Media critic Todd Gitlin, a University of California at Berkeley sociologist, says, "Throughout the last three centuries, as science has become the prevailing way

through which truth is assessed, there's been an undertone of popular reluctance to believe what science has to say. People desire to imagine the world differently. I think this is a built-in feature of modern civilization. What's new is there's so much more television to carry it."

"Information pollution" is what concerns Ray Hyman, a University of Oregon psychology professor and member of the Committee for the Scientific Claims of the Paranormal. "As information becomes more and more available, not only is it hard to digest, but the ratio of bad to good information keeps growing. When it is labeled nonfiction, that only aggravates the situation."

Producers deny that there is anything wrong with their presentation of the paranormal. Just because there is no hard evidence, they argue, the fact that there are so many people claiming to have experiences makes it a legitimate area of inquiry. "When you look into stories of life after life or reincarnation, you're instantly skeptical," says John Cosgrove, co-executive producer of *Unsolved Mysteries*. "Yet when you meet people who are not bizarre wackos, who are regular, ordinary people, that sense of skepticism begins to diminish. They're clearly not lying, so what else is going on?...The audience is intelligent enough to weigh both sides of the story."

Bernsen's answer to the skeptics is actually a question, one that humankind has been pondering since time immemorial: "I always ask, 'Where did it begin, and where does it end?' But just look in the sky and tell me where *it* ends. When you can give me a reasonable answer, then I'll stop wondering."

So will we all—soothsayers and naysayers alike. ■

Mark Nollinger is a freelance writer based in Southern California.



SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, And May Complicate Pregnancy.

- 23- Just as science, math (e.g., calculus), law, business, law enforcement, medicine, the military, engineering have their unique vocabularies, such is also true for theology.
- 24- It is a piece of arrogance to criticize a pastor for using technical words. In effect, such a critic is proclaiming himself ignorant and that he wishes to remain so.
- 25- If a pastor can preach only on the basis of his parishioners' current level of understanding, then he can never teach them anything.
- 26- If he prepares his lessons so as to never go beyond the intelligence of his congregation's least informed person, then no one in the entire church will ever grow spiritually.
- 27- A hunger for the Word causes the positive believer to look on things which he does not understand as a challenge to intensify his study, not as an excuse to quit and then criticize the pastor for being "too academic."
- 28- For the believer, human IQ is no handicap. The filling of the Holy Spirit takes up the slack.
- F/HS + HuIQ = SpIQ + GAP = PSDs/CWL**
- 29- What distracts a believer from using these assets to achieve reachable goals is arrogance.
- 30- As one can become skillful in using his spiritual assets, so also one can become skillful in using cosmic assets.
- 31- Arrogance is one of the major complexes which is energized by the old sin nature. Here is the thought process of the reversionist who is skillful in using arrogant assets:

He usually begins by becoming self-righteously indignant about some real or imagined wrong done to him. This usually results in a personal crusade. This does not necessarily mean that he joins a special interest group. He can take up a *one-man* crusade whose special interest is self and self alone. In this he always justifies self. **Self-justification** is the first skill developed in the arrogance complex of sins.

If the believer feels he is justified in his attitudes, opinions, and actions then he develops the mind-set that he is right while everyone else is wrong. This is divorcement from reality and results in self-deception. **Self-deception** is the second skill developed from the arrogance complex of sins.

Once self-deception occurs the believer becomes overly preoccupied with self and this causes self-absorption. **Self-absorption** results in the attitude that one's own thoughts, activities, and interests are more important than anyone else's.

From this rationale comes the development of what is called human self-esteem. Most of what is taught today as self-esteem is nothing more than teaching children that they need no correction, they are never wrong, and their choices are always best. Nothing could be more arrogant. When these children grow up they enter adult life as sociopaths. They do not associate themselves with society and its laws. They believe that punishment for wrongdoing is an injustice since they believe nothing they do could possibly be wrong. The end result of such self-centeredness is the inability to show any sensitivity for the interests of others.

The hostility which accompanies this mental attitude is expressed by our Lord in:

Matthew 10:21 - "Brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and the children will rise up against parents, and cause them to be put to death."

Or this passage from:

Mark 7:21 - "For from within, out of the streams of consciousness of men proceed evil thoughts, sexual immorality, thefts, murders, adulteries,

v 22 - "deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, evil, slander, arrogance, and foolishness."

32- What overrides all this is submission to the command of our verse: "But keep on growing ..."

33- The environment in which this growth is to occur is stated next in a prepositional phrase:

'εν plus the locative of sphere from the noun:

χαρις - "in the sphere of grace"

Our verse now reads: "Keep on growing in the sphere of grace ..."

Let's pause here and take a look at the Doctrine of Grace as it pertains to the spiritual growth of the believer.

E-10/23 B
B-10/30 A
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TITLE: "The Doctrine of Grace"

1- Grace is the policy of God in providing everything necessary for the believer to execute God's plan, purpose, and will.

* NO TUESDAY OR THURSDAY CLASS, 25 & 29 OCT 1994, DUE TO ST. LOUIS BIBLE CONFERENCE. NO CLASSES SUNDAY, 30 OCT, TUES, & NOV AND THURSDAY 3 NOV DUE TO FATHER'S SURGERY AND TRIP TO ALA. RESUMED STUDY SUN., 6 NOV.