



"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most miserable." 1 Corinthians 15:19

If the lips which said, Lazarus come forth, are forever silenced in the grave, we cannot call on his name.

If the arms that held the children and blessed them are forever folded in death, then we cannot embrace his love.

If the legs that walked on the raging sea or laid cold in the tomb, we cannot walk in his deliverance.

If the ears that heard the cry of blind, Bartimaeus are forever shut, then our prayers will go unheard.

If the heart that beat in love beats no more, our hearts cannot be changed.

If the eyes that looked with compassion on the multitude are closed, eternally, we will not live eternally.

If the one who left to Heaven to come to earth never returns, we will forever be barred from entering in as well.

If the creator is locked in deaths grip, we can never be released to become new creations.

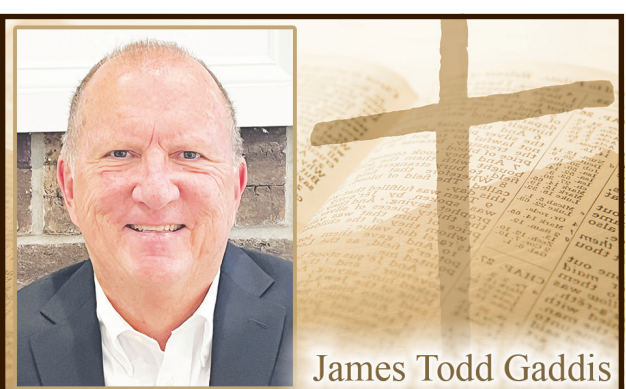
If the blood that flowed in our savior's veins remains cold and coagulated, there is no hope to be washed in the blood of the lamb.

If the tomb is not empty, and his body still there lays, our hearts will remain empty and there's no hope beyond the grave.

If Jesus lied about being raised from the dead, there is no truth that we can depend on.

If death was victorious, and Satan won, we will forever be under his power and control. - Braxton King

Paul's statement reveals the absolute hopelessness of a world without a resurrected Christ. This scripture reveals a world that would be under the control of the devil. The resurrection of Jesus is the vindication of all the prophets, psalms, and Jesus spoke. "He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." Jesus is alive and we do have a hope that reaches beyond the grave. "You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart."



Watch Your Words

I recall the following saying from my childhood: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Though this phrase has a nice ring to it, nothing could be further from the truth.

A more accurate statement, especially in our day of cyber warfare and political division is the African proverb, "Words are like bullets; if they escape, you can't catch them again." Truth be told, throughout time, careless words have done more damage than bullets.

I'm aware of a situation in a family in which two siblings rarely speak because of hateful words that were spoken years ago. You've no doubt seen such occurrences in your world as well.

After 41 years of marriage, careless words are more likely to get me in hot water than any other offense (you'd think I would have learned by now).

As seems to be the norm these days, we are in the midst of a heated political climate. Caustic quotes, comments, and speeches pour down like a hailstorm, spewing out from both sides. Keenly recognizing the poisonous potential of words, King David, a discerning politician in his day, voiced this petition to the Lord 3,000 years ago: "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips (Psalm 141:3, NASB)."

I get a little uneasy at times when people around me start taking videos with their phones. And then I realize God hears everything I say. He's the one I really need to be most concerned about. As Jesus said, "I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it on the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:36,37, NASB).

The Bible also says, "If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison" (James 1:26, 3:8, NASB).

As you consider these verses, ponder these points. First, as my mother often reminded me, "It's not what you say, it's how you say it." The tone of our speech can do more damage than the words themselves. I'm prone to turn up the volume when I get passionate about an issue or want to get my

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EDITORIAL

Miracles are all Around Us

John 10: 38 "But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him."

The growth of non-believers in a supreme spiritual creator God is increasing. While only four to five percent of Americans claim an adherence to a strict atheistic view, around thirty percent claim no religious beliefs or affiliations whatsoever.

The Bible gives us a belief method called faith. Many do not consider the many beliefs and actions we have based on faith.

We have faith in the food we eat, the products we buy and the battery in our car. Hiring a contractor, going to a doctor or opening a bank account requires faith. So, what's the problem with faith?

Ephesians 2: 8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Since none of us were living 2000 years ago, faith is the only belief system possible.

But wait; we see God in His creation most everywhere we look. His miracles and His works are all around us. The simple fact that our eyes can observe those actions of nature is a miracle in itself. The study of the human eye and its reaction to light is beyond human logic.

The English naturalist Charles Darwin in his book "On the Origin of Species" conceded the "idea of a complex eye evolving by natural selection seems absurd in the highest possible degree."

Darwin's beliefs and statements have been seriously convoluted but the essence of his belief appear to be a "not sure" attitude concerning the supernatural.

Darwin being credited with the beginning of the "existence by evolution" belief does not seem to me to be legitimate.

Regardless of one's consideration of God and/or the Bible, can we possibly agree on a few connections existing between our physical world and Bible teachings? Miracles are all around us!

In a recent article the discussion was the connection between Genesis 1: 1-3 and the biological process of photosynthesis. The Bible states God had the necessary components to produce oxygen. Having matter, water and light, photosynthesis produces chlorophyll of which a by-product is oxygen.

Animals (including humans) breathe oxygen filled air and produce carbon dioxide. The plant life is then refueled to produce more oxygen. How could this reciprocating process have accidentally happened? Miracles are all around us!

Ecclesiastes 1: 6 "The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits."

Have you ever been anywhere on earth you could not breathe? Even in desert areas where there is not a plant in sight to produce oxygen, one can still breathe.

Solomon in Ecclesiastes 1: 6 describes the constant atmospheric movements/prevaling winds that literally "stir up" our atmosphere every day, every second. Miracles are all around us!

Astronomers tell us

that our earth averages ninety-three million miles from the sun. If we were a few million miles further from the sun the oceans would freeze and we would die. If we were a few million miles closer to the sun, we would burn to a crisp.

Some astronomers call this perfect distance from our star (the sun) the Goldilocks zone; not too hot, not too cold.

A belief by many is that we are placed in a shielded area in this solar system. The other planets serve as buffers (or barriers) to asteroids and other space rocks passing through this area in space.

Our moon also serves several purposes to protect us. The tides, the seasons and stabilizing the tilt of the earth are moon controlled. Why do we only have one moon while other planets have multiple moons? The single gravitational direction must have been intentional. Miracles are all around us!

Ecclesiastes 1: 7 "All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again."

The rain falls, evaporates from the soil, our bodies and plants; the excess runs off into the seas, and evaporates into the atmosphere. The prevailing winds/air movements bring that vapor over the land and it falls again as rain. God is not only the greatest reciprocator, He is the great recycler. Miracles are all around us.

Our bodies are also miracles in constant movement. Our hearts are beating, our lungs are pumping and our blood is continually

supplying our thirty-trillion body cells with oxygen and nutrients.

Our body parts are constantly replacing themselves. Skin, blood and bone cells are replicating themselves. Red blood cells are produced by bone marrow and replaced about every four months while bone cells take about ten years. Miracles are all around us!

Genesis 2: 1 "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." When creation was complete, all the atoms of the elements had been created. All of the trillions of atoms in our bodies have existed since creation.

The first physics law of thermodynamics agrees with Genesis 2: 1. That law is called the law of the conservation of energy. Some add to that the conservation of matter and energy. All the atoms of all the elements have existed since creation (Genesis 2: 1); they have simply changed location.

Jon Bon Jovi said "Miracles happen every day; change your perception of what a miracle is, and you'll see them all around you."

The greatest miracle of all is yet to come. The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com

SCHOOL from FRONT

related to the WCHS Gym and Football Facilities ADA renovation.

Approved a proposal from DECO Architects for architectural and engineering services related to the Bell

Elementary office and restroom renovation.

Approved pay request #6 for the Walker Early Learning Center renovation project in the amount of \$1,236,653.02.

Approved to pay

an invoice to DECO Architects in the amount of \$9,232.44 for professional services related to the Walker Early Learning Center renovation project.

Approved the

members of the Local Planning Committee (LPC) who will develop the next District Facility Plan (DFP). and Approved updates to special education procedures.

QUILT from FRONT

those unfamiliar with the term, a bed turning is a way to showcase special quilts and explain quilting techniques and features as different quilts are displayed.

There's a lot to see and do at the quilt show. Quilts are entered from all over and are judged in nine categories. Quilts are judged by professional judges with prizes awarded to the top three quilts in each category. All attendees can vote for their favorite quilt which will receive a "Viewer's Choice" award. Some of the quilted items displayed will be for sale. A vendor's mall will feature hand crafted items and

sewing supplies and fabrics.

Every year a quilt that has been hand-quilted by guild members is raffled off. Tickets for the raffle are \$1.00 per ticket and may be purchased at the show or before the show at the Quilt Shoppe (located at 24 N Main St) or from a quilt guild member. The drawing

will take place at the end of the show on Saturday. You do not need to be present to win.

If you're looking for a fun, family friendly activity for Labor Day weekend, the Quilt Show of the Little Mountains would be an excellent choice.

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Founding Editor - Melodie Phelps
November 29, 1963 - July 29, 2022

"In the hearts of those who loved you, you will always be here."