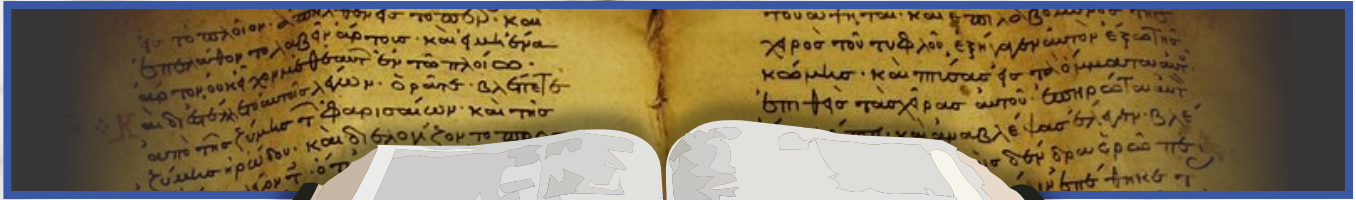


(Words of Life)

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The Texas School of Preaching, by the grace of God, has reached another beautiful milestone! Our first graduating class will receive diplomas and prepare to enter their full-time labors in the Kingdom of Christ on the second of June!

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The Integrity of Apologetics

Terrance Brownlow-Dindy, Sr.

The charge of the apostle Peter to "...sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Pe. 3:15) has found its way into the efforts and energy of apologists where defending God's existence, Jesus' resurrection, and the Bible's inspiration are concerned. This is for good reason. The fact that the truth of these matters has been suppressed is well documented. "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God,'" wrote king David approximately 3,000 years ago (Ps. 14:1). About the year of our Lord 57, the apostle Paul chronicled how that inexcusable atheists "...when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God," and "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like unto corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things" (Rom. 1:21-23). In August of 1998 Robert W. Funk blasphemed,

The plot early Christians invented for a divine redeemer figure is as archaic as the mythology in which it is framed. A Jesus who drops down out of heaven, performs some magical act that frees human beings from the power of sin, rises from the dead, and returns to heaven is simply no longer credible. The notion that he will return at the end of time and sit in cosmic judgment is equally incredible. We must find a new plot for a more credible Jesus [Thesis 7 of 21]. (weststarinstitute.org).

Because of the suppression of the undeniable truth of God's existence, much diligence has gone into the apologetic that offers proof of the Creator. Another critical tenant of the Christian faith that has been greatly suppressed is the truth that Jesus the Christ, when crucified on Calvary's hill, purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28) a very specific church. This church, which warrants and deserves every bit of the apologetic energy that has gone into defending God, the Christ, and the Bible, goes undefended by evangelical apologists. This is not due to inability. In fact, it may even be argued that providing a defense of the church of Christ is a task infinitely more simple than offering an apologetic for Christ Himself. The only plausible reason for the neglect of expert apologists in this area is a lack of apologetic integrity concerning the matter. To echo the words of Paul, "They are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20).

It seems that allegiances to their favorite man-made denominations hinder men such as Lee Strobel, William Lane Craig, Josh McDowell, Gary Habermas, Ken Ham, Michael Behe, and Frank Turek (to name a few) from exhibiting complete integrity in the apologetic arena. Just as the truth of the uncorruptible God has long been suppressed and God replaced by the benign substitutes of men's imagination, the truth of the one divinely conceived church of Christ has been suppressed and the Lord's true church replaced in the hearts of men by the religious institutions of their imaginations. Traditional denominations, so-called non-denominations, mega and community churches, and personal moniker ministries have captured the fidelity of the world's best evangelical apologists. The church of Christ as seen in the Bible finds no place on the spectrum of their apologetic efforts.

Despite this sad reality, the words of the Ephesian epistle still ring the truth: "There is one body..." (Eph. 4:4a). This "one body" exalted in Paul's Ephesian letter, also known as the church (cf. Eph. 1:22-23), is the one church...

Purposed in the mind of God (Eph. 1:1-6)

Prophesied by holy men of God (cf. 2 Pe. 1:20-21, 1 Sam. 7:12-13; Isa. 2:1-4; Dan. 2:44; Zech. 1:16, etc.)

Promised by the Son of God (Matt. 16:16-19)

Purchased by the blood of God (Acts 20:28)

Produced by the Spirit of God (Acts 2:1-47), and that...

Practices the doctrines of God (Acts 2:42).

Defending this indispensable element of the Christian faith is as simple as recognizing that in biblical prophecy, God's holy men proclaimed the founder, the location of foundation, and time-frame of the establishment of the true church of Christ. When these simple prophecies (viz. 2 Sam. 7:12-14; Isa. 9:6-7; Isa. 2:1-3; Dan. 2:44) are compared to the various (some 33,000) *man-made* "Christian" institutions and their founders, locations of foundation, and time-frames of establishment, the discrepancies become readily evident.

The Integrity of Apologetics (continued)

So then, why is such a simple apologetic so often ignored? Again, a lack of apologetic integrity seems to be the answer. What the esteemed staff of organizations such as Apologetics Press is able to do, other apologists and apologetic institutions could do just as easily – if integrity would allow them to. In the apologetic journal *Reason & Revelation*, Dave Miller writes,

In the midst of this spiritual “warfare” (1 Timothy 1:18), we also feel the pressing need to occasionally address unbiblical notions within Christendom that threaten people’s spiritual safety. This intention lays behind the development of our “What the Bible Says About…” book series. (88)

One of the books in the Apologetics Press “What the Bible Says About…” series is *What the Bible Says About the Church of Christ*. In this vital work, Miller emphasizes the biblical documentation of the foretelling and founding of the church of the Bible. He defends the doctrines, entrance requirements, structure, organization, names, worship practices, and purpose of the biblical church of Christ in contradistinction to those of denominational institutions. It is important to note that Miller goes on to say, “We have no desire to offend, insult, or hurt anyone. On the other hand, to be faithful to God, we must be about the business of ‘speaking the truth in love’ (Ephesians 4:15) on **vital topics that affect salvation**” (88, *emphasis TFBD*).

It is without doubt that most who engage in the strenuous and demanding task of Christian apologetics do so out of concern for the souls of men. As stated by Miller, the truth of the church of Christ is a “vital topic that affects [the] salvation” of the souls of men. Thus, such *must* be included among the necessary topics of apologetics.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

A thought shall be borrowed from the great molecular exploration of the theistic biochemist Michael Behe in efforts to bring perspective to all that we have said. In his brilliant work, *Darwin’s Black Box*, Behe speaks of the great “dilemma” that has accompanied the monumental biological discoveries at the molecular level over the past forty years. This dilemma is the fact that the discoveries undeniably point to an intelligent designer. In his own words, the scientist declares, “The result of these cumulative efforts to investigate the cell – to investigate life at the molecular level – is a loud, clear, piercing cry of design!” (232). He states that such is a “dilemma” in his scientific space because so many of his peers have Darwinian/atheistic presuppositions that they are reluctant to abandon even though the evidence warrants such abandonment.

So what does this have to do with the central premise of this study? As Behe states at the outset of the chapter alluded to above,

...thousands of people have dedicated the better parts of their lives to the tedious work of the laboratory. Graduate students in untied tennis shoes scraping around the lab late on Saturday night; postdoctoral associates working fourteen hours a day seven days a week; professors ignoring their children in order to polish and re-polish grant proposals...these are the people that make scientific research move forward. (232)

Here is the perspective that must not be ignored: The work of discovering the one true church of the Bible is exponentially *easier* than the wonderful work that the molecular scientists (and all other scientists for that matter) have put forth. If Behe and others of his expertise have been able to see life at the cellular level piercing through ion microscopes, then how much more so should the same be able to look into God’s ion microscope – *the Holy Bible* and discover the church of Christ as designed by the Creator? If Geisler, Craig, McDowell, Habermas, Strobel, and other great apologists can provide bullet-proof defenses for the existence of God, the historicity and resurrection of Jesus, and the infallibility of the Scriptures, then why can’t the same devotion, diligence, energy, and effort be thrust into championing the truth of the biblical church of Christ?

The Integrity of Apologetics (concluded)

Sadly, the same biases and prejudices mentioned by Michael Behe that hinder his peers from accepting the truth of God's existence and the divine fingerprint on the universe also prevent otherwise remarkable apologists (such as himself) from accepting and embracing the church of Christ as seen in the Holy Scriptures.

Works Cited

Behe, Michael J. *Darwin's Black Box* (New York: Free Press, 2006), 232.

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Miller, Dave. "What the Bible Says About..." *Reason & Revelation*, 30, no. 11 (2010): 88

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The Biblical Christianity Podcast is the official podcast of the BCS church of Christ and the Texas School of Preaching. BCP airs weekly (Fridays), covers relevant topics from a strictly biblical perspective, and may be accessed via:

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Set to Break Ground!

Recently, the Lord God has blessed the BCS church of Christ with exponential growth, and the Texas School of Preaching with a beautiful start! An inevitable need for expanded facilities has become an awesome reality!



Exterior rendering of the new forthcoming BCS-TXSOP building.

BCS-TXSOP new building interior layout.



As can be seen in the interior layout portion of the BCS building plan, one wing will be a dedicated space for the Texas School of Preaching. This space is much needed, as the BCS fellowship hall presently triples as a fellowship hall, high school classroom, and one of the two TXSOP classrooms (the BCS auditorium is the current makeshift second TXSOP classroom). With a fantastic faculty, and forthcoming facilities, the Texas School of Preaching is on schedule, with the perpetual grace of God and the support of generous brethren, to continue contributing significantly to the training of bold, sound preachers of the Gospel of Christ. To God be the glory!

The financial responsibility of the Texas School of Preaching's portion of the forthcoming facility is estimated at 1 million dollars. If you love the work the school is doing, and would be interested in partnering with us with in the endeavor to glorify God through the training of strong Gospel preachers, please contact TXSOP.....

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WORTHWHILE

"Quotes"

"The mentor's hindsight is the student's foresight."
 - Unknown

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MDC 8TH ANNUAL MEN'S DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE AND GOSPEL MEETING
BCS CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE POWER OF ONE EPHESIANS 4:1F/JOHN 17:17F

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH

- 7:30 AM Breakfast Provided
- 8:30 AM 2 Timothy, Chapter 1 - (Eric Pitcock)
- 9:30 AM Evidences - Irreducible Complexity (Chris Jagge)
- 10:30 AM History - The Egyptians (Trent Thrasher)
- 11:30 AM Lunch Provided
- 1:00 PM How Jesus Dealt with...The Multitudes (Mike Bonner)
- 2:00 PM Current Events: How do you raise "a son," in this crazy world? (Kerry Clark, Bryan Braswell, & Ryan Smithey)
- 3:00 PM Doctrinal Deep-Dive: Miracles & The Holy Spirit? (Rick Popejoy & Morne Stephanus)

THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH

- 7:30 AM Breakfast Provided
- 8:30 AM 2 Timothy, Chapter 2 - (Trent Kennedy)
- 9:30 AM Evidences - Noah's Ark (Branyon May)
- 10:30 AM History - The Canaanites (Bryan Braswell)
- 11:30 AM Lunch Provided
- 1:00 PM How Jesus Dealt with...Persecution (Jon McCormack)
- 2:00 PM Current Events: How do you raise "a daughter," in this crazy world? (Cody Damron, Ronnie Scherffius, & Ryan Smithey)
- 3:00 PM Doctrinal Deep-Dive: The Indwelling of The Holy Spirit? (Rick Popejoy & Brant Stubblefield)

FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH

- 7:30 AM Breakfast Provided
- 8:30 AM 2 Timothy, Chapter 3 - (Morne Stephanus)
- 9:30 AM Evidences - The Influence of Darwin (Paden Reed)
- 10:30 AM History - The Philistines (Ronnie Scherffius)
- 11:30 AM Lunch Provided
- 1:00 PM How Jesus Dealt with...Hypocrites (Kerry Clark)
- 2:00 PM Current Events: Does the Christian have the right to "Self-Defense?" (Terrance Brownlow-Dindy, Rick Popejoy, & Mike Bonner)
- 3:00 PM Doctrinal Deep-Dive: The Direct Operation of The Holy Spirit? (Brant Stubblefield & Tom Wacaster)

SATURDAY, JUNE 8TH

- 7:30 AM Breakfast Provided
- 8:30 AM 2 Timothy, Chapter 4 - (Omari French)
- 9:30 AM Evidences - Hezekiah's Tunnel (Daniel Horn)
- 10:30 AM History - The Romans (Tom Wacaster)
- 11:30 AM Lunch Provided
- 1:00 PM How Jesus Dealt with...False Teachers (Tom Moore)
- 2:00 PM Current Events: What is "Cultural Marxism," and why is it wrong? (Omari French, Trent Thrasher, & Michael Light)
- 3:00 PM Doctrinal Deep-Dive: Calvinism & The Holy Spirit? (John Hall & Tom Wacaster)

MDC 8TH ANNUAL MEN'S DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE AND GOSPEL MEETING
BCS CHURCH OF CHRIST

LADIES' CLASSES

Being the Woman God Wants You to Be

WEDNESDAY

1 PM - "AS BECOMETH HOLINESS..."
(TITUS 2:3; 1 PET. 3:5) - MONA POPEJOY

2 PM - PANEL DISCUSSION/WOMEN'S ISSUES
HOW TO STAY FOCUSED AS A GODLY WOMAN, IN THIS CRAZY WORLD?
(B.J. ROLLO, KAREN MCDONALD, SHENIA BROWNLOW-DINDY)

THURSDAY

1 PM - IN BEING "SOBER" AND THINKING ON THE RIGHT THINGS
(TITUS 2:4; PHILIPPIANS 4:8) - LORI HANSON

2 PM - PANEL DISCUSSION/WOMEN'S ISSUES
HOW TO HELP OTHER WOMEN BECOME/REMAIN GODLY, IN THIS PRESENT WORLD?
(B.J. ROLLO, GINA BRASWELL, CAROLE MOORE)

FRIDAY

1 PM - "IN SUBJECTION TO YOUR OWN HUSBANDS..."
(1 PETER 3:1F; COLOSSIANS 3:18) - EVELYN BONNER

2 PM - PANEL DISCUSSION/WOMEN'S ISSUES
HOW TO RAISE KIDS, IN THIS CRAZY WORLD?
(B.J. ROLLO, JENNY DITORO, PRISCILLA SMITHEY)

SATURDAY

1 PM - "GIVING NONE OCCASION TO THE ADVERSARY TO SPEAK REPROACHFULLY"
(1 TIM. 5:11F; TITUS 2:5) - APRIL WACASTER

2 PM - PANEL DISCUSSION/WOMEN'S ISSUES
HOW TO FULFILL YOUR ROLE AS A GODLY WOMAN, WHETHER SINGLE OR MARRIED?
(B.J. ROLLO, GINA BRASWELL, SHENIA BROWNLOW-DINDY)

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GOSPEL MEETING: THE POWER OF ONE. EPHESIANS 4:1F

Wednesday 6:30 pm - One God - John Hall

Wednesday 7:30 pm - One Lord - Michael Shepherd

Thursday 5:00 pm - N/A - TxSOP Banquet

Thursday 7:30 pm - One Spirit - Stephen Wiggins

Friday 5:30 pm - NO GOSPEL MEETING: Family Fun Night

Saturday 6:30 pm - One Faith - Terrance Brownlow-Dindy

Saturday 7:30 pm - One Baptism - Jason Rollo

Sunday 9:30 am - One Body - Michael Light

Sunday 10:30 am - One in Unity - Brant Stubblefield

Sunday 1:30 pm - One in Hope - BJ Clarke

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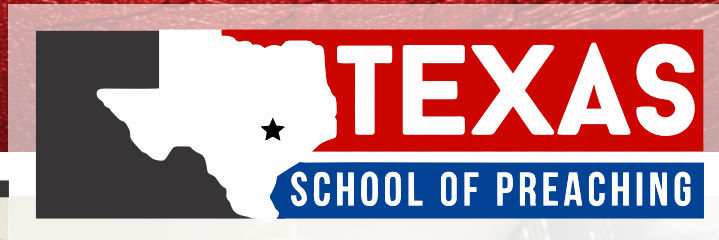
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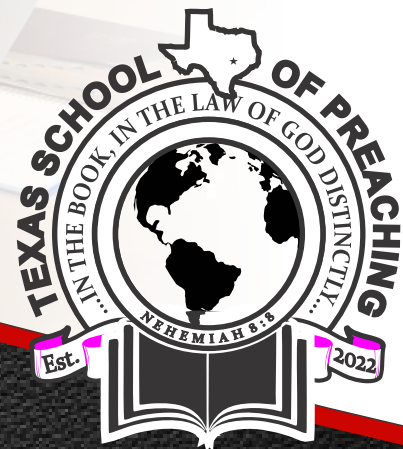
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...in the book, in the law of God distinctly...

Nehemiah 8:8