

Light Brings Salt

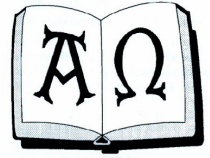
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Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God



The Postmodern Agnostics

by Henry M. Morris

The term “agnostic” is generally believed to have been coined by Thomas Huxley, “Darwin’s bulldog.” It is supposedly a less dogmatic position than that of atheism, holding that one can neither prove nor disprove the existence of God.

Charles Darwin, as well as Huxley, professed to be an agnostic, although both seemed to waiver back and forth between agnosticism and atheism in their writings and correspondence.

Actually, the word is derived from two Greek words, a (“no” or “against”) and *gnosis* (“knowledge”). When combined as *agnosia*, it is translated as “Ignorance.” For example, it is used in 1 Peter 2:15: “For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the **ignorance** [read “agnosticism”] of foolish men.

But now a strange new form of agnosticism is making inroads among left-leaning intellectuals, associated with the “postmodernism” of the so-called “Generation X.” The new agnosticism holds that one cannot really *know* anything at all!

Only recently have we been using this term [i.e., “post-modernism”], but this many-headed monster has been growing for some time among us. Most prominent in the children of “baby-boomers,” this new cultural pattern refers to the *complete loss of values, beliefs, and traditions*. At its core is the loss of belief in any kind of Truth, and therefore the loss of belief that Right and Wrong exist.

To the post moderns everything is relative. What may be true or right for one person may not be true or right for the next. Ethics is a matter of taste, and what’s right is merely a pragmatic ques-

tion of what works.

This attitude even is starting to affect the teaching of evolutionary biology. Anthropologist Matt Cartmill complains:

Now we find ourselves defending Darwin against attacks not only from the religious right but from the academic left as well.

It seems that these postmodern liberals not only reject Christianity, but science as well, especially when its findings and theories are presented as **objective truth**.

Although these notions are often expressed in a mind-numbing postmodern” jargon, at bottom they’re pretty simple. We can sum them up in one sentence. Anybody who claims to have objective knowledge about anything is trying to control and dominate the rest of us.

And though all fields of science are suspect, what most left-wing anxiety centers on is biology.

In a well-reported example, social psychologist Phoebe Ellsworth encountered an unexpected reaction when giving an interdisciplinary seminar lecture on human emotions. When she first mentioned “experiments,” audience members objected that the experimental method was merely a power-grabbing device by white Victorian males. Then, when she countered by reminding them that this scientific method had led to the discovery of DNA, the dialogue was terminated when the audience expressed strong disapproval of anyone who “believed” in DNA!

In commenting on this experience, Ehrenreich and McIntosh somehow manage to equate this unscientific attitude of the post moderns with creationism, although they call it “secular

creationism,” since they are well aware that these protagonists have no commitment at all to either Biblical creationism or scientific creationism.

It was only with the arrival of the intellectual movements lumped under the term “postmodernism” that academic antibiologism began to sound perilously like religious creationism.... Glibly applied, postmodernism portrays evolutionary theory as nothing more than a sexist and racist story line created by western white men.

To the postmodern, human behavior and human societies are functions only of their respective group cultures. They are not to be explained in terms either of ancestral animal characteristics or of any cross-cultural commonalities.

In fact, it is hard to pinpoint just what they do believe. As noted above, Thomas Johnson (a professor teaching in the Czech Republic) calls it a “many headed monster.” They are against Darwinism and against capitalism and against Christian moral constraints, but they all seem to favor feminism, multiculturalism, and situational ethics. Otherwise they are an extremely heterogeneous group.

The academic left is a diverse group. It includes all shades of opinion from the palest pink liberals to old-fashioned bright red Marxists. Probably no two of them have the same opinions about everything. But a lot of them have bought into some notions that are deeply hostile to the scientific enterprise in general and the study of evolution in particular.

These postmodern secular “creationists” are certainly not Bible-believing creationists, or creation scientists, however, so they necessarily must believe in some form of evolution if they delve into the subject of origins at all.

There is undoubtedly a wide variety of opinions on this subject among these latter-day agnostics, but most or all of them (if not frankly atheistic) would favor some form of “New Age” pantheistic evolution. Of these, the most highly developed is probably the Gaia Hypothesis, Gaia being the name of the ancient Greek goddess of

Earth.

Scientific evidence for the idea that the Earth is alive abounds. The scientific formulation of the ancient idea goes by the name of the Gaia hypothesis...In its most elegant and attackable form, the hypothesis lends credence to the idea that the Earth—the global biota in its terrestrial environment—is a giant organism.

The so-called “scientific evidence” for Gaia, however, consists of the “fitness of the environment” and the many symbiotic relationships in the living world—evidences which, to the true creationist, are beautiful evidences of God’s design of the natural world.

In any case, this secular creationism (or postmodern agnosticism concerning Darwinian evolution and biology) has no real resemblance to true scientific Biblical creationism at all.

This climate of intolerance, often imposed by scholars associated with the left, ill suits an academic tradition rhetorically committed to human freedom. What’s worse, it provides intellectual backup for a political outlook that sees no real basis for common ground among humans of different sexes, races, and cultures.

The above assessment of secular creationism was written by traditional neo-Darwinists, but it could just as well have been an assessment of academic evolutionism by a Bible-believing creationist. Biblical creationism *does* provide real common ground between all sexes, races, and cultures, for the inspired account in Genesis assures us that we are all descended from Adam and Eve, who were both created in the image of God!

But evolutionism in any form that is, any worldview other than solid Biblical literal creationism provides no such foundation.

Furthermore, scientific Biblical creationists are not opposed to experimental observational science, as are these new agnostics. We strongly support all fact-based science. Our concerns are with speculative evolutionary philosophy masquerading as science.

There is really no place for agnosticism among those created in God’s image, whether that

agnosticism is of either the Huxleyan or the postmodern variety, for we have God's inspired and completed inscripturated word to guide us in our beliefs and behavior.

The world, represented in the governor who delivered the world's Creator to be crucified, may ask sarcastically: "What is truth?" (John 18:38). But we can answer back, with Christ "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). Christ also claimed: "I am the truth" (John 14:6).

And we can say with the psalmist: "The sum of Thy word is truth, And every one of Thy righteous ordinances is everlasting...Therefore I esteem right all *Thy* precepts concerning everything, I hate every false way. (Psalm 119:160,128).

IS YOUR LOCAL CHURCH FEEDING SHEEP or ENTERTAINING GOATS?

Editor's note: church advertisements, all claiming to be "evangelical," here in the Valley of the Sun, made me wonder if their services are an evangelical version of Saturday Night Live!

I thought Jesus said, "Feed my sheep," not entertain them. The following quote by Daniel B. Wallace, Professor of New Testament Studies, Dallas Theological Seminary, is telling.

Ron Merryman

Even with the proliferation of Bibles today, Christians are reading their Bibles less and less. I believe the evangelical church has only fifty years of life left. Fifty years left of evangelicalism because of marginalization of the Word of God. We need another Reformation!

The enemy of the gospel is not religious hierarchy but moral anarchy, not tradition but entertainment. The enemy of the gospel is Protestantism run amuck, it is an anti-intellectual, anti-knowledge, feel-good faith that has no content and no convictions.

Part of the communal repentance that is needed is a repentance about the text. And even more importantly, there must be repentance with regard to Jesus Christ our Lord. Just as the Bible has

been marginalized, Jesus Christ has been 'buddized.' His transcendence and majesty are only winked at, as we turn Him into the genie in the bottle, beseech God for more conveniences, more luxury, less hassle, and a life without worries or lack of comfort. He no longer wears the face that the apostles recognized.

The point is worth underscoring: The God we worship today no longer resembles the God of the Bible. Unless we return to Him through a reading and digesting of the Scriptures through a commitment to the text, the evangelical church will become irrelevant, useless, dead.

America Could Have Killed Usama bin Laden — But Didn't

Tuesday, October 23, 2007

By Col. David Hunt

Because there is no shortage of things to yell about regarding the War on Terror, Iraq, Afghanistan, Homeland Security, and so on, deciding what to write about is always fun.

This week, I was going to yell about how the Bush administration leaked classified information — again — but we've been there before. Then, I thought I might write about Blackwater, but compared to so many things, Blackwater looks like back water.

I bet the few of you that read this stuff thought I would write about my short stint in the sights of those who complained or used my column last week for their own purposes. Nah, it ain't going to happen. Those who were yelling or using me on their TV shows — without bringing me on to comment — are hardly worth the print space. I am not that big a deal. Besides, these things are of little consequence when you realize how we missed, squandered, screwed up, made a mess of and were massively risk adverse — again — when we did not kill Usama bin Laden in Afghanistan just two short months ago.

We know, with a 70 percent level of certainty — which is huge in the world of intelligence — that in August of 2007, bin Laden was in a convoy

headed south from Tora Bora. We had his butt, on camera, on satellite. We were listening to his conversations. We had the world's best hunters/killers — Seal Team 6 — nearby. We had the world class Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) coordinating with the CIA and other agencies. We had unmanned drones overhead with missiles on their wings; we had the best Air Force on the planet, begging to drop one on the terrorist. We had him in our sights; we had done it. Nice job again guys — now, pull the damn trigger.

Unbelievably, and in my opinion, criminally, we did not kill Usama bin Laden.

You cannot make this crap up; truth is always stranger and more telling than fiction. Our government, the current administration and yes, our military leaders included, failed to kill bin Laden for no other reason than incompetence.

The current “boneheads” in charge will tell you all day long that we are fighting and dying in Iraq and Afghanistan to stop terrorists there so they do not come here. Nice talk, how about — just for a moment — acting like you mean what you say? You know walk the walk. These incidents, where we displayed a total lack of guts, like the one in August, are just too prevalent. The United States of America's political and military leadership has, on at least three separate occasions, chosen not capture or kill bin Laden or Ayman al-Zawahri. We have allowed Pakistan to become a safe haven for Al Qaeda. We have allowed Al Qaeda to reconstitute, partially because of money they (Al Qaeda in Iraq) have been sending to Al Qaeda in Pakistan.

We are in a war with terrorists. We are in a war with countries that support terrorists. We are in a war with people that fly planes into buildings and who never, ever hesitate to pull the trigger when given the chance to kill us. We cannot win and, I will tell you this now, we are losing this war every damn time we fail to take every single opportunity to kill murderers like Usama bin Laden. Less than two months ago, we lost again.

Our men and women are being blown up and killed every day in Iraq and Afghanistan. Every

family who is separated from a loved one during this war is being insulted by our government when they fail to kill those who have already killed us and will not hesitate to do so again and again. Damn it guys, PULL THE DAMN TRIGGER.