

# **Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection**

Ben Huot  
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## Table of Contents

.....	2
Chapter 1.....	9
Introduction.....	9
1.1 Why Give Them Away? .....	10
1.2 Why so Negative on Science and Europe? .....	10
1.3 Purpose of Books.....	10
1.4 The Books.....	11
1.5 Background Information.....	11
Chapter 2.....	13
Justice and Hope.....	13
2.1 First Things.....	14
2.1.1 Logo.....	14
2.1.2 Other Books.....	14
2.1.3 For More Information.....	14
2.1.4 Cover Graphic.....	14
2.1.5 License.....	14
2.1.6 Introduction.....	15
2.2 Methods and Intensity.....	15
2.2.1 Faith and Suffering.....	15
Philippians.....	15
1.....	16
2.....	17
2.2.2 Concept of Sin.....	17
Romans.....	17
When They Rejected God.....	18
Evil Traits.....	19
2.2.3 Generational Sin.....	19
Introduction.....	19
Forgive Us.....	20
2.2.4 Value of Hope.....	22
Revelations.....	22
Metaphor of Christ's Return.....	22
Sketch of Heaven.....	23
2.2.5 Rastafari Influenced.....	24
Black Jesus.....	24
Many Names.....	25
Power of Babylon.....	25
White Church.....	26
Hate and the Bible.....	26
Prayer and Reasoning.....	27
Red, Green, and Gold.....	27
2.2.6 Jain Influenced.....	28
Generations.....	28
Naked Mind.....	29
Leaving and Letting Go.....	30
2.2.7 Musical Journey.....	30
Value of Music.....	30
Inspiration.....	31
Vigor and Completion.....	32
2.2.8 Nature Appreciation Poetry.....	32
Help Farm Animals.....	32
The Land is a Gift.....	33

Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection

Loving Pets.....	34
2.2.9 Near Death Experiences.....	35
21 Bombs .....	35
Smoking Bed .....	35
Hypothermia .....	35
Sparking Outlet .....	35
2.2.10 Philosophy of Fun.....	36
Less money but more fun.....	36
Save on public transportation .....	36
Find joy in producing, rather than consuming.....	36
Do things for others rather than yourself.....	36
Be spontaneous and absurd.....	36
Motion = Stillness.....	36
No Expectations.....	37
Holding onto the Moment.....	37
Understand the Ecology.....	37
2.2.11 Beyond Norm University .....	37
Purpose.....	37
Admissions .....	37
Programs of Study.....	38
Faculty .....	38
2.3 Faith and Class.....	38
2.3.1 Introduction.....	38
2.3.2 Money.....	38
Amos.....	38
Matthew.....	39
1 Corinthians.....	39
1 Timothy.....	39
James.....	39
Revelations.....	39
2.3.3 Providence.....	40
Genesis.....	40
Psalms.....	40
Luke.....	40
2 Corinthians.....	40
Galatians.....	41
2.3.4 The Protestant Ethic.....	41
Hard Work.....	41
American Philosophy.....	42
Faith and Work.....	42
Bad Monk.....	43
Religion of Isolation.....	44
Worldly.....	45
Who Can Help Themselves.....	45
2.3.5 Capitalist Hedonism.....	46
Feast.....	46
Overfed.....	47
Richest Poor.....	48
2.3.6 Music of Heaven.....	48
Tones of Creation.....	48
Law of Music.....	49
Nature's Symphony.....	50
Plush Music.....	50
2.3.7 Cow Fragments.....	51
Why Cows? .....	51
Discrimination of the Mentally Ill.....	51
Personal Discrimination.....	51
Beary and Bow Campaign Issues.....	51
Leadership.....	52

Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection

Cow Slogans .....	53
Cow Myths throughout History .....	53
2.4 Liberated.....	54
2.4.1 Introduction.....	54
2.4.2 Liberation from Sins.....	54
Psalms.....	54
Isaiah.....	55
Jeremiah.....	56
Matthew.....	56
Ephesians.....	56
Hebrews.....	56
James.....	56
I John.....	57
2.4.3 Liberation from Injustice.....	57
Ruth.....	57
Aid.....	58
Reform.....	58
Liberation.....	59
Christian Community.....	60
Levels of Liberation.....	60
Conservative Estimates.....	61
2.4.4 Practicing Liberation Theology.....	61
1.....	61
2.....	61
3.....	62
4.....	62
5.....	62
6.....	62
7.....	63
8.....	63
2.4.5 Animal Liberation.....	63
Animal not Plant.....	63
Jesus and Animals.....	65
Master of Humans.....	66
Chapter 3.....	68
Total Person and Society.....	68
3.1 First Things.....	69
3.1.1 Logo.....	69
3.1.2 Other Books.....	69
3.1.3 For More Information.....	69
3.1.4 Cover Graphic.....	69
3.1.5 License.....	69
3.1.6 Introduction.....	70
3.2 Foundations.....	70
3.2.1 Internal Alchemy.....	70
The Mystic.....	70
The Mind.....	72
The Heart.....	72
The Stomach.....	73
3.2.2 Philosophy of Religion.....	74
Theology includes Philosophy.....	74
Honesty.....	75
Freedom of Choice.....	77
3.2.3 Total Isolation.....	78
1.....	78
2.....	78
3.....	79
4.....	80
3.2.4 Comfort for the Afflicted.....	81

Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection

Isaiah.....	81
After Isaiah.....	84
3.3 Government and Society.....	86
3.3.1 Capitalism and Atheism.....	86
Un American.....	86
Democracy vs. Capitalism.....	86
Freedom and Terror.....	87
More than Bread.....	88
Conscience.....	90
Logic and Religion.....	91
On Marx and Engels.....	92
Marxism is Defeated.....	94
3.3.2 Greed is Bad.....	95
The Prophets on Greed.....	95
New Testament on Greed.....	97
3.4 Fashion and Consumerism.....	101
3.4.1 Computers as Fashion.....	101
Computers by Generation.....	101
Mobility and Cell Phones.....	102
Musical Addictions.....	103
3.4.2 Psychology of Fashion.....	104
Originality and Conformity.....	104
Independence and Conformity.....	105
Perfect Man - Perfect Wedding.....	105
3.4.3 Society and Fashion.....	106
Competition.....	106
Hollywood.....	107
3.4.4 Affections.....	108
From Psalms.....	108
Other Verses.....	110
Chapter 4.....	112
Unexpected.....	112
4.1 First Things.....	113
4.1.1 Logo.....	113
4.1.2 Other Books.....	113
4.1.3 For More Information.....	113
4.1.4 Cover Graphic.....	113
4.1.5 License.....	113
4.1.6 The Unexpected.....	114
4.2 Questions.....	114
4.2.1 How Can I? .....	114
Negativity.....	114
Only One Man.....	115
Surprises.....	116
4.2.2 What If? .....	117
Buddhists Missionaries.....	118
European Backwaters.....	119
Christian World.....	120
Contemporary Jesus.....	121
Toy Society.....	122
Farm Society.....	124
4.3 High School.....	125
4.3.1 Model United Nations.....	125
4.3.2 Speech Team.....	125
4.3.3 Political Action Committee.....	126
4.3.4 Cross Country.....	127
4.3.5 Cheerleading.....	127
4.4 Improvements.....	128
4.4.1 Computers.....	128

Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection

Painter.....	128
LaTeX.....	129
Print on Demand.....	130
Social Networking.....	130
4.4.2 Ralph Nader.....	131
Vision.....	131
Occupational Safety and Health Administration.....	132
Consumer Product Safety Commission.....	133
Freedom of Information Act.....	133
Environmental Protection Agency.....	134
Safe Drinking Water Act.....	135
4.5 Blessings from the Bible.....	136
4.5.1 Spiritual Blessings.....	136
Old Testament.....	136
New Testament.....	137
4.5.2 Temporal Blessings.....	139
Genesis.....	139
Deuteronomy.....	140
Job.....	143
Other Old Testament.....	144
4.6 Faith and Confidence.....	145
4.6.1 Gospels.....	145
4.6.2 Acts.....	148
4.6.3 Romans.....	148
4.6.4 Other Letters.....	150
Chapter 5.....	152
Faith and Creativity in Education.....	152
5.1 First Things.....	153
5.1.1 Logo.....	153
5.1.2 Other Books.....	153
5.1.3 For More Information.....	153
5.1.4 Cover Graphic.....	153
5.1.5 License.....	153
5.1.6 Introduction.....	154
5.2 On the Offense.....	154
5.2.1 Striking Back.....	154
What is Rational?.....	154
Where Blame is Due.....	156
God and Country.....	158
Medieval Morality.....	159
A Matter of Faith.....	160
Circular Argument.....	161
Only One Answer.....	162
5.2.2 White Curriculum.....	163
White Current Events.....	163
White Pagan Role Models.....	164
White Stories.....	165
5.2.3 Cultural Patterns.....	166
Technology of False Gods.....	166
Enlightened Literature.....	166
Art Museum.....	167
5.3 Good Memories.....	168
5.3.1 Nostalgia.....	168
American Literature.....	168
Running.....	169
5.3.2 The Here and Now.....	170
That Feeling.....	170
Colors.....	171
Plush Ideas.....	171

Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection

5.4 Education History.....	173
5.4.1 Boredom in School.....	173
Elementary School.....	173
Middle School.....	173
High School.....	174
5.4.2 Safe and Sound.....	175
The Recruiter.....	175
Basic Training.....	176
Advanced Training.....	179
Permanent Duty Station.....	179
5.4.3 College and Mental Illness.....	180
Community College.....	180
University.....	181
My Breakdown.....	182
5.5 Human Nature.....	182
5.6 Children's Instruction.....	187
5.6.1 Deuteronomy.....	187
5.6.2 Others.....	189



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

by Ben Huot

## 1.1 Why Give Them Away?

I am not making any profit off my books, because I am a disabled veteran and if I did, I would jeopardize my pension. Another reason is that I think too many things in life cost too much money. Where most people who want a free culture express these views by stealing music and movies, because they think they cost too much money, I have taken a proactive approach and have instead released my books for free.

The greatest things in life are free and the greatest works have no copyright. If I want my work to last, the best way to do it is to not sell my copyright and license it for free distribution. Like most good writers and revolutionary thinkers, I will likely be thought of as more important after I die. As it is, the only writers who make much off their books are people who are already famous.

## 1.2 Why so Negative on Science and Europe?

When we talk about Science, it would be hard for most people to agree what they were talking about. When I refer to Science, I mean the Enlightenment philosophy that arose in the last 500 years in Europe and America. When I refer to Science, it is usually capitalized, and refers to the Scientific Worldview.

This worldview as I see it is composed of Atheism, Materialism, and Systematic Thought drawn from Rousseau, Descartes, and Maimonides (most people falsely give Thomas Aquinas credit). The big idea uniting these 3 principles is arrogance and man controlling the world.

I see Science as a discovery process and as a worldview as intertwined, because if you tell most Scientists that you think Science is valid, they jump to thinking you believe in Evolution. Contemporary movements in Science such as Superstring Theories, Dark Matter and Dark Energy, Global Warming (Global Catastrophe), Genetics, and advances in Ecology theory are taking Science beyond the 3 principles in the Scientific Worldview. The problem is that most people think in terms of 17th to 19th century Science.

I have a sister who teaches Science and I respect both what she is doing and the level of professionalism and her deep understanding of the vast knowledge base required to be a professional in Science. I think that if more people understood what Science is really about by learning from my sister and Scientists like her, we wouldn't have most of the problems in Science that we have now.

There are a number of Enlightenment philosophers I agree with or at least partially agree with. Berkeley is one of my favourite philosophers, Spinoza inspired some important aspects of my philosophy, John Locke's "Letter Concerning Toleration" was one of the most important works written and I totally agree with it except I don't think we should limit toleration to religious beliefs, and Hume had some interesting ideas that could be useful for someone very creative. I also enjoy reading about physics and astronomy and I make heavy use of the Internet and anti-psychotics which all came out of Science.

When I am referring to the atrocities that Europe has committed, I am referring to the top leadership of the government. I am referring to the dozen or so worldwide "rich white men," who control most of what goes on in the world. And I have also been very critical of rich politically conservative Christians in my writing as well.

I had thought I had been clear about this and this was obvious from what I have written, but I have recently found out that this needed to be clarified. Unfortunately this wasn't communicated to me in the right way, before I had completed 16 of the books. I only wished intellectuals who are negative on Christianity would be willing to say that it is not the Bible they are against but the way Christians act.

It is common amongst intellectuals to group all born-again Christians together. It is common for intellectuals to blame current problems in history on what the Bible says, when if they were to actually read it, they would find that the Bible speaks against much of what they feel has been done wrong in the name of Christianity.

## 1.3 Purpose of Books

It is common thinking amongst Evangelical Christians in postmodern times that the end of times is near, but it was near at the time of the New Testament. But I believe that the problems in the world have nothing to do with signalling the tribulation and the reason why we have survived this far is because of God's direct divine intervention.

Many people are trying to prepare for the world to end, but what if it lasted for thousand of years into the future, by God's grace of course? Who is planning for that? We have no idea what the end of times will be like or how to prepare, but we can guess as to how to prepare for humanity lasting thousands more years. And the answers lie in

our past and in the Bible, but not in how we were taught.

Like people who were born over 50 years ago and thought they wouldn't live this long and are now in bad health but still alive or like the troops in Iraqi Freedom who have been kept alive and greatly disabled when in other wars they would have simply died, our civilization will likely last into the future in some form or another even if we come close to destroying ourselves, but we instead will be severely impaired environmentally, technologically, economically, politically, and socially.

My text books and picture books contain most of my work over the past 10 years. These include my reading of some 235 books containing the philosophical and religious thinking of the world's cultures for several thousand years and the application of the main themes of some of the major Old Testament Prophets and major works of the New Testament.

The main point of this work is to get people to stop living their lives with their minds, but instead follow their hearts. I bring a radically different combination of viewpoints that you have not heard of before. I am not asking people to follow what I have written, but rather let the words stir up some sort of emotional response in your heart.

I challenge my readers to come up with their own unique ideas and that can lead the world in a new direction. We need a much broader diversity of ideas in our culture to deal with the problems we are facing in America and throughout the rest of the world.

## 1.4 The Books

...If you can control a people's economy, you don't need to worry about its politics; its politics have become irrelevant. If you control people's choices as to whether or not they will work, and where they will work, and what they will do, and how well they will do it, and what they will eat and wear, and the genetic makeup of their crops and animals, and what they will do for amusement, then why should you worry about freedom of speech? In a totalitarian economy, any "political liberties" that the people might retain would simply cease to matter.

1

The *Free Thinking Christian* is a new series of books self-published by myself, a previously unknown author, Ben Huot. My series of 8 books on philosophy challenge the assumptions made by Christian Churches in America and Europe. I believe that people of other major belief systems each understand an element of the Trinity better than any Christian church of the Western world.

All 8 *Free Thinking Christian* books should be read in order. The order is as follows: *Philosophy Core*, *Philosophy Electives*, *North and South*, *Justice and Hope*, *Total Person and Society*, *Unexpected*, and *Faith and Creativity in Education*. The first 4 focus on the Humanities and the last 4 on the Social Sciences. These books are arranged more as a large poem or song with refrains or choruses where the same themes are repeated in each book.

The *Free Thinking Christian: Humanities Collection*, as well as *Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection* are all based on Biblical theology which I see as composed of a number of paradoxes. The series is about humility and compassion and kindness and seriousness. *Philosophy Core* is an introduction to my methods, *Philosophy Electives* consists of applications of my theories, *North and South* contrasts the atheist Northern Hemisphere with the very religious Southern Hemisphere, *Beyond Philosophy* finds that the farthest disciplines from the Scientific worldview are poetry and art, *Justice and Hope* is about class justice and hope for everlasting life, while *Total Person and Society* is about reason and emotions and the spirit and the will. *Unexpected* is about the unexpected good things about America. *Faith and Creativity in Education* is about what is wrong with education in America.

## 1.5 Background Information

These books are composed of both poetry and essay and are a collection of different works loosely connected by the same themes much like the Bible, Kierkegaard's writings, and many great works of Eastern Philosophy.

In my writings and in my thinking, I don't see a separation between my personal experiences, my mental illness, my philosophy, the type of Christianity I practice, the politics I believe in, and the condition of the world.

---

1Wendell Berry in "Conserving Forest Communities" in *Another Turn of the Crank*

## Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection

These collections are based on almost 10 years of my readings of 235 texts, 80 percent classics or primary texts in philosophy, religion, and literature, more Asian than European and some African. I am the only one I know of that has combined Philosophical Taoism and Christian Existentialism. All 8 texts together include original poems by myself and about 800 pages of original text. These 8 books combined are called the *Free Thinking Christian Series*.

I am a born again Christian Existentialist as well as a Neoconfucian and a Philosophical Taoist and see no contradiction in that. I also have Paranoid Schizophrenia and have served in the Army - I am now a disabled veteran.

This book is a combination of poetry and articles concerning my philosophy. The style is inspired from the Bible and Kierkegaard. My content is inspired by Jeremiah, Nehemiah, Acts, Romans, and 1 Corinthians as well as Chuang Tzu, Chu Hsi, Kierkegaard, and Camus.

It is primarily theologically focused on the Trinity. I believe that there is a tremendous misunderstanding of the Holy Spirit, God the Father, and Jesus Christ in the western Christian tradition.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is better understood by Hindus (bhakti path), Zen Buddhists, and Philosophical Taoists than any Christian church in America or Europe. I believe that Muslims understand God the Father better than any Christian church in America or Europe. I believe that African Christians understand Jesus Christ better than any Christian church in America or Europe.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Justice and Hope**

by Ben Huot

## 2.1 First Things

### 2.1.1 Logo

I should explain what the logo is meant to be representing. The guy is a pen, which is me, which comes from my first poem in Philosophy Core, called Creative Process, where I refer to myself as doing Tai Chi, with my pen being my body. The idea is based on "the pen is mightier than the sword" so I created "the Bible is mightier than the pen".

The Bible is shooting out flames because in Ephesians it talks about spiritual warfare and the Bible is the only armament that is offensive. (It means offensive instead of defensive. These are common terms used in combat. The sword is the only spiritual weapon. All the other armaments expressed in Ephesians are protective and defensive in nature like a shield, a helmet, a breastplate, etc.) The flames are meant as in James when it talks about being purified by fire or struggles with temptation in our lives. Isaiah also was purified by a live coal to his lips by a Seraphim. So the usage of fire is not evil or anything violent. Think of it as purifying.

I would ideally like it to show the sword turned inward to his chest, symbolizing like in many fantasy books that when they defeat the great evil force in the world, they are left with the greatest task, which is to defeat the evil within. The Bible is said to be a 2 sided sword, with the ability to cut between bone and marrow, and show the truth. Christ's tongue is said to be a 2 edged sword in Revelations, to defeat the Devil with. The reason I didn't show this is it looks like he is committing suicide.

The spiritual warfare is not against people, ideas, or even spirits. It is about fighting for the purity of our own minds. It is an internal thing. Like the Native American proverb "my greatest enemy is myself." This purity is in regard to our own sins and does not refer to purity in any other sense. But this is a process, not an outcome, as it is not possible for us to live without sin.

This warfare is only spiritual in the sense that it is not militant, social, economic, or political. This is for my own moral and ethical development and consists of practical qualities I try, with Christ's help, to cultivate like humility, compassion, kindness, and seriousness and do not correspond to anything supernatural.

### 2.1.2 Other Books

My text books and picture books contain most of my work over the past 10 years. These include my reading of some 235 books containing the philosophical and religious thinking of the world's cultures for several thousand years and the application of the main themes of some of the major Old Testament Prophets and major works of the New Testament.

The main point of this work is to get people to stop living their lives with their minds, but instead follow their hearts. I bring a radically different combination of viewpoints that you have not heard of before. I am not asking people to follow what I have written, but rather let the words stir up some sort of emotional response in your heart.

I challenge my readers to come up with their own unique ideas and that can lead the world in a new direction. We need a much broader diversity of ideas in our culture to deal with the problems we are facing in America and throughout the rest of the world.

### 2.1.3 For More Information

For more books and information, visit me on the web at <http://benjamin-newton.com/>

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at <mailto:ben@benjamin-newton.com> I even enjoy constructive criticism

### 2.1.4 Cover Graphic

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## 2.1.6 Introduction

In my previous book series, *The Free Thinking Christian*, I explored how humility towards God and compassion for our fellow sentient beings as well as kindness to others who have sinned and seriousness about our own sin are all aspects of faith in Christ. Because we have repented of our sins, this does not make us better than others and being humble towards God means being equal to believers and unbelievers alike. We should be serious about the concept of sin, focusing on our own mistakes, while at the same time reaching out in kindness towards others who have sinned as well.

In this book, I take another set of dualities that are both true about faith in Christ which are hope and justice. In our own circumstances and with our own gifts, we should work towards justice for those in need in the here and now, but at the same time look towards Heaven as God's final response to suffering with hope. Working for justice is like avoiding sin; just because we can't always succeed does not mean that we should not try. We need to see faith in Christ not in human reasoning or through human feeling, but through a choice of our will and rely on the promises of Scripture through faith.

From secular works, my main influences were from Freud, Engels, Weber, Jainism, Sufi music, Rastafari, and Liberation Theology. From the Bible, my main influences were from Psalms, Isaiah, Luke, Philippians, I John, and Revelations.

## 2.2 Methods and Intensity

### 2.2.1 Faith and Suffering

#### Philippians

For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

2

I share with Paul his methods and intensity to further the base knowledge of seekers and their desire to think critically. I see a level of devotion in the practice of Jainism that inspires me and reminds me of the tenacity of the

---

2Philippians 1:8-11

Apostle Paul.

When living in hard conditions whether by choice or by circumstance, we can use the energy we get from the frustrations to propel ourselves farther into our ministry. It is hard giving up all the pleasures we see others engage in, but the satisfaction and fulfillment of working to further God's will and people's liberation is greater than any luxury sin could provide.

We see in Paul's letter that what we struggle with on the surface is the establishment, but the roots run much deeper. The source of this persecution is a spiritual one and in combating injustice, we must seek to engage the struggle on a spiritual level. We are not strong enough to battle the institutions of oppression economically or politically. But if we open our hearts to God's will we can be vessels of liberating change.

Our weapons are praying for God's divine intervention and His Word in both bible-based prophecy and directly in the Scriptures themselves. Like the Rastafari movement has understood we need to speak out against oppression in writing, speech, and song. We must live by Christ's example in a way that is set apart from the world whether in commune or in local networks.

1

I struggle daily  
With crippling fear  
Dark moods  
Of doubt and negativity  
My paranoia  
Is all that seems real  
For days at a time  
What brings me through  
Is the fellowship of my family  
And God's grace  
When I am filled with fear  
I turn to Paul's letters  
To cheer myself up  
When the fear is spiritual  
I turn to Ephesians  
There are many things  
We have no control of  
Our job situation  
Our family  
And our health  
The one thing we have control  
Is our attitude  
It is not always possible  
To have complete control  
Over your feelings  
When you are mentally ill  
But God always cares  
Even if He doesn't stop everything  
Our greatest comfort  
Is that if we are born again  
We can know for sure  
That when we die

We will be with Christ  
And while we are still here  
We have God's word  
And we have each other  
And we have a gift  
To help others with

## 2

It is easy to get distracted  
From our purpose in life  
But that is why we have  
The Bible and other believers  
To remind us  
That we have a higher calling  
Than our jobs and our health  
We have a purpose  
And a living God  
That will bring us through  
Some of the hardest things  
Like mental and physical prison  
Life long illnesses  
And situations we cannot escape  
We must look to Christ's example  
To know how to handle  
The tragedies of life  
We can turn our focus  
From the pain in life  
And rejoice for what we have  
To keep a thankful spirit  
About us while enduring  
The frustrations and turmoil  
Of postmodern life

### 2.2.2 Concept of Sin

#### Romans

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men who by their wickedness suppress the truth, for what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world his invisible nature, even his eternal power and deity, has been clearly seen, being understood by the things that have been made. So they are without excuse; for although they knew God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools

3

---

3Romans 1:18-22

## **When They Rejected God**

As Europe refused to acknowledge  
The moral authority of their God  
They looked to the Greeks  
For their ethical beliefs  
They began to do  
What we know is  
Unnatural and demented  
They believed that Man  
Was more important  
Than his fellow living creatures  
While he made his own people  
Live in filth and poverty  
They worshipped the machines  
They made and placed them  
Higher than their fellow man  
Men became enslaved to the  
Pieces of dead trees and minerals  
They found a new continent  
Which they destroyed the native culture  
Of a peaceful people  
They got them addicted to their drugs  
Which made them out of control  
They sold them weapons  
To kill living creatures more quickly  
They killed off the native peoples  
With biological weapons of mass destruction  
They stole their land  
And broke peace treaties they made  
When the native people's land  
Was found to have minerals  
Which would make them more wealthy  
They found people of a different color  
Which they treated even worse  
They treated them like they  
Did the animals  
They were owned and sold  
They were used as property  
They hacked down the vegetation  
Centuries old trees were killed  
So they could conquer more land  
And settle it with outlaws  
To make room for the machines  
They killed defenseless little animals  
And wore their skin

With the heads and feet still attached  
They poisoned the water  
Out of waste from their machines  
All so a few of them  
Could live in such wealth  
That had never been acquired as much  
By any other people in history

### **Evil Traits**

When they stopped worshipping God  
The Europeans began to  
Make larger wars  
Force captured people to fight their wars  
Invent ways to kill more efficiently  
Invent ways to make the poor even poorer  
Take away land and jobs from the poor  
Tax poor people into slavery  
Send taxes to the wealthy few  
Make people work without pay  
Find chemicals to force others into slavery  
Divide country against country  
Steal entire races wealth  
Invent more toxic chemicals  
Poison the waters  
Bring new diseases to destroy populations  
Permanently deplete natural resources of others  
Destroy the artistic resources of entire countries  
Educate people to give up their religions  
Use religion to persecute others  
Force others to convert to their religions  
Worship their machines  
Destroy entire civilizations

## **2.2.3 Generational Sin**

### **Introduction**

Thou shalt have no other gods before me...Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

4

When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin. Let his days be few; and let another take his office. Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow. Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places. Let the extortioner catch all that he hath; and let the strangers spoil his labour. Let there be none to extend

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4Exodus 20:3,5-7

mercy unto him: neither let there be any to favour his fatherless children. Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out. Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the Lord; and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out. Let them be before the Lord continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth. Because that he remembered not to shew mercy, but persecuted the poor and needy man, that he might even slay the broken in heart.

5

My culture and its ancestors were responsible for the exponentially increased suffering of the past 500 years. We have the audacity to blame the Scriptures for the things we knew we did wrong and knew the Bible spoke against. The real blame was our unbelief and our valuation of things more than sentient beings and all other life.

## **Forgive Us**

Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For our idolatry  
Of our precious Science  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For giving up  
On our beliefs  
Because we found something  
Newer and shinier  
To play with  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For the destruction  
Of Your creation  
So that we might  
Make ourselves fancier toys  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For treating our own species  
Less because of the color  
Of their skin  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For our devotion to money  
And the compromises  
We made for  
The accumulation of wealth  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For valuing efficiency  
Over justice and equality  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins

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5Psalms 109:7-16

Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection

For sacrificing  
Our children's future  
For a fancier retirement  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For exterminating  
Entire species  
For our fashions  
And our entertainment  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For compromising  
What was right  
For what was convenient  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For starting wars  
To destroy peaceful neighbors  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For destroying  
Whole cultures and peoples  
When we found  
Gold on their land  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For advancing technology  
Only if it could be used  
As a weapon  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For basing our entire  
Way of life  
On cultivating greed  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For making friends  
With the powerful  
As the expense  
Of the weak  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For using  
The resources of others  
For our personal enjoyment  
Our Father in Heaven

Forgive us our sins  
For destroying the homes  
Of other species  
So we could be richer  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For giving up on justice  
When we found a scapegoat  
Our Father in Heaven  
Forgive us our sins  
For blaming our problems  
On Your Scriptures

## 2.2.4 Value of Hope

### Revelations

I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot bear evil men, but you have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and have found them to be false; I know you have persevered and have endured for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember then from where you have fallen, repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

6

Christians look to Heaven as their future home and the Earth as just a waiting station. We are comforted by the fact that we will no longer suffer or have to live in violence once Christ returns and defeats the devil once and for all.

### Metaphor of Christ's Return

Millions of hooves  
Beat the ground  
In unison  
The riders are angelic  
With white fabric  
Draped across their bodies  
The Lord Jesus Christ  
Leads the soldiers to battle  
He is afraid of no one  
His gaze sees through your soul  
He has defeated the dinosaur  
With a two-sided sword  
All the red flesh is fallen  
Into the rivers of blood below  
The dragon's wings are clipped

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6Revelation 2:2-7

Like a pet parakeet  
The evil monsters  
The crypto dinosaur fish  
And the King Kong  
Who have special powers  
Beyond the laws of physics  
Were thrown into  
The molten lava lake  
That flows for all eternity  
The unfaithful corporations  
Whose stocks are worthless  
Their offices vacant  
And their business looted  
Are bankrupt for eternity  
With their board of directors  
Along with the investors  
Locked in prison  
For crimes against humanity  
There are no technology privileges  
Or any legal defense  
For all eternity  
Jesus Christ is our CEO  
Our commander-in-chief  
And our pastor

### **Sketch of Heaven**

A singularity formed  
There was a big bang  
And the universe  
Was created again  
There is a celestial city  
Where suffering is no more  
The fountain of youth  
Is open to everyone  
The city is on a hill  
It glows like a polished mirror  
Fit for a giant telescope  
And having the value  
Of countless Hope diamonds  
The wall is as high  
As the tallest skyscraper  
Angels like US Marines  
Faithfully guard  
Each of the dozen gates  
The city plan  
Is square in shape

The wall is of vivid green jade  
And the city is  
24 karat gold  
The foundation is made  
Of the Crown jewels  
The gates are  
Mother of Pearl  
The street is clear  
As drinking water  
The lights are always on  
And the energy source  
Is God Himself  
The roadways will  
Always be open  
Only good, ethical people  
Will be there  
A river of water  
As pure as from a glacier  
Flowed down the main street  
There was a fruit  
For every month  
The leaves of the trees  
Brought peace between  
The races of people

## **2.2.5 Rastafari Influenced**

### **Black Jesus**

From Ur of the Chaldeans  
Came Abraham  
The Chaldeans were descended from Ham  
And Jesus was of the line of Abraham  
Therefore Jesus is black  
Jesus loves those in need  
He loves those without food  
He wants to save those who suffer  
He raises prophets amongst the oppressed  
Therefore Jesus is African  
Jesus loves people not corporations  
He loves those who don't love Him  
Jesus breaks laws of physics  
To bring relief that glorifies God  
Therefore Jesus is the Other  
Jesus was born a member  
Of a persecuted race

He started a new movement  
To bring equality and justice  
Therefore Jesus is color blind

### **Many Names**

What is Mystery Babylon?  
What one country does this much evil?  
Is God picking on Iraq or America?  
Babylon is an idea  
Babylon is a an unfaithful believer  
Babylon is materially rich  
Babylon is obsessed with sex  
Babylon controls the world  
Babylon has many names  
Babylon is consumerism  
Babylon is imperialism  
Babylon is capitalism  
Babylon is Hollywood  
Babylon is a corporation  
Babylon is Wall Street

### **Power of Babylon**

Babylon is the power that is  
Babylon is about rebellion  
Babylon feeds off conflict and violence  
Babylon worships sex, power and money  
Babylon is the enemy of the Church  
Babylon targets the poor  
And aims at the different  
She loves the follower  
She loves those with no mind of their own  
She loves those afraid to make decisions  
She hates individuals  
She hates new ideas  
She hates those who think differently  
She hates those who refuse to conform  
When you raise your hand against her in anger  
She wins  
When you protest her politically  
She gains power  
When you fight her economically  
She grows stronger  
Her weak point  
Can be attacked only through prayer

## **White Church**

The rich white men  
Don't like anyone different  
Than themselves  
They don't like people who look different  
Or act different  
They have all the power  
They are drawn to churches  
They believe that God  
Supports whatever they believe  
They believe that God advocates  
The status quo  
They pick verses from the Bible  
In a way that supports intolerance and ignorance  
Which goes against all the main ideas  
In all the books of the Bible  
They are not afraid of just making things up  
That are factually incorrect  
Or taking things out of context  
These people are often the leaders  
Of churches worldwide  
They are a very poor witness  
And they exhibit no evidence  
Of a genuine faith  
They just keep driving around their SUVs  
That are capable of towing another SUV  
With pro-Bush bumper stickers  
These are the same people  
Who are anti-Arab and anti-Muslim  
And are so pissed off about them  
That the facts of the case  
Don't factor into their plans of revenge  
These are people who vote  
For corporations robbing the poor  
Without even being paid off  
People who won't admit  
The help they received  
In getting their wealth  
Both legal and otherwise  
Who blame the poor  
For problems the rich created

## **Hate and the Bible**

White people have used the Bible  
As a way to push their beliefs of hate

But what does the Bible really say?  
Jesus was a Jew  
Ham was not cursed  
In the Church  
There are to be no distinctions  
Between races, sexes, social groups  
Or any other artificial division  
Why is the church organized along  
Racial, gender, and social lines  
If the Bible is so clear on the subject?  
Because those in leadership  
Don't really care what the Bible says  
Justifying beliefs of hate on the Bible  
Is only possible when you lie  
About what the Bible says

### **Prayer and Reasoning**

If we cannot fight politically or economically  
Then how do we resist?  
The war is a spiritual one  
So we fight with reasoning  
And with prayer  
We sing, we write, we discuss  
We speak words  
Revealed to us by God  
We pray prayers  
Asking for revelation and discernment  
We separate ourselves  
From those who belong to Babylon  
Violence is not the solution  
Because Babylon feeds off conflicts  
The root problem  
Is spiritual rebellion  
The way to kill the weed  
Is to get at its roots  
The problem with the church  
Is that the supernatural  
Is ignored and not dealt with  
The Bible does deal with the supernatural  
But the mainstream church  
Doesn't want to believe it  
The church is losing to earth religions  
Because people know the spiritual is real

### **Red, Green, and Gold**

My heart is red, green, and gold

I cannot live  
With a white heart  
My heart goes out  
To all the third world  
I believe that those  
Different from myself  
Understand God better  
Than other European Americans  
It is hard to take pride  
In being Scottish or French  
When the world has been  
Destroyed by Western Europeans  
Do not judge me  
By the color of my skin  
I am not a rich white man  
I do not feel close  
To people who look like me  
I read as little as possible  
Written by the rich white man  
I reject his culture  
And his belief system  
I identify more with Asian culture  
Than I do my European lineage

## 2.2.6 Jain Influenced

### Generations

Like Abraham's call by God  
So I believed I was called away  
To another land  
With my enlistment in the Army  
Like Jacob's wrestle with God  
I started to fight with God  
About why He allows suffering  
During college  
Like Moses liberating his people  
From the land of the Pharaohs  
So I was liberating from paranoia  
After my stay in a psychiatric ward  
Like Joshua leading his people  
Into the land of Canaan  
So I fought to stay as independent  
And rational as possible  
Like Israel under Solomon  
God blessed my work and I flourished

In my writing and artwork  
Then I lived like a prophet  
In the wilderness of the retirement home  
Fighting for justice  
And feeling I lived in the shadow  
Of many old people's wrath  
Now my desire for justice and freedom  
Has been fulfilled with my return  
To my own apartment  
Like the Israelites came back to the land  
After their years of captivity  
Under the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, etc.  
In my life I have lived many generations  
Like being reincarnated  
My situation changed each time  
And my life was different at each stage

### **Naked Mind**

Like a devout monk  
My mind operates  
In transparency and nakedness  
As there are no obstructions  
Between me and my feelings  
For others they see life  
Through filters  
To keep their minds  
From every emotion  
That flies by  
For me I am naked  
And there is not  
Even a thin white robe  
Between me  
And the thoughts  
That race by  
I feel deeply about injustice  
And people hurting others  
For any reason  
I struggle to be balanced  
And to keep my mind clear  
Of the paranoid conclusions  
My mind makes from  
Reflection on the situation  
I have to guard my mind consciously  
As the normal controls and safeguards  
Are not present

## **Leaving and Letting Go**

It is as hard  
For me to let go  
Of things others said  
That have hurt me  
As it is to miss a chance  
To spend time with my family  
Like karma  
Wrongs done against me  
Take a long time to be forgiven  
Letting go of frustrations  
And large projects  
I want to finish  
I am so deeply invested in  
I am like a king  
Who cannot bear  
Giving his fortune away to monks  
Even if it brings better karma  
And a better life later on  
Growing as a person  
Through the generations of reincarnations  
Is what we do in life  
Our lives take many different  
Turns and paths  
Along the way we learn or  
Continue to get attacked by wild animals  
Until we gain control of our emotions  
Feelings are the hardest thing to give up  
Because we hold them close to ourselves  
And build our identity upon them

## **2.2.7 Musical Journey**

### **Value of Music**

A movement without form  
Far purer than poetry  
A unified understanding  
Of science and religion  
We strive to go deeper  
To remember before  
We first heard any sound  
This movement unites  
Our heart and our spirits  
It brings beauty unspoiled  
By logic and reason

It is a method of learning  
The highest form of religion  
It is the same  
In the east and the west  
It is the essence of creation  
It is our final hope  
We reach out to it  
As mere children  
And respond to it  
In meaning and in action  
It is the language  
Of our mind  
It is the inspiration  
That drives us to think  
It is the vision  
Of our imagination  
It is the foundation  
Of freedom and expression

### **Inspiration**

When I close my eyes  
There are countless patterns  
When I fall asleep  
Symbols come alive  
There is a calmness  
That our minds sometimes  
Find by accident  
A certain balance of chemistry  
In the human brain  
That drives us to action  
There is a feeling  
That we cannot ignore  
There is a sound  
That keeps company  
With silence and emptiness  
There is a magical experience  
When our memories flow  
In waves of water and wind  
From thought to belief  
From hearing and from smelling  
Our laughter awakens  
In each moment  
We stop working  
The joy of silence  
Overwhelms the spirit  
With each step

Through the garden  
We create a path  
And in each stride  
We come together  
We cannot count  
Past our age  
In the middle of the room  
There is always space  
To dance and sing

### **Vigor and Completion**

I cannot remember  
The note before  
I write it down  
I cannot stop  
My mind from smiling  
When I think  
Of new words  
The time for finishing  
Has come and gone  
Where is meaning  
Without necessity?  
What is a solution  
Without a beginning?  
When will we learn  
The beat of the guitar  
And the notes of a drum?  
Why do we write music down?  
Why do we stop listening  
When the music is finished?  
Why do we start songs  
We can't finish?  
When there is a reason  
There is still hope  
When there is a new chorus  
It is time to sing  
I reach out to the sky  
But I can only  
Run so far

## **2.2.8 Nature Appreciation Poetry**

### **Help Farm Animals**

Human laborers are not the only  
Foundation of civilization

Farm animals were used  
In the creation of modern civilization  
For food and other products  
They could be made into  
As well as their labor on farms  
Although most farmers  
Now use machines  
We would not have gotten to this point  
Without the labor of farm animals  
We still crave the products  
That come from the farm animal  
We crave the meat, milk, eggs  
To enrich our diets  
And we make leather and glue  
Out of horses and cows  
We also do cruel things  
To farm animals  
In the way we feed  
And how we house them  
We are also cruel  
In using the smaller ones  
Like rabbits and mice  
As guinea pigs  
For products too toxic  
For humans anyway  
With all the farm animals  
Contribute to our culture  
And for all they have suffered unfairly  
Find a way to help improve the life  
Of a farm animal today

### **The Land is a Gift**

The land has given us  
So much wealth  
The earth gives us vegetation  
For shelter, medicine, and food  
The earth gives us minerals  
For shelter, medicine, and art  
The land gives us water  
For energy, health, and hygiene  
The earth gives us fuel  
For transportation, warmth, and machinery  
The land gives us space  
For shelter, community gatherings, and monuments  
The land has given us so much  
And asks nothing of us

But to be good stewards  
Of its forests and landscapes  
Deserts and tundra  
Mountains and hills  
Valleys and lowlands  
Oceans and rivers  
Sky and clouds  
To keep the earth alive  
With vegetation and living creatures  
Not only have we not appreciated  
The resource we get  
From the earth  
We have poisoned and torn apart  
The land and its creatures  
We need to stop creating trash  
And waste that isn't organic  
We need to live within  
The energy we have available  
We need to keep at least some of the land  
Free from any development  
And where we do develop  
We need to not disturb  
Its living creations

### **Loving Pets**

Our animal friends love us  
No matter what we look like  
No matter how smart we are  
No matter how much money we have  
The only thing  
An animal cares about  
Is how much you love them  
How you take care of their needs  
How you create joy in their lives  
The time you spend with them  
The quality of food  
You provide for them  
How clean you keep  
Their living space  
How gently you touch them  
And pick them up  
For the amount of effort  
You put into caring for them  
They create in enjoyment  
10 times as much  
When we think of helping

In poverty and injustice  
We should think first  
Of our animal friends  
Who live without homes  
And in unclean situations  
Who are neglected and abused  
Or who are in jail though innocent

## 2.2.9 Near Death Experiences

### 21 Bombs

When I was in Middle School, I was threatened by other kids. They said they knew where I lived and would come after me. I was proactive. I made variants of Molotov cocktails out of gasoline, rubbing alcohol, turpentine, fire starters, batteries, or whatever else I could find around the house. I even made a crude protective mask out of baking soda and a rag and a protective vest out of tin cans, bricks, and steel wool. I spilled some gasoline on the floor and it stained when my parents were gone. They came back and smelled gasoline, so they checked my room and found my bombs. I had them stored in my room for over a year and the summer that year was especially hot. Much of the gasoline had evaporated. Good thing I never smoked.

### Smoking Bed

When I was a freshman in high school, I had a book report due the next day, which I hadn't even read the book for yet. My parents wouldn't let me stay up late that night so that I could read the book, so I put an incandescent desk lamp under about five layers of thick blankets, but I fell asleep before I turned off the lamp. Luckily I woke up when I did, because my bed was smoldering. I unplugged the lamp and told my parents. My dad could hardly breathe in the room - there was so much smoke. I had to spend that spring break pulling out the char from the mattress, re-stuffing it, and sewing it back up.

### Hypothermia

I was in Scouting for 11 years from Tiger Cubs all the way to Eagle Scout and when I was a sophomore in high school, I was in the Adventure Patrol. We did more extreme camping than the younger kids. One of the things that they decided to do was go snow camping. Unfortunately, I could not afford the right gear to keep me warm. The problems started when I got my skis and poles. They didn't give me long enough skis to hold up my weight and they gave me pulls that were too long. I had never skied before and we were walking through several feet of snow. I fell down and got soaked. I didn't have any shoes besides the ski boots. I started shivering when I made my snow cave and by the time I finished I was thinking irrationally. Luckily the leader checked on me. He said my home made stove would put just enough heat out to melt the snow around it and put the fire out. I went to a ski cabin and warmed up and then slept in one of the leaders' van that night.

### Sparking Outlet

This happened just the other day (at 25). I have a worker that comes to walk with me and clean my house 3 times a week. He was pulling out the bed to make it and bumped the answering machine cord where it plugged into the outlet. Sparks flew as high as his hips. He tried to unplug it but sparks flew out again. I called the management and then turned off the power with the circuit breakers. The electrician came a half an hour later. He showed me a dime that was melted. Apparently, he said that the dime had some how fallen down onto the prongs and got wedged in there. This was a freak accident that would be hard to reproduce even if we did it on purpose. He said if I hadn't turned off the power when I did, I could have had a fire. He replaced the outlet. I no longer use a phone that requires being plugged in.

## 2.2.10 Philosophy of Fun

### Less money but more fun

He who dreams of drinking wine may weep when morning comes; he who dreams of weeping may in the morning go off to hunt. While he is dreaming he does not know it is a dream, and in his dream he may even try to interpret a dream. Only after he wakes does he know it was a dream. And someday there will be a great awakening when we know that this is all a great dream.

7

Businesses often make money not by satisfying genuine needs but by appealing to a person's emotional insecurities. They create a market for their goods when there isn't an established market for their good or service. Advertising is the usual medium that is used to create this emotional need. Advertisers convince people that people need to buy their product to be happy, by convincing people that only things that cost money are fun. These are false distinctions that separate luxury from subsistence expenditures and that create inequality and suffering.

This kind of advertising is often common with a corporation because of the abstraction of the stockholders (owners) of the company from the management decisions that the company makes and the lack of the personal responsibility that this arrangement fosters. Most businesses are not corporations, have first hand insights into social justice issues, and often bear more personal responsibility than individuals, but most of the businesses that people are familiar with are the multi-national corporations that dodge personal responsibility and pursue profits blind of the consequences.

### Save on public transportation

Not only is money saved when people use city buses, greyhound buses, and trains instead of cars, taxis, and airplanes; but it also saves time because the routes are organized better and they stop closer to the places where a person can find entertainment with less time spent questioning others and learning by trial and error. Cars cost a tremendous amount of money and some families have found that they save thousands of dollars a year even when they rent a car for vacation as compared to owning one.

### Find joy in producing, rather than consuming

Entertainment that costs the most money is where there is the most service rendered and the most personalized attention. Entertainment requires both of these. When you are the one performing rather than being the spectator, you feel greater involvement and personalization and it can cost quite a bit less than consumption-focused entertainment.

### Do things for others rather than yourself

A person will always be disappointed when they try to satisfy their own ever increasing desires for pleasure. There really is often more joy in helping others than in consuming for ourselves. It is free to volunteer and it is usually more fun than doing things for yourself because the attitude is more positive in volunteering.

### Be spontaneous and absurd

Humor is just an incredible insight that hits at just the right moment in an understandable way. Absurdity is that which is human and defines our unique existence. It is the human that challenges our conception of what is human most that is the most human. When someone just goes and does something without being self-conscious they often have more fun than if they spent time planning it. There is no one to impress unless you are into politics or in high school. Business makes money by having a person engaging in activities that they can control and manipulate. Spontaneousness and absurdity are things that businesses cannot make sense of and those inclinations lead to less consumerism.

### Motion = Stillness

When the body is still, then the mind races. When the body is moving, then the mind is still. People spend much of

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<sup>7</sup>Chuang Tzu in "Discussion on Making all Things Equal" from *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings*, translated by Burton Watson

their lives sitting and talking or resting and planning to help alleviate stress and conflict, when just forgetting the whole thing would be much better. Non competitive sports are great for this but the same motion can be derived from spending time with animals or even reflecting on the wind, rain, and racing shadows. Getting where there is fresh air is important for this (for the ears and a sense of space, not for the lungs), so when there is reading of books, spending of time planning, or spending of any money the action becomes too purposeful and the uselessness is lost.

### **No Expectations**

This is one of the reasons why humans experience so much more pain than animals: they have an expectation of what events should be like. This leads to drug use and a compulsive consumption of luxury items. Don't expect events to unfold like you have been told they should, and don't look for some set course of events or outcome that will make it a good story.

### **Holding onto the Moment**

There can be an eternity in a moment. Camus said that a person only needed to live one day to survive a lifetime in prison. Society is very wasteful not just materially but with memories, time, and thought. When a person is at work, the time seems to last forever, but when they are having fun, it seems to go by so fast. Time cannot be changed but perspective can. It all works out the same for us, because we live our lives in our minds.

### **Understand the Ecology**

There is no one set way of having more fun with less money. The key is understanding your entire ecology and the system that you live in. By working within it, and not against it, you will learn to escape from the way the world works more with your mind and so you will need to expend less effort with your body.

## **2.2.11 Beyond Norm University**

for Plush Heart subculture

Educated toys are more fun to play with.

Blessed be the eternal God; for the fishes of the sea honour him more than men without faith, and animals without reason listen to his word with greater attention than sinful heretics.

8

### **Purpose**

- a community for the open exchange of Plush friendly ideologies
- a central clearinghouse of information for Plush health
- a Plush cooperative distance recreation center
- a Plush way to create belonging and build relationships
- for those Plush animals with intellects far beyond those of humans
- founded in honor of Norm (a Plush cow)

### **Admissions**

- There will be an equal ratio of Plush farm animals, sea creatures, and birds
- Plush animals must be surfaced washed regularly
- Plush souls must be in their original bodies
- Plush animals must be able to communicate through their human guardian
- Plush animal must be computer literate
- Plush animal must get enough rest time and play time each day

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8Brother Ugolino in "The Little Flowers of Saint Francis"

## Programs of Study

### Still Theory Core

- Taoist Perspective on Equality
- Gothic Perspective on Beauty
- Skeptical Perspective on Humanity
- Existential Perspective on Individuality
- Confucian Perspective on Respect
- Ecofeminist Perspective on Suffering

### Electives

- Plush Anatomy and Physiology
- Plush Adaptations of Popular Sports
- Common Plush Emotional Issues
- Distribution of Plush Food Products
- Plush Musical Techniques

## Faculty

- Professor Beary, School of Plush Agriculture, Music, Sports
- Professor Bow, School of Plush Medicine, Music, Sports
- Professor Patrick, School of Counseling

## 2.3 Faith and Class

### 2.3.1 Introduction

Another duality we are taught in the Bible is that in the Old Testament we are told we will be wealthy when we are following God's commands, while the New Testament talks about how the rich are corrupt. One of the major concepts of the Gospels was that Jesus lived in poverty and that was His example for us. Paul felt more joy when in prison and persecuted than when he was well off. In Ecclesiastes, we learn that Solomon when the wealthiest man in the world of his time was in deep despair and realized that wealth does not bring happiness. Putting all this together, we have to realize that wealth in the Old Testament meant something different from what we mean today. Wealth was symbolic of being well provided for materially, in that we received the food, clothing, and shelter we need to live in addition to the spiritual wealth including joy and peace coming from a life focused on serving God and those in need. The Scripture that seems to pull all this together is in the words of Jesus in Luke where he talks about how the lilies of the field were arrayed in greater splendor than Solomon.

### 2.3.2 Money

#### Amos

Hear this, O ye that swallow up the needy, even to make the poor of the land to fail, Saying, When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn? and the sabbath, that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small, and the shekel great, and falsifying the balances by deceit? That we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the wheat? The Lord hath sworn by the excellency of Jacob, Surely I will never forget any of their works. Shall not the land tremble for this, and every one mourn that dwelleth therein? and it shall rise up wholly as a flood; and it shall be cast out and drowned, as by the flood of Egypt.

9

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9Amos 8:4-8

## Matthew

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God

10

## 1 Corinthians

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

11

## 1 Timothy

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12

## James

For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

13

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire

14

## Revelations

Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour,

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10Matthew 19:21-24

111 Corinthians 13:3

121 Timothy 6:6-11

13James 2:2-6

14James 5:1-3

and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men

15

### 2.3.3 Providence

#### Genesis

And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones.

16

#### Psalms

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep

17

#### Luke

Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets. But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep. Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

18

Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

19

#### 2 Corinthians

As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

20

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15Revelations 18:10-13

16Genesis 50:19-21

17Psalm 127:1-2

18Luke 6:20-26

19Luke 12:27-34

202 Corinthians 6:10

## Galatians

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not

21

### 2.3.4 The Protestant Ethic

Have you ever wondered why so many Republicans are Evangelicals and why so many Evangelicals are Republicans? Because many are both interested in making money. But many are moral because they never spend it - that would be pagan. You too can get rich if you join our church. Our theologians have found the secret to creating wealth - having lots of money to start with.

#### Hard Work

My neighbor says  
He wants a website  
You do websites?  
What is it for?  
To sell things  
I am not your man  
I know how to write  
How to design  
How to think  
How to create  
How the technology works  
I have 9 years of experience  
And am hard working  
I can do it for free  
By I don't know how  
To convince people  
To buy something  
It is a common misconception  
That people are poor  
Because they are lazy  
In America we equate  
Hard work with money  
But their are millions  
Who would beg to differ  
Proverbs says we should  
Work hard  
But God never promises  
To make us rich  
Even if we follow  
All His commandments  
If godliness equated money

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21Galatians 6:7-9

Or money was to be valued  
Then Jesus would have been rich  
Paul was poor and in prison  
And he was happier then  
Than any time of his life  
Solomon was rich but depressed  
When he had the wealth  
Of the entire world  
He wrote the most  
Nihilistic book of the Bible

### **American Philosophy**

You thought philosophy  
Was the love of knowledge  
But why does it matter  
If it can't make you rich?  
If working 40 hours a week  
Gives you enough money  
To live on  
Then working 80 hours a week  
Will give you money to invest  
If you invest all that money  
You will be rich  
And then you can start  
Your own business  
So you can be a proprietor  
Then you can sell  
Your business  
To make more money  
Don't worry about  
Studying the classics  
It only matters  
If you have money  
The more money you have  
The more you can make  
The more time you spend  
The more money you make  
This is all you need to know  
The rest is luck and marketing  
What else is there to life?

### **Faith and Work**

You are a technical writer  
Your job is to write  
About new technology  
Your audience is affluent

You publish for your advertisers  
You publish facts  
But they seem to always  
Be in favor of whoever  
Pays you the most money  
When you are discovered  
You lash out angrily  
With weakly worded insults  
You get angry comments  
You lose more readers  
Do you think  
You did something wrong?  
Was that you at church  
On Sunday  
In the front row?  
Was it you who ranted on  
About those liberal rascals  
In the church parking lot?  
Do you think you were  
Acting Christian?  
What has that  
Got to do with it?

### **Bad Monk**

He wears a coarse robe  
Of brown burlap  
His head is shaved  
And he is silent  
He works in the fields  
In the heat of the day  
He picks oranges  
Atop high ladders  
And makes marmalade  
The following morning  
To give to the  
Orphans and widows  
To bring a smile  
To their little faces  
He kneels down  
For the midnight prayers  
This is how he spends  
Most of his days  
What a waste  
He could be pulling  
A 6 figure salary  
As a professional gambler

If he would just  
Jump the border  
And steal someone's identity  
No questions would be asked  
He would only be taking  
A job Americans  
Are unwilling to do

### **Religion of Isolation**

God loves me  
And my family  
He doesn't like you  
He chose to save me  
No matter what I do  
I am one of the few  
Who get to go  
To Heaven  
God didn't choose you  
So you got to Hell  
I cannot explain  
Why God makes  
Those decisions  
But we have no right  
To contest it  
I don't have to care  
That all my friends  
And coworkers  
Are unbelievers  
I believe they  
Have been specifically  
Chosen to suffer  
For all eternity  
It is all set in stone  
And it doesn't matter  
How you or I act  
You are one of those  
Who haven't been chosen  
I will not associate with you  
Because I am better  
We have exclusive clubs  
And we make more money  
Our kids will be  
Your kids bosses  
God has blessed us  
For His reasons  
We have enough members

We are not interested  
In your salvation  
We will try to punish you  
By creating laws  
That are based on our  
Odd view of life  
We think everyone  
Should follow our beliefs  
No matter if they believe  
Or not

### **Worldly**

The whole world  
Is Going to Hell  
Except the members  
Of my church  
If you don't believe  
Just like us  
In our warped  
View of Scripture  
There is no hope  
For you  
Those who are  
Not among us  
Die their hair  
Bright colors  
They paint their fingernails  
All solid black  
They have piercing  
And they have tattoos  
They read Harry Potter  
And listen to  
Liberal radio broadcasts  
And non Christian music  
They have parties  
And watch movies  
They watch TV  
And use the Internet  
They drink alcohol  
Outside of communion  
No one like that  
Would dare come to  
Our church

### **Who Can Help Themselves**

God will only help you

If you can help yourself  
You are only saved  
If you are rich  
God always blesses you  
In a purely financial way  
Christian charity  
Means having a job  
That pays lot of money  
If you can do this  
By your own skills  
Then God will help you  
God looks down on  
Those who are lazy  
Who we can determine  
By those who make  
Only a little money  
Money follows grace  
The point of following  
All of God's commands  
Is to get rich  
If you weren't gaining anything  
Then why would you  
Go to all the effort  
Of going to church  
And raising money  
To send your kids  
To camp in the summer?

## 2.3.5 Capitalist Hedonism

### Feast

A third of the world  
Eats a bowl of rice a day  
A third of the world  
Is starving to death  
All so we can  
Live in luxury  
We have enough food  
To feed a city  
In each of our  
Grocery stores  
On every street corner  
We buy a meal  
For \$10  
Without thinking twice

If we gave  
To a food charity  
A person could live  
A week and a half  
On the same money  
Our disabled cows  
Cost more to feed  
Than third world children  
Our cats eat more meat  
Than the average person  
In South America  
Our government  
Pays farmers  
To not grow crops  
And millions  
Are starving

### **Overfed**

People in the third world  
Are dying  
For lack of food  
Americans are dying  
From eating too much  
Our top cause of death  
Is heart disease  
Which comes from  
Eating too much  
Fat, sugar, and salt  
1-5 year old kids  
Drink sugar water  
As often as fruit juice  
6-11 year old kids  
Eat cookies  
More often than fruit  
12-17 year old kids  
Eat potato chips  
As often as salad  
22% of those 18-24  
Eat almost completely  
Foods high in  
Fat, sugar, and salt  
Almost 50%  
Of Americans' food money  
Is spent at restaurants

### **Richest Poor**

Americans are considered  
Under the poverty line  
If we make less than  
\$55 a day  
The people making  
Most of our clothing  
Make \$2 a day  
To help them  
We protest  
By not buying  
From them  
Which drives down  
Their wages  
8% of people worldwide  
Own a car  
89% of Americans  
Own a car  
We say we can't  
Afford gas prices  
So we buy  
Another car  
Which is even bigger  
American kids have a  
Bigger allowance  
Than the total income  
Of 1 billion  
Of the world's poorest  
American 10 years olds  
Average more money  
Per week  
Than the people  
That produce  
What they buy  
And these facts  
Are getting worse  
Every day

### **2.3.6 Music of Heaven**

#### **Tones of Creation**

The vibrations  
Of stringed instruments  
Is how the universe  
Exists in time

For each frequency  
There is a different  
Realm of existence  
When we create music  
We harmonize with  
The many worlds  
Of divergent realities  
We can experience  
Higher planes of existence  
In the music of the spirit  
We can feel the state of time  
Differently at each tone  
Musical note patterns  
Correspond to levels of existence  
We invoke the attention of God  
When we create pleasing tones  
With a heart of humility  
In each rhythm  
We elevate our minds  
To a different aspect of creation  
To a parallel world  
Of spiritual blessings

### **Law of Music**

Music is behind  
Our every joy  
Our every action occurs  
In the backdrop of sound  
The harmony we experience  
With our creator  
Is musical in nature  
How we see life  
Is music incarnate  
Everything we feel  
Has a unique note  
Every aspect of creation  
Has a musical equivalent  
In art and poetry  
In sculpture and ceramics  
Our hearts beat  
To the pulse of a drum  
With a sense of music  
We are balanced  
In health and in spirit  
In every activity  
There is a splash of melody

With each breathe we take  
We can hear a song  
If we are attune  
To the workings of the Spirit

### **Nature's Symphony**

As we experience  
The natural world  
We perceive that ever aspect  
Has a harmony  
And a corresponding melody  
The water plays a song  
It flows to a specific beat  
The sky is in tune  
With the movements of the clouds  
The trees wave to a frequency  
At the rate of the wind  
In each step we make  
Into the realm of God's art  
All of His creation  
Reaches out to us  
As a luxurious sound  
A music without set notes  
A kind of jazz of the heart  
A way of seeing  
That is more vivid than shouting  
And at a tempo that is more regular  
Than that of a marching band  
We keep to ourselves  
The joy of being an instrument  
Of the orchestra of the Lord  
When we do not express  
The great music we live by

### **Plush Music**

I can hear the tapping  
Of a stuffed cow's hoof  
To the beat of an  
Imagined rhythm  
With each step he takes  
He lets out a sigh  
Which I hear as  
The strumming of a guitar  
The whole herd  
Moves in great concert  
Of a living orchestra

Each note is timed  
To the perfection of eternity  
The joy contained within  
Those little hearts  
Of fabric and softness  
Can shatter my pride  
Into ten thousand pieces  
The melody of their songs  
Elevate me to a higher level  
Of spiritual fruits  
In every waking moment  
And even in the depths of sleep  
They create movements of music  
Greater than the length  
A runner completes in a marathon

### 2.3.7 Cow Fragments

Are you tired of slavery - of drudging for others - of poverty and its attendant miseries? Then, Vote yourself a farm.

22

#### Why Cows?

Cows have been abused throughout history for labor, meat, milk, leather, and manure. The related words in Chinese are "jail" and "complain."

#### Discrimination of the Mentally Ill

I identify with cows because I am mentally ill. The mentally ill have been the most targeted group of people for persecution, discrimination, marginalization, segregation, isolation, and more. Even as late as the 50's people were locked up for being mentally ill and even today they still receive electroshock therapy against their will.

#### Personal Discrimination

I have been denied several volunteer jobs because they knew I was mentally ill although definitely qualified and have no criminal record nor have ever been institutionalized, I have not received federally mandated equal access to education which my only request that required effort from the instructor was oral test or test by paper, I have not been given a case worker because the county did not have any more available although I qualified, as a veteran I still have to travel hundreds of miles for dental treatment and have to pay for many medical expenses upfront, and to even get my disability I had to wait a year and a half which is not uncommon which if I worked in that time I would be disqualified, and I was not told about services available in my community and had to find them on my own.

#### Beary and Bow Campaign Issues

"No One's Toy"

We pledge to do all in our power as long as it is legal, ethical, and safe to

Environment

- Outlaw meat as it is the number one killer of American people and farm animals
- Come up with penalties worse than death for committing crimes worse than murder (like burning down forests or experimenting on animals)

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22George Henry Evans in "Vote Yourself a Farm"

## Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection

- Legalize and market hemp as a safe, economical, and superior alternative to paper

### Public Safety

- Put enough surveillance cameras and microphones to see and hear everyone who is committing crimes
- Make traffic violations that involve safety felonies
- Make tobacco illegal as it is one of the leading causes of death and kills many more people than banned drugs

### Business

- Put 300% tariffs on all good and services not done entirely by Americans
- Disband all unions of white collar workers
- CEOs will be 100% accountable for anything illegal that anybody in their company or the company itself does
- Businesses that have more than 100 employees will not get any government funds

### Government

- Make a quota that half of the government's ethnicity be Native American
- There will be a flat tax with no conditions and no way to not pay
- Give back all land in the US west of the Mississippi River to Native Americans

## Leadership

Cow in my heart  
My vision of life  
Filling the void  
My paranoia has left  
There is something  
About the way he lies on his back  
The expression on his face  
He is totally at peace  
His relaxing is complete  
With my mind to tap off of  
And his own natural strength  
There is nothing he cannot do  
With stylus between his hoofs  
He is at command in his house  
With a plush blanket  
He spreads out the bounty  
Bow tie or shirt  
Both cows share leadership  
With a natural grace  
With a genuine awkwardness  
They make decisions  
That further the interests of the herd  
They take each day  
With one hoof in front of the other  
Sometimes I see in their eyes  
The stress of their position  
But they never complain  
And ask for little

Although overflowing with presents  
They prefer to spend time with me  
Day after day they comfort me  
Will they fade away to nothing  
Or does God have plans for animals?  
Is there a future for plush?  
Kind fathers and concerned husbands  
These are family cows  
What will their line come to?  
The adopted adopting others  
Unwanted by a nation of ignorant  
The fatherless becoming fathers  
What strain it must be  
To know just what to say  
To make your little calf feel better  
When my relatives won't accept him

### **Cow Slogans**

- Don't eat us. We were your childhood friends.
- Don't segregate us. We are all multicolored.
- Zebras are just cows running really fast.
- Woolly mammoths are cows with poor metabolism.
- You don't still breast feed. Why do you drink our mother's milk?
- Eat grass. Look how strong we are!
- We leave no calf behind.
- We have herd mentality and we aren't violent.
- Our wives are not just vats to manufacture your chocolate.
- And the cows' eyes are not cloudy all day.
- Don't forget to shake our hooves in greeting.
- The cow bell sets our daily rhythm.
- You bring the cereal and we'll bring the milk.
- Cows with nose rings are not alternative cows.
- Look ma - no hands!
- There are cows in almost every continent.
- Cows are the victims of alien visitation
- Without cows, what would we moo?
- For every struggling lawn there is a cow solution.
- Eternity is a never ending pasture.
- Cows: the original cross country vehicle

### **Cow Myths throughout History**

In the Icelandic Edda

Audumla came from melting ancient ice and she brought out the god Buri by licking salty ice. She gave rivers of milk to Ymir who was the father of giants who the earth was created from.

In the Hindu religion

A light shone from the creator and so the Vedas, the Fire, the Cow, and the Brahmin came to be. Cows live in the highest world and there are many hymns about them.

### Dun Cow

The Dun Cow was owned by a giant that lived in Mitchell Ford. She had an endless supply of milk. A lady upset the cow because she asked for too much milk, so the cow barged out of the ford and into Dunsmore Heath, where she was killed. A mammoth tusk is kept there as the cow's horn.

### In Scottish Proverbs

The Cow of Forfar came by and drank a tub of beer that a lady left outside to cool. In the Highlands a farewell drink is taken standing in honor of the cow. The lawyer Halkstern gave a sick ox to be company for another tenant's heifer and the heifer gored the ox to death. The tenant told the lawyer the opposite happened. This is the basis for a Scottish proverb about a person who changes an opinion when he examines the issue more closely.

## 2.4 Liberated

### 2.4.1 Introduction

God not only heals but He does something greater - He has given us eternal life if only we ask forgiveness of our sins and believe in Him. We know what is right and wrong because God has given us a conscience and He knows that being human means we sin, even after salvation. That is why we need to continue to ask for forgiveness. Even though our society has rejected the poor and seems to think the only sins are sexual, does not mean that God does not care about those which society has rejected. Destroying an entire culture, wiping out an entire species, or poisoning the earth for generations are all greater sins than adultery. The way we show God that we are grateful for what He has done for us is to follow our conscience and to keep helping those in need, whether animal, human, or environmental. Sin and sickness are intertwined and most suffering has a spiritual component which does not mean that those who are afflicted deserved it, but rather they are feeling the outcome of someone else's sin.

### 2.4.2 Liberation from Sins

#### Psalms

1

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

23

2

Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause. Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great. What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant. Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net. Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted. The

troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses. Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins. Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred. O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

24

3

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah

25

4

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

26

## Isaiah

1

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

27

2

I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

28

3

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it

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24Psalm 25

25Psalm 32:1-5

26Psalm 103:2-18

27Isaiah 1:16-18

28Isaiah 43:25-26

shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

29

## Jeremiah

Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.

30

## Matthew

And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

31

## Ephesians

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

32

## Hebrews

I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

33

## James

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much

34

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29Isaiah 55:8-13

30Jeremiah 5:1

31Matthew 9:2-6

32Ephesians 4:32

33Hebrews 8:10-12

34James 5:14-16

## I John

1

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

35

2

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

36

## 2.4.3 Liberation from Injustice

### Ruth

Our Lord Jesus Christ  
Is not just of the line  
Of King David  
But descended from Ruth  
A migrant laborer  
Who was born  
In another country  
Stranded from her relatives  
Because of a depression  
And a poor harvest  
She will not leave  
Her mother's side  
Though her mother  
Begged her to  
She came back  
To the land  
Of her fathers  
Though now a foreigner  
She worked on the land  
Of a close relative  
She only wished  
To take what was left  
After the harvest  
The man who owned  
The fields being harvested

---

351 John 1:5-10

361 John 2:3-5

Was pleased with her  
He asked her for her hand  
In marriage  
And she is an ancestor  
Of the Son of God

## **Aid**

For only the cost  
Of a cup of coffee  
You can clear  
Your conscience  
From how those  
You elect  
Victimize those  
Who are your  
Fellow human beings  
It is great  
To feed the hungry  
But keeping others  
Equal to ourselves  
Dependent on us  
For their very lives  
Does not solve  
The situation  
They were forced into  
The aid worker  
Sees a mass of famine  
And a group of poor  
They do not see  
Individuals like themselves  
Who are being kept  
In a state of helplessness  
By their very own  
Government as well as  
Our government

## **Reform**

Brazil is now  
An economic power  
The third world  
Is developing  
At the expense  
Of its poor  
We create reforms  
That allow more  
Investment in agriculture

In education and  
In health care  
But without challenging  
The powers that be  
All that progress  
Is received by  
Those already rich  
The only way  
To break the cycle  
Of devastating poverty  
Is to transform  
The government  
And the social institutions  
So that the wealth  
May be spread  
More evenly  
And so that the poor  
Can simply live

### **Liberation**

The poor must come together  
To advocate for themselves  
To realize what holds them  
Back from equal wealth  
And causes their oppression  
So that they may organize  
And act in concert  
To bring about change  
In the social institutions  
That hold back the poor  
First they claim all that  
The system currently offers  
Better wages and working conditions  
Healthcare and education  
Housing and more  
Then they struggle for the  
Transformation of the society  
For the broadest participation  
In the decisions of power  
A more balanced  
Arrangement of power  
Amongst the different classes  
And a way of life  
That brings inspiration to others  
Liberation is spreading  
In this generation of poor

Free trade unions  
Peasant organizations  
Action and study groups  
Popular political parties  
And Christian communities  
Are all in on the struggle

### **Christian Community**

The Gospel of Christ  
Must inspire us  
To break with  
The instruments of oppression  
To recognize the basic  
Human dignity and rights  
Of those beyond our borders  
We must reach out in faith  
With a social conscience  
Christianity must be on the side  
Of the least of these  
We must join in the struggles  
Of popular movements  
Already committed to  
Land rights and rebuilding of  
The depressed parts of town  
The rights of indigenous  
And other marginalized people  
The Gospel advocates  
The advancement not of the average  
But of those who are denied  
Even the most basic of human rights  
When Christians join in  
In the liberation of the poor  
We open ourselves up to  
Ridicule, persecution, and martyrdom  
Which reveals to us  
The urgency of this movement

### **Levels of Liberation**

From seminaries to bible studies  
From the rationale to the confrontation  
From the meetings of entire church bodies  
To the local study groups  
From lectures and papers to sermons  
Talks and celebrations  
From books and articles to notes and letters  
Every member of the Christian community

Each has a role in the theology of liberation  
This is where faith and history meet  
We all act as one and share the roles  
The pastor and professional  
The lay leader and the church members  
As well as sociologists, economists  
Teachers and technicians  
Each have a place in this system  
It takes a variety of forms  
From the theologians doctrines  
To the confrontational aspects in  
Research centers and Christian schools  
And also in the spontaneity of  
Local church members  
Popular theology is expressed in symbols  
As well as in the written and spoken word  
The symbols of oppression from Scripture  
Are equated with the political and social forces  
Who are causing the specific problems

### **Conservative Estimates**

500 million people are starving to death  
1.6 billion people are happy to live to 45  
1 billion people live in complete poverty  
1.5 billion people have no access to  
Any kind of medical care  
500 million people have incomes  
Of less than \$150 a year  
814 million people cannot read  
2 billion people live without  
A continual water supply

## **2.4.4 Practicing Liberation Theology**

**1**

Being committed to liberation theology  
Requires contact with the oppressed  
First we try to find why people are oppressed  
Then we try to decide God's plan for the poor  
Finally we decide what action needs to be taken

**2**

The oppressed are young children and teenagers  
Indigenous people and laborers  
Unemployed and part time workers

The marginalized and the elderly  
All of these groups are poor  
And on the edges of cities and in the country

**3**

There are several explanations for poverty  
One blames the poor  
It says they are lazy or ignorant  
The logical solution is aid  
One blames underdevelopment  
It says the country needs to industrialize more  
The answer is to give loans and technology  
This is also called reform  
The final explanation recognizes  
The cause of poverty for what it is  
Poverty is caused by oppression  
The economy is designed to exploit people  
And excludes them from the wealth making process  
The solution is a revolution of the society  
Where the powers are replaced with other powers

**4**

The oppressed are not just poor  
They are victimized socially as well  
There is racial discrimination  
Against people with darker skin  
There is ethnic discrimination  
Against indigenous groups and minorities  
And there is gender discrimination  
Against women  
This discrimination is part of the basic structure  
Of society and the establishment  
These types of oppression  
Makes the economic ones worse

**5**

The poor are representations of Jesus  
Who was rejected and Who suffered  
Who was poor and persecuted  
And Who is on the side of the poor  
Being poor means being dependent,  
Indebted, anonymous, contempted, and humiliated

**6**

The poor see God's message as  
God as the advocate of the oppressed

The Liberator from bondage  
The Prophet of a new world  
His kingdom given to the poor  
And the church as a model of total sharing  
These questions all tie in with  
The theology of conversion, grace, and resurrection

7

Exodus is an epic of the political  
And religious liberation of a people in slavery  
And through their contract  
With God became God's people  
The Prophets were uncompromising  
In their denouncement of injustice  
Proclaiming the rights of the poor  
And their declaration of the salvation message  
The Gospels present the centrality of Jesus  
His declaration of a new kingdom  
His liberation by action  
And the final meaning of history  
In His death and resurrection  
Acts portrays the ideal Christian community  
Which is one of freedom and liberation  
And Revelations describes the immense war  
Of God's people against  
The monsters of history  
In a symbolic narrative

8

We go about liberation theology  
With the weapons of peace being  
Dialogue, persuasion, moral pressure  
Passive resistance, evangelical resolve,  
Marches, strikes, and demonstrations

## 2.4.5 Animal Liberation

### Animal not Plant

1

An animal is a living being  
Created directly by God  
Animals are not just objects  
To be used how we see fit  
They have feelings and souls  
They are to be taken care of

2 Like we do our own children

There is no excuse for cruelty  
Towards our weaker friends  
We have all the power  
In the human animal relationship  
We should not abuse this power

3 Because animal are not always  
Committed to just one spouse  
For their entire lives  
We think  
That they are not worthy  
Of our respect and compassion

4 Instead of looking at animals  
As a degenerate form of humans  
We should look to animals  
Kindness and genuine affection  
As the highest goals for expanding  
Our own morality and godliness

5 The more we find out about animals  
The more we realize their intelligence  
And their range of possible emotions  
The difference between an animal  
And a human is a matter of degree  
Their is nothing essentially specific  
To humans about reasoning or emotions

6 The only thing that separates us  
From the animals is our technology  
And our power over them  
We reach out our hand  
In destruction in a way that no animal  
Has ever dreamed of

7 Could you imagine an animal  
Trying to wipe out an entire species  
Or destroy an entire culture?  
Could you imagine an animal  
That would poison its own environment?

8 I challenge those who think they are moral  
Or think they are smart  
To study the behavior of our weaker friends

And try to find a way in which  
They don't excel beyond us  
Intellectually and morally

## Jesus and Animals

1

We were given the Ten Commandments  
To be a written record of our conscience  
But the law was not limited to  
Only 10 offenses  
The Ten Commandments were a summary  
Of that vast codification  
Of what we know to be right and wrong

2

When Jesus came to earth  
Representing the perfect man  
He challenged us to not just refrain  
From murder and stealing and adultery  
We were to stop the thoughts in our heads  
That were the beginning of a desire  
That could eventually result in the breaking  
Of one of the laws

3

Jesus expanded the law in one way  
And contracted it in another  
We are to love our neighbor as ourselves  
This goes beyond just our actions  
But into our feelings and our reasoning  
We are to refrain from having  
Even evil thoughts towards another

4

But Jesus never specified  
That we only treat people with respect  
We were to reach out to others  
Beyond just refraining from sin  
Or even the thought of it  
But to work for the betterment of others  
Which focused on what Jesus called  
The least of these  
Who are the victims of our society

5

The animals suffer for our food  
They suffer for our entertainment  
For our beauty products  
For our "advances" in technology  
We should think first

Of our weaker brothers and sisters  
And improve the lives of animals first  
Before we take on causes to help people

6

Our domination of nature was meant  
As a responsibility and a challenge  
It was not meant for us to exploit  
The weak and powerless creatures  
We should look for ways  
To go beyond the literal words  
Written in the law and expand  
Our compassion to the limits of  
Our imagination as the road that  
Jesus has only started us on

7

Challenge yourself to go beyond  
The letter of the law and recognize  
That the spirit of the law  
Is an ever expanding frontier  
Don't be content to just do no harm  
But reach out to those who are weaker  
To make their lives the best they can be

### **Master of Humans**

1

Does it scare you  
When you think of a wild animal  
And what they might do to you  
If you come too close?  
Try to think how the animal feels  
To have its home taken away  
And to have no food left

2

Is it right that for better scenery  
We build our homes in their habitat?  
It is no surprise that they venture  
Into our cities for food and for shelter

3

What really scares a person  
Is the idea of supernatural or alien  
Enemies that have more power  
And more technology than us  
As we venture out into space  
Or explore portals to other worlds  
Through drugs or magic  
We have something to fear

4  
That is greater than ourselves  
We become the animals  
And we are hunted  
By higher powers than ourselves  
Is it wrong for aliens to victimize humans  
When we hurt our fellow animals?  
If our criteria for sentience is  
Intelligence and technology  
Don't these other powers  
Have the right to persecute us?

5  
We are afraid of our machines  
That one day we will design them  
To be too smart to just serve us  
When our machines become  
More intelligent and sophisticated than us  
According to our reasons for dominance  
The machines have the rights  
To use and exploit us

## **Chapter 3**

### **Total Person and Society**

by Ben Huot

## 3.1 First Things

### 3.1.1 Logo

I should explain what the logo is meant to be representing. The guy is a pen, which is me, which comes from my first poem in Philosophy Core, called Creative Process, where I refer to myself as doing Tai Chi, with my pen being my body. The idea is based on "the pen is mightier than the sword" so I created "the Bible is mightier than the pen".

The Bible is shooting out flames because in Ephesians it talks about spiritual warfare and the Bible is the only armament that is offensive. (It means offensive instead of defensive. These are common terms used in combat. The sword is the only spiritual weapon. All the other armaments expressed in Ephesians are protective and defensive in nature like a shield, a helmet, a breastplate, etc.) The flames are meant as in James when it talks about being purified by fire or struggles with temptation in our lives. Isaiah also was purified by a live coal to his lips by a Seraphim. So the usage of fire is not evil or anything violent. Think of it as purifying.

I would ideally like it to show the sword turned inward to his chest, symbolizing like in many fantasy books that when they defeat the great evil force in the world, they are left with the greatest task, which is to defeat the evil within. The Bible is said to be a 2 sided sword, with the ability to cut between bone and marrow, and show the truth. Christ's tongue is said to be a 2 edged sword in Revelations, to defeat the Devil with. The reason I didn't show this is it looks like he is committing suicide.

The spiritual warfare is not against people, ideas, or even spirits. It is about fighting for the purity of our own minds. It is an internal thing. Like the Native American proverb "my greatest enemy is myself." This purity is in regard to our own sins and does not refer to purity in any other sense. But this is a process, not an outcome, as it is not possible for us to live without sin.

This warfare is only spiritual in the sense that it is not militant, social, economic, or political. This is for my own moral and ethical development and consists of practical qualities I try, with Christ's help, to cultivate like humility, compassion, kindness, and seriousness and do not correspond to anything supernatural.

### 3.1.2 Other Books

My text books and picture books contain most of my work over the past 10 years. These include my reading of some 235 books containing the philosophical and religious thinking of the world's cultures for several thousand years and the application of the main themes of some of the major Old Testament Prophets and major works of the New Testament.

The main point of this work is to get people to stop living their lives with their minds, but instead follow their hearts. I bring a radically different combination of viewpoints that you have not heard of before. I am not asking people to follow what I have written, but rather let the words stir up some sort of emotional response in your heart.

I challenge my readers to come up with their own unique ideas and that can lead the world in a new direction. We need a much broader diversity of ideas in our culture to deal with the problems we are facing in America and throughout the rest of the world.

### 3.1.3 For More Information

For more books and information, visit me on the web at <http://benjamin-newton.com/>

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at <mailto:ben@benjamin-newton.com> I even enjoy constructive criticism

### 3.1.4 Cover Graphic

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### 3.1.6 Introduction

In *The Free Thinking Christian* series, I showed how the Bible teaches us to be both humble and compassionate as well as kind and serious, and in *Justice and Hope*, I talked about how God calls us to both have hope in everlasting life but also to work towards class justice here on earth. In *Total Person and Society*, I unite the predominantly atheist view that sees the person as composed only of body and mind and the predominantly Christian view that the body and mind are entirely manifestations of sin. The paradox of people living as spiritual beings while still existing in the flesh and the mind is what this book is about, as the Bible ministers to the entirety of the person and the society they live in. This book was mainly inspired by Isaiah, Psalms, and parts of the New Testament as well as Ayn Rand, Hannah Arendt, Fashionology, and several lesser known Existentialists.

## 3.2 Foundations

### 3.2.1 Internal Alchemy

#### The Mystic

The mystic makes a choice  
To follow his heart  
In the face of the cravings  
Of his stomach  
And the projections of his mind  
He reaches out for truth  
Stretching his physical body  
To the very limits  
So that he may purify  
His very average soul  
Mysticism is not about  
Supernatural powers  
Or about an expanded mind  
It is not about

Living in poverty  
Either physical or spiritual  
It is not based on  
Hidden techniques  
Or secret writings  
Mystics do not wish  
To see visions  
Or witness the paranormal  
Living as a mystic  
Is a way of life  
It is an ethics  
That is all encompassing  
It is not primarily  
About self control  
It is not shrouded in mystery  
There are no rituals  
And there is nothing hidden  
Or reserved for those  
With greater abilities  
In discipline or intelligence  
Mysticism is an attitude  
It is the act of  
Drawing closer to God  
In many ways  
There is no path  
And there is no destination  
There is just the person  
And his Creator  
A mystic does not withdraw  
From human society  
The mystic can have  
A number of friends  
A mystic should be sociable  
And out going  
But he does not need  
To be a teacher  
Mysticism is about action  
As well as thoughts  
Focusing on correct thoughts  
Overflows into compassion  
You start with humility  
And you carry it out  
Into helping those in need  
The mystic lives the Gospel  
According to Luke

## **The Mind**

Our thoughts flash  
Like lightening  
Across our mind  
In an instant  
We leap from  
Joy to frustration  
From peace to anger  
Our minds are  
Our perception  
And the basis  
For our consciousness  
Everything we think  
Everything we know  
Travels across  
The frontiers of our brain  
We live in the world  
According to the whims  
Of what our brain  
Decides to reveal  
There is no event  
That we experience  
Out of the world  
Of our own minds  
When we think  
We are objective  
We show our ignorance  
Schizophrenia is a root-kit  
In our brains  
When the mind  
Is compromised  
We will never know  
How it affects  
What we know  
To be true  
What we feel  
And the reality  
We live in

## **The Heart**

The icy wind cuts  
Through my heart  
The darkness is complete  
When my heart aches most  
It is in the last hours

Before the sun rises  
That the night  
Penetrates deepest  
In each moment  
Of the complete silence  
The imagination grows  
Impossible noises  
Until they are deafening  
When it is cold  
Or when the sky  
Is covered in dark clouds  
There is room for magic  
And the imagination  
Comes by in full force  
What we feel  
In the distant places  
Of our sleeping mind  
Comes alive to dance  
Through our waking reality  
The times of darkness  
Bring memories of familiarity  
And the stillness  
Reminds us of potential  
Worlds of fantasy  
My heart is forged  
Out of cold metal  
The fire melts  
My harsh exterior  
The freezing water  
Strengthens my will  
My heart grows  
In intensity of tempo  
I fan the flames  
And breathe life  
Into the white coals  
I am continually beaten  
Until my blade  
Can survive the striking  
Of my opponent  
My heart is only ready  
When my blood has warmed  
And my lungs are fully  
Expanding and retracting

### **The Stomach**

Early morning hunger

Is invigorating and helpful  
Late night hunger  
Is depressing and sad  
I stretch wide  
My stomach walls  
As I yawn and flex  
With each sigh and step  
My stomach moves in concert  
With all my other organs  
With each word and breathe  
The stomach expands and contracts  
We see our stomachs  
As part of digestion  
And little more  
Feeling come from the bowels  
And the stomach turns  
With each thought of  
Anticipation and reflection  
Our stomachs are our center  
Our pathway to sustenance  
Both spiritual and physical  
We feel bounty and plenty  
With our stomachs  
We praise God  
From the bottom of our stomachs  
We say no  
To what our stomach desires

## **3.2.2 Philosophy of Religion**

### **Theology includes Philosophy**

Everyone has a perspective  
Everyone has opinions  
There is nothing theological  
That is not influenced by philosophy  
We do not live in a vacuum  
And ideas come from somewhere  
There are no new philosophies  
Just restatements done with less eloquence  
There is no way to only study the Bible  
We are only fooling ourselves  
And no one else  
We cannot distance ourselves  
From our own foolishness  
We are corrupt to the core

It is not possible to read the Bible  
Without prejudice and without feelings  
The Bible is not meant to be  
A list of rules or a systematic theology  
Don't you think there is a reason  
That there are so many views on  
Every branch of theology?  
The Bible is not meant to be interpreted  
The same by the entire church  
The Bible is not about a set theology  
No one will ever uncover  
The full philosophy of the Bible  
The greatest theologians  
Have only scratched the surface  
And were wrong more times  
Than they were right  
Verses don't mean just one thing  
The Bible should not  
Be read in any set order  
Verses should not stand alone  
There are no hidden meanings  
But few meanings have been found  
There is more to a single phrase  
Than can be understood  
By the human mind in all eternity  
And the Bible is only one small part  
Of who God is  
To say we were only influenced by the Bible  
Or that we believe what the Bible says  
Does not adequately explain our beliefs  
We have presuppositions and experiences  
But these aren't necessarily stumbling blocks  
Feelings are great and mental exercises are of use  
But we need to reflect on our background  
Or we will be repeating the mistakes  
Of even the greatest of theologians  
It is ok to not be right on even the main points  
To disagree creates a healthy diversity  
The church does not need core beliefs  
Our doctrines only hold us back  
There is more to life than theology  
And there is more to the Bible  
Than your statements of faith

## **Honesty**

When you make claims

Which you use Scripture  
To support your position  
It is not honest  
When you don't state  
Your intentions up front  
And explain your background  
We are not merely spiritual beings  
We are not just vessels  
Of God's will  
We have our own  
Hopes, desires, and dreams  
We are not pure spirits  
With empty minds  
There is a psychology  
To religious beliefs  
Ideas don't come  
Out of a vacuum  
We cannot wall ourselves  
Off from unbelievers  
We cannot understand  
Our culture expect by  
Reading books  
Besides the Bible  
Our minds are sponges  
And we absorb ideas  
From places we are  
Often unaware  
This is the use of  
The study of philosophy  
We get impressions  
From many venues  
We just assume  
They are all from the Bible  
Just because we are Christians  
What we come up with  
Is not independent  
Of our culture and history  
Ideas influence us  
In subtle and surprising ways  
We do not need to read a book  
To be influenced by capitalism  
Or to evaluate atheism  
We are part of a larger  
Ecosystem of dialogue  
Great thinkers build  
On what others have said

Christian and otherwise  
Great theologians study philosophy  
Some of the greatest philosophers  
Were trained as theologians first  
The early church adopted  
Many ideas from Greek paganism  
There is no way to be purely Christian  
Without affection and sympathies

### **Freedom of Choice**

Scripture is not meant  
To be understood intellectually  
Nor by our feelings alone  
Although Scripture ministers  
To all areas of our person  
We should keep our focus  
On the heart and the will  
It is good to have diversity  
Especially in opinion and perspective  
The Bible is not meant  
To be interpreted in just one way  
We don't need an entire denomination  
To be in agreement on any doctrine  
Don't you think there is a reason  
Why no one can agree  
Or that theologians were interested  
In such different topics  
Throughout divergent eras?  
The more widespread the views  
The harder it is to see a pattern  
God deliberately designed the Bible  
To be poetic instead of legalistic  
God could have just written  
A list of rules and left it at that  
We could just turn off our brains entirely  
But that is not God's nature  
He wants us to make rational decisions  
And for different people  
To go into different directions  
And to see the Bible from different views  
We have to realize that God speaks  
To our entire person  
That God is spirit and flesh  
Christianity is not meant to be an organization  
Or to have a rigid structure  
Even the Bible explains salvation

Differently every time  
All believers will enter Heaven by grace  
But each will do it in a different way

### 3.2.3 Total Isolation

1

Most people work a 9 to 5 job  
They put the required effort  
In their jobs  
And they are content  
With the results  
They don't commit themselves  
Totally to anything  
But there are situations  
Some of us find ourselves in  
Where there is no downtime  
There are no breaks  
Time to sleep is minimal  
Safety is non existent  
And there is no method  
Of getting away from prime time

2

When you enlist in the Army  
Your life is no longer your own  
Joining is the last decision you make  
Your intelligence is of no use  
And your training a waste of time  
There is no way you can get prepared  
For a life without freedom  
When you lived a life with  
Choices for everything  
There is only one way to march  
One way to shoot a rifle  
There is one way to make your bed  
And there is only one way  
To don your protective mask  
There is one way to throw a grenade  
And one way to dig a foxhole  
There is no time to think about  
Theories of war or the Geneva conventions  
There is never a time when you  
Can let your guard down  
Your life is totally committed

You have your reasons for enlisting  
But they matter less and less  
Enlistment is a one way tunnel  
And there are no stops or ways out  
You can shoot yourself in the foot  
But then your job will just be harder  
You can follow your job to the letter  
And yet be valued the same  
As the biggest screw-up  
You could follow directions exactly  
And still get captured  
The others fail you all the time  
But if you ever fail them  
The cost is enormous  
If you fail to listen to instructions  
You could be the next victim  
Of the war on terror  
You could pay attention to  
Every last detail  
And still end up needing to be  
Identified by DNA

**3**

When you are committed  
Even when voluntarily  
There is no escape  
From the terror  
Your days pass by  
With hours of no memory  
The pain takes weeks  
To lessen noticeably  
You must stay in Hell  
And there is no quick way out  
You are not informed of your rights  
But it would not matter  
You still could never understand  
You are not in your right mind  
The doctor controls your fate  
You can be sent to the state hospital  
And never be released  
Or get out in a couple weeks  
You have no choice  
What really scares you  
Are others like yourself  
You are all in the same boat  
You cannot get out

Until you are scanned  
You are crammed into  
A small tunnel  
And you cannot leave  
Until they are done  
You cannot see out  
And they cannot give you  
Enough tranquilizers to calm you  
You want to return to normal  
But you cannot work  
For at least a year  
Or you will never get  
Your state pension  
You have to wait another year  
For low income housing  
If you are lucky  
You have family  
Who can and will take you in  
And who will do your paperwork  
None of it starts until  
You know about it and register  
If you live on the street  
You are stuck being homeless  
And there is little hope  
Of being able to get out

4

It is a real shock  
The first time a person  
Realizes that old people  
Are rude and mean  
This is the generation  
Of entitlement  
Social Security was designed  
Not for the poor but for the rich  
Senior citizens think  
Everybody owes them  
They think that because  
They won World War II  
That they are superior  
To the following generations  
They think we get off easy  
Because inflation has raised  
Our minimum wage  
They think because we have  
Less real money than them

That it is because we didn't  
Work hard enough  
They are out of touch  
With current events  
They think that Iraq  
Was responsible for 9/11  
They don't know the difference  
Between Iran and Iraq  
They still don't trust Germans  
Or the Japanese  
They are sensitive about  
Communism even though  
It was defeated over 15 years ago  
They talk about their  
Grotesque health problems  
And never bathe  
They are racist and prejudiced  
They act like children  
But think young people  
Are immature  
They are mostly uneducated  
And they just sit around  
All the time  
They hate technology  
Or any invention of the  
Last 25 years  
They don't like music  
That was composed  
In the 50s or later  
They sing nursery rhymes  
And can't remember who they are  
This was my experience  
Living in a retirement home  
In my mid twenties

### **3.2.4 Comfort for the Afflicted**

#### **Isaiah**

For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.

37

And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him. For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee. And though the

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37Isaiah 25:4

Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

38

But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the Lord, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the Lord, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel. When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

39

Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages; That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them. And I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted. Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim. Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

40

The Lord God hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord God will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up. Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.

41

For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody. Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people. My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look

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38Isaiah 30:18-21

39Isaiah 41:8-20

40Isaiah 49:8-13

41Isaiah 50:5-10

upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation. Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon? Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over? Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away. I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; And forgettest the Lord thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

42

Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

43

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

44

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42Isaiah 51:3-13

43Isaiah 54:4-17

44Isaiah 58:6-12

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye shall be named the Priests of the Lord: men shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. For your shame ye shall have double; and for confusion they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess the double: everlasting joy shall be unto them. For I the Lord love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering; and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the Lord hath blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

45

I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses. For he said, Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their Saviour. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.

46

Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the Lord shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies.

47

## After Isaiah

This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him. He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope. He giveth his cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach. For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

48

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45Isaiah 61

46Isaiah 63:7-9

47Isaiah 66:10-14

48Lamentations 3:21-33

The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him

49

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

50

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid

51

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

52

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

53

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

54

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

55

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

56

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ

. 57

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

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49Nahum 1:7

50Matthew 5:3-12

51Matthew 14:27

52Luke 7:13

53John 14:27

54Romans 8:28

55Romans 8:35-39

56Romans 15:4

572 Corinthians 1:3-5

58

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

59

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

60

## 3.3 Government and Society

### 3.3.1 Capitalism and Atheism

#### Un American

Conservatives say that  
It is un American  
To challenge the power  
Of multinational corporations  
But how American  
Are these companies?  
They don't pay any taxes  
To the American government  
They don't employ US workers  
They are invested in by  
Unstable dictatorships  
Countries in the Middle East  
Their bank accounts are in  
Offshore islands  
Or Swiss banks

#### Democracy vs. Capitalism

Our enemy during the cold war  
Was communism  
And millions died for this cause  
But what were we fighting for?  
Democracy isn't the opposite of communism  
Anymore than medicine  
Is the opposite of sociology  
How could people be against communism?  
A more equitable distribution of wealth  
Should fit in comfortably

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58 Hebrews 4:15

59 1 Peter 2:21-24

60 1 Peter 5:6-7

In a country with a distribution of power  
What we were really fighting was dictatorship  
But we supported other dictators  
The only thing that differentiated  
Our "communist" enemies from  
Our dictator friends  
Was who would open their markets  
Their raw materials and cheap labor  
To multi-national corporations  
To sap every drop of possible profit from  
The reality is that no one has ever  
Or would ever give up power willingly  
The only reason why we can speak freely  
In America is because our souls  
Are bought and paid for in full  
The only way the government would allow  
Government that is voted in office  
Is if they had absolute control over the media  
We can say whatever we want in America  
So long as no one hears it or doesn't act on it

### **Freedom and Terror**

We are afraid of being attacked without warning  
We lost 3,000 of our people  
Those in the Middle East are tired of being victims  
Of American violence  
We have killed off hundreds of thousands of them  
And we are fighting the wrong nation  
It is just like how the police in America  
Don't bother to solve crimes  
But rather find the nearest person of color  
To be a scapegoat to appease the grieving  
Who is really a threat to who?  
A few thousand poor people  
With improvised weapons living in tents  
Or the most wealthy nation in the world  
Which has the capability to fight the entire  
Rest of the world together and win  
We spend more in a day on war  
Than our entire annual budget for education  
The president thinks it is a waste of money  
To offer free medical care for the poor  
But keeps on donating money to the rich  
Who have drove their companies into the ground  
We spend more on software  
That we could get a better version for free

Than the annual salary of the person  
Operating the computer  
In a third world country  
Our kids take drugs to escape from reality  
And that finances the Middle Eastern terrorists  
We invade their country but won't  
Destroy the crops that it comes from  
For fear of alienating ourselves from the locals  
There is an easy solution  
It is against the religious beliefs of those  
Who are growing the drugs to continue with it  
So all we need to do is guarantee them the same money  
From selling something that is not a drug  
But our government is really afraid of  
Alienating the multi-national corporations  
That got the government elected

### **More than Bread**

Man does not live on bread alone  
What is best for man  
Is not limited to what is best  
For his taste-buds  
And for his sensual enjoyment  
A person has more needs  
Than food clothing and shelter  
Man needs a good relationship  
With God with other people  
And with the animals and plants  
And his entire ecosystem  
Which is primarily spiritual  
What we see is not all there is  
What we can sense is not eternal  
Satisfying our feelings  
And maintaining physical health  
Is not the entire picture  
People have hearts and souls  
They need to help others  
They need to give of themselves  
This may not be a balanced accounting  
In the realm of money  
But the heart and the soul  
Have needs as well  
What the body craves can actually  
Destroy the mind  
What the mind craves can  
Destroy the heart

We need to know there is more  
To life than eating and sleeping  
What we need to be satisfied  
Is in the giving of ourselves  
To our Heavenly Father first  
In humility and reverence  
And to those who are in need  
Who are physically, emotionally, or spiritually  
Hungry and malnourished  
We need to sacrifice our own needs  
So that we both may live better lives  
It is bad to be a slave to work  
But it is worse to be a slave to your belly  
This is the problem  
With solutions to problems  
That are only economic  
This is why communism and capitalism  
Both fail at improving lives  
Like treating medical problems  
Without awareness of the patients minds  
Does not guarantee good health  
It does not matter how much money  
You have or how protected you are  
If you cannot make the lives  
Of anyone else better  
Than how can you call yourself human?  
Even animals help other animals in need  
Even plants provide for life  
Giving of themselves  
And returning the resources back  
When they part with life  
The point of a business is to make money  
At least theoretically  
And a corporation only has a responsibility  
To its shareholders  
There is nothing to be gained  
By society as a whole  
Even if the business advances technology  
Or extends our lives  
Because it is doing it at the cost  
Of other people and animal's welfare  
To live happy and fulfilling lives  
We do not need cell phones  
Or computer games  
Having a more powerful military  
Does not guarantee we will win wars

Having the best education system  
Does not mean there will be no crime  
Immunizing people against diseases  
Does not guarantee a long life  
Man does not live on bread alone

## Conscience

Some people say we need  
Objective standards to live by  
So that we can all agree  
On what is right and wrong  
We make all these turns of logic  
And people are then  
Afraid to make choices  
Or more likely turned off by  
Ethics in particular  
Or philosophy in general  
We do not need to understand  
The phenomenology of Hegel  
To know what is right  
Is it surprising that basic laws  
Are similar across belief systems  
And that people still find  
The Bible is relevant to them?  
Is it a wonder that atheists  
Are much more likely  
To be afraid of death?  
There are absolutes  
And this does not mean  
That we can be objective  
But rather that the Creator  
Of the multi-verses  
Actually exists  
That we are responsible  
For our own actions  
Whether or not we claim  
We didn't understand  
Do businessmen really  
Believe if being honest  
That killing off an entire species  
Or leveling an entire forest  
Or experimenting on animals  
Or wiping out an entire civilization  
Is not wrong?  
People lie and rationalize  
God doesn't

## Logic and Religion

Why do we need rules?  
Why can we just live  
By doing what helps ourselves?  
How do we define  
What helps ourselves?  
Is there no such thing as generosity?  
Do we think that all our desires  
Could be satisfied on our own?  
Could we have a society  
Where everyone did whatever  
Gained him the most  
And ignored the spiritual dimension?  
Spiritual forces are at play  
And are involved in every thought  
And action we make  
Denying that there is a God  
Does not make it so  
And getting rid of religion  
Because some people abused it  
Does not solve the real problem  
The real problem is that  
When we seek to satisfy  
Our own desires  
And do not keep our focus on God  
And on those in need  
Our desires escalate  
First, we are fed with bread  
Then, all we want is cake  
Then all we want to have is a job  
Then all we want is to be middle class  
Then all we want is a car  
Then all we want is a house  
Then all we want is a wife  
Then all we want is a family  
But seeking all these  
For the benefit of just yourself  
Adds up to a very sad world  
That no one would want to live in  
Do you ever wonder what  
Car companies would do  
If wheel technology was patented?  
How would we communicate  
If the English language was copyrighted?  
What if libraries were illegal?

How could people afford to do research?  
What if we didn't have free education?  
What if there were no scholarships?  
The point is that even the universe  
Did not come out of a vacuum  
We are all interrelated to each other  
And we all have had help  
No one is a self made man  
Businesses get more government money  
Than those on welfare  
We need to see to our whole  
Community and its welfare  
If we are to live in peace with each other

### **On Marx and Engels**

Communism has failed  
And yet it has never actually been tried  
We associate freedom  
With domination by monopolies  
And morality with corruption  
The whole world is oriented  
Around how to make a few people  
Even richer than they are now  
The only developments we see  
Are first applied to warfare  
Or they receive no funds  
We want to minimize our losses  
But if they are not Americans  
We don't care how many suffer  
Even those who are our allies  
Unless they are white  
We are only limited in  
The deployment of violence  
By our fear of retaliation  
But that is not great  
In a world we dominate  
In every sense of the word  
We can afford to launch  
Preventative wars against countries  
Who are driven by morality  
Just because we have no values  
We think freedom is about money  
And the only sin is enjoying sex  
We think that people's behavior  
In their bedrooms  
Is more important than what

Others do in boardrooms  
We think we are so different  
Than our greatest enemies  
But we really see life the same way  
They only hate us because we are rich  
And we only persecute them  
Because we use different vocabulary  
Giving money to those in need  
Is considered corruption  
And our only values  
Are about saving money  
Because their may be inefficiency  
In the government running welfare  
We get rid of it entirely  
There is less and less of a middle class  
And people only think they are  
Because they keep changing  
The meaning of the word  
We are continuing to get poorer  
More in spirit than money  
But we keep on voting  
For those who created our problems  
The word liberal is so vilified  
That the average American  
Thinks the poor should be punished  
We keep on taxing alcohol and tobacco  
With no restraint  
And no one speaks out for the poor  
But even our poor  
Are rich by the world's standards  
But no one considers Africa  
Or anywhere there isn't oil  
We only treat those in the  
Middle East as people  
To the extent that we  
Are addicted to oil  
We know we are running out  
But it is considered un-American  
To use alternatives or to conserve  
American values consumerism  
Most our economy is based on spending  
The only thing our government  
Asks of us is to get ourselves into debt  
For things we don't need  
Or even care much about  
The ideas of Marx and Engels

Are very much alive  
Their solution would never work  
But their statement of the problem  
Is as relevant today as when  
They first wrote it  
The difference is that the proletariat  
Is in the Third World  
But anyone who isn't white  
We really have no time for

### **Marxism is Defeated**

We have long since defeated  
What we call communism  
And yet we still think it alive  
And fear it alone  
Basically we equate any idea  
Of justice or peace  
As a ruse to a dictatorship  
The only people we trust  
Are the cowards that send  
Our children to war  
And spend their time in office  
Finding ways to make themselves richer  
With no thought as to the consequences  
We think that war means peace  
And that evil is good  
We claim to be a Christian nation  
And yet our values  
Are whatever makes the most money  
We don't care if the corporations  
Control the government  
We call this democracy  
And claim that is what we fight for  
But the only people that win  
Are those supplying the weapons  
Our heads of state are capitalists  
And the only thing that motivates them  
Is the interests of those with  
The most money  
Because they never spend any of it  
But on charities that get them more money  
They are considered good and moral  
We think that every rich man  
Got his wealth by his work alone  
And the only way God blesses us  
Is by making us materially rich

Christ would be a liberal  
And that makes Christians mad  
Because that means they are in the wrong  
They are too busy persecuting  
Those who look Middle Eastern to them  
Than to think about compassion or humility  
They see Christ as a conqueror  
Basically Rome is their God  
They only pray to God  
Because they think that will help them  
Win more wars  
Like a superstition they pick and choose  
Obscure references and equate them  
With invented meanings  
They are right on every detail  
Of every subtlety of cultural meaning  
And yet miss the main ideas

### 3.3.2 Greed is Bad

#### The Prophets on Greed

How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them. Therefore saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies: And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

61

All ye beasts of the field, come to devour, yea, all ye beasts in the forest. His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.

62

Therefore I am full of the fury of the Lord; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with him that is full of days. And their houses shall be turned unto others, with their fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the Lord. For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

63

Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return. I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his

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61Isaiah 1:21-25

62Isaiah 56:9-12

63Jeremiah 6:11-13

wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle. Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord. How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the Lord is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he it; the pen of the scribes is in vain. The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them? Therefore will I give their wives unto others, and their fields to them that shall inherit them: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush:

64

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

65

Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work; That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and it is cieled with cedar, and painted with vermilion. Shalt thou reign, because thou closest thyself in cedar? did not thy father eat and drink, and do judgment and justice, and then it was well with him? He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him: was not this to know me? saith the Lord. But thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it.

66

Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the Lord hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon. O thou that dwellest upon many waters, abundant in treasures, thine end is come, and the measure of thy covetousness.

67

In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord God. Behold, therefore I have smitten mine hand at thy dishonest gain which thou hast made, and at thy blood which hath been in the midst of thee. Can thine heart endure, or can thine hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with thee? I the Lord have spoken it, and will do it. And I will scatter thee among the heathen, and disperse thee in the countries, and will consume thy filthiness out of thee.

68

And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.

69

Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand. And they covet fields, and take them by violence;

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64Jeremiah 8:5-12

65Jeremiah 17:9-11

66Jeremiah 22:13-17

67Jeremiah 51:12-13

68Ezekiel 22:12-15

69Ezekiel 33:31-33

and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.

70

Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity. They build up Zion with blood, and Jerusalem with iniquity. The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the Lord, and say, Is not the Lord among us? none evil can come upon us. Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

71

The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. That they may do evil with both hands earnestly, the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up. The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

72

Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:

73

### **New Testament on Greed**

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

74

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

75

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

76

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

77

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false

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70Micah 2:1-2

71Micah 3:9-12

72Micah 7:2-4

73Habakkuk 2:5

74Matthew 6:19-21

75Matthew 6:24

76Matthew 13:22

77Matthew 16:24-26

witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

78

Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? They say unto him, Ceasar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Ceasar the things which are Ceasar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

79

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

80

That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

81

And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

82

When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.

83

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

84

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78Matthew 19:16-24

79Matthew 22:17-21

80Mark 4:18-19

81Mark 7:20-23

82Luke 12:13-21

83Luke 14:12-14

84John 6:26-27

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

85

But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

86

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

87

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him

88

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

89

For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

90

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

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85Romans 1:28-32

861 Corinthians 5:11

87Ephesians 5:1-5

88Colossians 3:1-10

89Philippians 3:17-19

901 Thessalonians 2:3-6

91

He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

92

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

93

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

94

From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

95

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

96

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

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911 Timothy 3:2-5

921 Timothy 6:4-11

932 Timothy 3:1-8

94 Hebrews 13:5

95 James 4:1-10

962 Peter 2:1-3

## 3.4 Fashion and Consumerism

### 3.4.1 Computers as Fashion

#### Computers by Generation

Computers are more than products  
We use for their utility  
Computers are a method  
Of showing where you fit  
In society as a whole  
People like to flock  
To certain technologies  
According to their generation  
My parents' generation  
And older  
Do not like computers at all  
My generation uses computers  
For research primarily  
The next generation is interested  
In virtual communities  
And the sharing of their  
Digital creations  
My generation still reads books  
To get information  
But read the Internet  
For current news  
My parents generation  
Still watches TV  
Their parents read the newspaper  
My generation plays  
Computer games to socialize  
And stay current  
Computer have affected  
All areas of life  
But culture has been influenced  
To the highest degree  
Websites are becoming mainstream  
For every kind of business  
And people just assume  
Everyone has email  
Internet chat is mainstream  
And so is interactivity

Web pages both visually  
With animation and motion  
And the ability to customize  
And take ownership  
In the web sites they frequent  
Some do this simply with comments  
While most major companies  
Host blogs for employees  
The campaigning for elections  
Is focused on the Internet  
More and more  
Anyone can be a journalist now  
Without any official office  
And the independents  
Publish more accurate information  
Everything is going the route  
Of paid for by advertisements  
Some entire movies are an ad  
And many times it is hard to tell  
How much of the story  
Is based around advertisements

### **Mobility and Cell Phones**

Everyone now has a cell phone  
Parents even buy ones  
For small children  
People send messages  
And get email on tiny screens  
They even view the web  
In a screen of only  
A few inches wide  
Kids spend most their time  
Sending text messages  
To their friends  
They have invented a  
Whole new language  
An abbreviated English  
People usually spend  
More money on their cell phones  
Than on their computers  
There are even games  
For these tiny screens  
The next generation  
Is not content to wait  
Until they get home  
To work on their computers

They want to be in touch  
At any time of the day  
No matter what they are doing  
It is common for people  
To use cell phones  
While driving in cars  
They even take cell phone  
On family vacations  
And use them as babysitters

### **Musical Addictions**

People now buy computers  
Just for music  
They spend as much  
On their computer  
As on their iPods  
These devices hold  
Tens of thousand of songs  
They hold so many songs  
That they can be listened to  
For years without hearing  
Any song twice  
Kids can't imagine  
What they would do  
Without access to music  
Even while at school  
Or adults while  
They are at work  
People are now buying  
All their music online  
They no longer  
Buy entire albums  
Or even put them  
On audio CDs  
They float around  
On the Internet for free  
But you can be  
Sent to prison or fined  
Big money for stealing  
People even want to exercise  
While listening to music  
They expect to be able to  
Run down the street  
Without being able to  
Hear cars coming

## 3.4.2 Psychology of Fashion

### Originality and Conformity

Our ticket to success  
Is by how well we fit in  
No one likes an  
Independent thinker  
Or someone who is creative  
In what clothing they wear  
People will pay more  
For someone's name  
On their clothing  
We wear the brand names  
As a symbol of pride  
To get a famous athlete  
Or clothing they wear  
With their name on it  
Is much better than  
The same shirt with  
No brand name written on it  
Our conformity to fashion  
Is a way to appear  
More wealthy than others  
We live in trashy  
Homes or apartments  
But won't be caught dead  
With a knock off  
Shoes are more expensive  
Than an entire outfit  
It does not matter  
Anymore what you can do  
But rather how you look  
Women spend big money  
To paint their faces  
And color their hair  
You would think they  
Looked like zombies  
Without all this makeup  
Even models wear  
Big money on their faces  
Jewelry is considered better  
If the stones are flawed  
Lives are destroyed  
So that fiances  
Can all have real diamonds

When you could produce  
A more perfect one in a lab

### **Independence and Conformity**

The younger generation  
Always wants to stand out  
And express their individuality  
But they express this  
All in the same way  
Kids paint their finger nails  
Black and die their hair  
Bright artificial colors and even  
Put holes in their bodies  
And ink on their skin  
All so they can show  
Their parents that they stand out  
They crave independence  
From their elders  
But give in to peer pressure  
They will do anything to  
Prove their parents wrong  
But at the cost of real freedom  
There is always a new drug  
That seems to offer a perfect high  
But then kids get killed  
Or addicted and their minds destroyed  
Escaping reality is so important  
That they rather die many years sooner  
Than live a healthy life  
Young women smoke cigarettes  
To lose weight when they would lose  
Just as much by walking only a mile

### **Perfect Man - Perfect Wedding**

Every women is indoctrinated  
From as early as childhood  
That they are a princess  
And they will marry a prince  
They plan their weddings  
Before they go on their first date  
Women are so obsessed  
With the popularity and status  
Of who they date  
That they end up with someone  
Who only want to watch football  
And has no time for them

They look for the fixer upper  
And the guy who acts cool  
Over the sweet one  
Who would really be dedicated  
My generation has given up  
On even the idea of marriage  
It is this idea that  
Just because I have never met  
A man worth marrying  
There must be no good men  
The way to find a spouse  
Is to keep high standards  
On being willing to be alone  
Rather than enter a failed marriage  
To find the perfect date  
Be the perfect date  
Don't be obsessed with impressing  
Each other but be genuinely kind  
Really think about the other person  
And try to make their lives better  
Give of yourself and give it time  
You will not be disappointed

### **3.4.3 Society and Fashion**

#### **Competition**

In a capitalist society  
We are all rich  
When we live in the  
Colonial power's homeland  
The old rich  
And the new rich  
Love to try to outdo each other  
But the same struggle work its way  
Down to every class  
Kids have their own status symbols  
Women have different one's than men  
Men compete by speaking the  
Common language of American football  
And women compete  
In shopping and clothing  
Kids are like little versions  
Of their parents  
The rich girls like the jocks  
No one really outgrows high school

People don't mature much  
Past when they come of age  
Men live their struggles  
Through loyalty to different teams  
And women try to outdo each other  
In whatever the stars are wearing  
If we spent our money  
On those in need  
Rather than on luxuries  
The money would be used  
Much more efficiently

## **Hollywood**

Hollywood is corporate culture  
They are our idols  
And they are our symbols  
They are known worldwide  
People love to complain  
About how rich they are  
But we keep wanting  
To see them in movies  
And to hear about them  
In the media  
They push the limits  
On sexuality and violence  
A real fantasy world  
Invented by the corporations  
To sell more products  
They are not any different  
Than us except for the cash  
The young people  
Get their lives destroyed  
By drug addiction  
And party away their youth  
They want to be mothers  
But they don't let their kids  
See their movies  
The men get older and older  
And the women like them  
More and more  
But the women are thrown  
Out at middle age  
Maybe if we had movies  
With actual stories  
They wouldn't need the women  
To be so young

### 3.4.4 Affections

#### From Psalms

Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust. O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee; But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight. Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take up their names into my lips. The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage. I will bless the Lord, who hath given me counsel: my reins also instruct me in the night seasons. I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

98

The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

99

Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth. I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers. I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked. I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O Lord: That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works. Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth. Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men: In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes. But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me. My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the Lord.

100

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.

101

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

102

O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee. Let not them that wait on

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98Psalm 16

99Psalm 19:8-14

100Psalm 26

101Psalm 27:4

102Psalm 42:1-5

thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel. Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face. I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children. For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me. When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach. I made sackcloth also my garment; and I became a proverb to them.

103

For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image. Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins. So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee. Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

104

Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

105

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

106

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

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103Psalm 69:5-11

104Psalm 73:2-28

105Psalm 84:5-12

106Psalm 91:14-16

107

Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me. My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times. Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments. Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies. Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.

108

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

109

Righteous art thou, O Lord, and upright are thy judgments. Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful. My zeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy words. Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it. I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts. Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth. Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights. The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

110

## Other Verses

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

111

Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house,

112

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

113

The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

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107Psalm 119:9-16

108Psalm 119:17-24

109Psalm 119:97-104

110Psalm 119:137-144

111Deuteronomy 6:5

1121 Chronicles 29:3

113Matthew 10:38-42

114

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

115

Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all. For if I have boasted any thing to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spake all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which I made before Titus, is found a truth. And his inward affection is more abundant toward you, whilst he remembereth the obedience of you all, how with fear and trembling ye received him. I rejoyce therefore that I have confidence in you in all things.

116

And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth? They zealously affect you, but not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.

117

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

118

For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

119

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114Mark 12:19-31

115Romans 12:10

1162 Cointhians 7:13-16

117Galatians 4:14-18

118Colossians 3:1-4

1191 Thessalonian 2:3-11

## **Chapter 4**

# **Unexpected**

by Ben Huot

## 4.1 First Things

### 4.1.1 Logo

I should explain what the logo is meant to be representing. The guy is a pen, which is me, which comes from my first poem in Philosophy Core, called Creative Process, where I refer to myself as doing Tai Chi, with my pen being my body. The idea is based on "the pen is mightier than the sword" so I created "the Bible is mightier than the pen".

The Bible is shooting out flames because in Ephesians it talks about spiritual warfare and the Bible is the only armament that is offensive. (It means offensive instead of defensive. These are common terms used in combat. The sword is the only spiritual weapon. All the other armaments expressed in Ephesians are protective and defensive in nature like a shield, a helmet, a breastplate, etc.) The flames are meant as in James when it talks about being purified by fire or struggles with temptation in our lives. Isaiah also was purified by a live coal to his lips by a Seraphim. So the usage of fire is not evil or anything violent. Think of it as purifying.

I would ideally like it to show the sword turned inward to his chest, symbolizing like in many fantasy books that when they defeat the great evil force in the world, they are left with the greatest task, which is to defeat the evil within. The Bible is said to be a 2 sided sword, with the ability to cut between bone and marrow, and show the truth. Christ's tongue is said to be a 2 edged sword in Revelations, to defeat the Devil with. The reason I didn't show this is it looks like he is committing suicide.

The spiritual warfare is not against people, ideas, or even spirits. It is about fighting for the purity of our own minds. It is an internal thing. Like the Native American proverb "my greatest enemy is myself." This purity is in regard to our own sins and does not refer to purity in any other sense. But this is a process, not an outcome, as it is not possible for us to live without sin.

This warfare is only spiritual in the sense that it is not militant, social, economic, or political. This is for my own moral and ethical development and consists of practical qualities I try, with Christ's help, to cultivate like humility, compassion, kindness, and seriousness and do not correspond to anything supernatural.

### 4.1.2 Other Books

My text books and picture books contain most of my work over the past 10 years. These include my reading of some 235 books containing the philosophical and religious thinking of the world's cultures for several thousand years and the application of the main themes of some of the major Old Testament Prophets and major works of the New Testament.

The main point of this work is to get people to stop living their lives with their minds, but instead follow their hearts. I bring a radically different combination of viewpoints that you have not heard of before. I am not asking people to follow what I have written, but rather let the words stir up some sort of emotional response in your heart.

I challenge my readers to come up with their own unique ideas and that can lead the world in a new direction. We need a much broader diversity of ideas in our culture to deal with the problems we are facing in America and throughout the rest of the world.

### 4.1.3 For More Information

For more books and information, visit me on the web at <http://benjamin-newton.com/>

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at <mailto:ben@benjamin-newton.com> I even enjoy constructive criticism

### 4.1.4 Cover Graphic

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## 4.1.6 The Unexpected

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

120

*The Free Thinking Christian Series* was the introduction to my philosophy and theology and my next 2 books, *Justice and Hope* and *Total Person and Society* are my forays into social science about the problems America and Europe have caused in the rest of the world. *Unexpected* is a look at some of the positive things about America that have occurred unexpectedly. It is based on the idea that for Americans to improve the rest of the world, they have to have something positive to draw from as it is not motivating to be constantly berated for what your ancestors and people in power you did not vote for have done. This book is not a retraction from what I have written earlier, but a different perspective on similar situations. It is based on Genesis, Deuteronomy, Job, the Gospels, Acts and Romans.

## 4.2 Questions

### 4.2.1 How Can I?

#### Negativity

How can I be happy  
When so many suffer?  
How can I be content  
When so many  
Don't have enough to eat?  
How can I be optimistic  
When the world is heading  
In such a dangerous direction?

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1201 Corinthians 13:9-12

There is so much material  
To draw from about  
Bad things going on  
There is so little  
To get inspired about  
I believe in Heaven  
And that God will  
Make things right in the end  
I believe God is at work  
And constantly intervenes  
To make things better  
We live in a world  
Where we hear no positive news  
Although we have been  
On the edge of a holocaust  
For over 50 years  
God has held that back  
We keep on hearing about  
The problems we cause  
For the rest of the world  
It seems bourgeois  
To have a good time  
When we know our wealth  
Comes at the expense  
Of others lives

### **Only One Man**

How can we have peace  
When we are so depressed?  
How can we be motivated  
To make a difference  
When there is no time  
To enjoy life?  
If we can't have peace  
That we have done  
All that we can  
Then how can we keep  
Trying to make the world better?  
If we blame ourselves  
For all the world's problems  
How are we going to  
Have the energy to  
Make the needed changes?  
What is a white man to do?  
Where is the place for us?  
People that look like me

Have caused immense suffering  
And are more wealthy  
Than millions of others combined  
I am sorry for what  
The white man has done  
But I am doing all that I can  
To undo these things  
I do not have the resources  
Or the money and influence  
To change these things  
I am mentally ill  
And this takes a lot out of me  
I put most of my time  
Into finding ways to  
Reduce suffering  
But I am only one man  
And I have little control  
Even over my own mind

### **Surprises**

Most people look forward  
To a warm sunny day  
But I enjoy the rain  
And the clouds  
The heat is unbearable  
And there is no relief  
It stays hot now  
For half the year  
I always get excited  
About the fall season  
Finally activities start again  
And the year starts anew  
The weather turns cool  
And we have darker skies  
I even like the rain  
The coolness is refreshing  
And there is more magic  
In the cloudy skies  
Than in the heat of summer  
I look forward to Wednesdays  
Because that is when  
I get my spending money  
Most people look forward  
To the weekends  
But the buses only come  
Once every hour or less

On the weekends  
And it is hard to  
Get out anywhere  
I think complex things  
Unfold in unexpected ways  
People were so afraid of  
A nuclear holocaust  
That there were many years  
Of no world wars  
We have an economy  
Based on greed  
And yet the altruist experiment  
Communism was more repressive  
No one thought people  
Would use computers or the Internet  
Outside of science and business  
And now everything is available  
On the world wide web  
No body thought we would  
Still be using cars  
Or that we wouldn't be  
On Mars by now  
Or that Apple would  
Outsell IBM  
After it shrunk to  
2% market-share  
Or that an idea  
Without an organization  
Or a company behind it  
That gave away  
The software for free  
Could be a challenge  
To the largest software corporation  
In these ways  
What we fear today  
Or what we nearly  
Fail to see the importance of  
May be our hope for tomorrow  
Because everything is more complex  
Than we fully realize

## 4.2.2 What If?

What if the Chinese didn't close down their fleet of ships after Zheng He's expeditions in the Ming Dynasty (about 1433 AD) ?

The Chinese had the largest wooden ships ever built and more than any European power at that time - and may have sailed as far as the New World, but they could not afford to anymore with other projects and wars related to

conflicts with Mongolia, as they didn't sail in order to make money.

### **Buddhists Missionaries**

Coming off ships  
Brimming with canons  
Loaded with gold  
And human slaves  
Along the Swahili coast  
We have a new religion  
Coming to Africa  
From the Chinese  
Buddhism is spreading  
Westward into the jungles  
Of central Africa  
Buddhism wasn't very popular  
At first until we were  
Allowed to keep  
Our old religions  
We said we were happy  
With our own gods  
And didn't need theirs  
But they told us  
If we didn't follow them  
We would come back again  
As a monkey  
Or end up this life  
In a crate headed for China  
To work the rice fields  
We were told how compassionate  
This guy called Buddha was  
We asked why they didn't  
Feed the hungry locals  
They said we had to give up  
Everything and be a monk  
Most of us signed up  
As we had nothing  
Until we found out  
We had to beg for food  
Buddhism didn't sound like  
Much of an improvement  
Buddhism sounded like  
A religion for the wealthy  
The Chinese government  
Said they were just here  
For trade and to make us  
More civilized

We thought that meant  
We would get rich  
But it seemed the longer  
The Chinese were here  
The poorer we became  
The continued to make  
Improvements in infrastructure  
So the Buddhists could  
Spread their religion  
We have trains all over Africa  
They get our natural resources  
On ships headed to China  
Faster that way  
We found out that most  
Of the officials weren't Buddhists  
And that Buddhism wasn't  
Really Chinese anyway  
We were told that Buddhists  
Were pacifists  
Although we saw many  
Chinese soldiers who were Buddhist

### **European Backwaters**

No one cares about Europe  
Why would they?  
They are few in number  
And they don't have any money  
The Buddhists were active here  
But the Christians outlawed them  
As heretics and put them in prison  
They were not a European religion  
There are no empires in Europe  
And the countries are all really small  
The whole land mass  
Is smaller than China  
They don't have anything of worth  
To trade or to sell  
They don't make good slaves  
They look like ghosts  
They are the color of death  
And they are dressed in rags  
They don't have any navies of any size  
We could conquer them easily  
But they have nothing worth taking  
They believe in one God  
And most can't read

They have no common language  
We still are not sure  
Whether to classify them  
As humans or not  
They have no culture like ours  
The few people who can read  
Spend most of their days praying  
They are obsessed with their classics  
Some stuff written down  
1,000-2,000 years ago  
By a small empire called Rome  
And an even smaller one called Greece

What if we found another world that worshipped Jesus and was much more technologically advanced than us?

### **Christian World**

People from another world  
Who look a lot like us  
And can speak our languages  
Appear in a museum  
Of ancient artifacts  
They tell us about their God  
And His name is Jesus Christ  
And they came to our world  
As missionaries because  
Their world is all Christian  
They have been traveling  
From world to world  
For hundreds of years  
To spread the Gospel  
Through inventions of  
Their own designs  
They live in a world  
That is a thousand years  
More advanced than ours  
They can also travel  
Through time and space  
They have never seen  
A world as corrupt  
And as evil as ours  
That hasn't destroyed itself  
They live communally  
And they have no crime  
Their society has lasted  
For thousands of years  
Without conflicts  
They want to help us

But they say the problem  
Is not that we haven't  
Advanced in technology enough  
But that we need to  
Improve ourselves morally  
They have no environmental problems  
And have never had any in their history  
They treat animals as equals  
And eat entirely vegetarian  
They have hundreds of billions of people  
On their world  
And they are self-sufficient energy wise  
Even though they their technology  
Uses a lot of energy  
Because they limit their use

What if Jesus came today?

### **Contemporary Jesus**

If Jesus came today  
He would be homeless  
And hang out with  
Strippers and escorts  
He would be at the clubs  
And at the political rallies  
With anarchists and goths  
He would be the son  
Of a computer programmer  
Who worked in a small business  
Based on open source  
His mother would be  
An artist or designer  
He would listen to reggae  
And be vegetarian  
He would live in a  
Community house  
With all possessions  
Held in common  
He would hand out flyers  
For environmental causes  
He would hang out  
At poetry readings  
And at Internet cafes  
He would be a member  
Of His local  
Linux Users Group  
And would use only

Open Source software  
He would have served in Iraq  
And in the Peace Corps  
He would have  
Started a new religion  
And criticized the political elite  
He would start a reform  
Of the religious wrong  
He would be a liberal  
And speak out against  
The conservative powers  
People would follow Him  
But not be able to explain why  
The news would not film Him  
And people would  
Make fun of His followers  
Pastors would say that  
He was a heretic  
They would ban Him  
From church on Sunday  
And the police would  
Call Him an agitator  
Bush would call Him  
A terrorist leader  
And He would be  
Imprisoned without trial  
He would be interrogated  
And released to a mental hospital  
He would form His own band  
And He would have a blog  
Where He would write poetry  
With millions of monthly visitors

What if stuffed toys ran the world?

### **Toy Society**

Children are prized above all  
They are the friends  
Of the powerful elite  
The president's dump truck  
Is pushed by a toddler  
And the famous actors  
Sign the diapers of their fans  
The toy entrepreneurs  
Load up the toy boxes  
In their factories  
And the children

Drive around the boxes  
In battery operated  
And joystick controlled  
All terrain vehicles  
The children go to play  
At the toy research centers  
To see what toys  
Are the most popular  
And for quality control  
They are played with  
Under supervision  
Of the toy managers  
To make sure they  
Are safe for play  
Day care for the toys  
Is provided by toddlers  
And teams of seamstresses  
Are trained to be  
The top surgeons  
Of the toy leaders  
Each toy is treasured  
For its entire life  
The toy gets a new  
Assigned kid to look after  
When the previous kid  
Begins to grow up  
No toys are ever given  
To animals to martyr  
There is always  
A loving home  
For every toy  
They will always be warm  
And kept clean and dry  
There are always activities  
To keep the toys busy  
They have a great Christmas party  
Where they meet new kids  
And a holiday parade  
Where all the toy stars  
Are dressed up and honored  
There are award ceremonies  
For the kid's favorite  
Toys of the year  
When the kids grow up  
They are used as heaters  
What if farm animals ran the world?

## **Farm Society**

The cows roam free  
All over the midwest  
Milk, cheese, and ice cream  
Are free for every child  
No animals are in prison  
And they all have  
Their own barns  
With heated blankets  
And human employees  
To clean away the cow pies  
Half the nation's wealth  
Is in grain, crackers, and alfalfa  
The currency is sugar  
And no one eats meat  
The pigs are the police  
And everyone caught  
Eating an animal's flesh  
Is sent across the border  
The sheep clear the  
Wildflowers and weeds  
So the human workers  
Can plant the corn and wheat  
For their cow leaders  
All the extra paper  
From all the books  
Not recorded in farm animal  
Languages are recycled  
With the help of the goats  
There is plenty of power  
To run the mills  
From all the cow pies  
Cows are assigned  
To each residential block  
To keep the grass cut  
There is no more  
Need for cars  
Nothing too small  
To carry a cow  
Is licensed to drive  
There are new uses  
For all the SUVs  
They are all powered  
By sugar cane  
Left over from cow deserts

## **4.3 High School**

### **4.3.1 Model United Nations**

Conferences galore  
Each school represents  
A different country  
Committees for human rights  
Economic development  
And the containment  
Of nuclear weapons  
A year of research  
Comes down to a couple days  
Of role playing  
We overtook the campus  
Of the college we met at  
And all the conference rooms  
Were booked for us  
We wrote resolutions  
Mostly serious  
And they were kept  
In effect for several years  
We created books about  
The countries we represented  
We got off a few days  
From our regular classes  
Even the smallest island nations  
Were represented  
And there was great competition  
For permanent members  
Of the security council  
One year I lead a committee  
And I was president  
Of our school club  
We had a class devoted to  
Preparation for the conference

### **4.3.2 Speech Team**

A different speech  
For every competition  
A class to prepare  
Quizzes on newspapers  
Every week  
I did as wide a variety  
Of speeches as possible

I bombed at debate  
And my persuasive speech  
Didn't score high  
I was embarrassed  
With my impromptu speeches  
I finally switched to  
Interpretive readings  
And enjoyed that much more  
I didn't practice enough  
To win any awards  
But I enjoyed going  
To different colleges  
In the state  
And seeing their campuses  
And seeing people  
From all over the state  
We got to miss school  
Stay in hotels, eat out  
And go shopping

### **4.3.3 Political Action Committee**

I started my own political club  
After attending a Ross Perot  
Local meeting group  
I got to shake his hand  
At a gathering in town  
The club became non-partisan  
Although they were  
Mostly conservatives  
I did most of the work  
I made deserts to attract people  
To the meetings  
Which were during a school break  
We went on a field trip  
To Portland to hear  
A former Major of New York  
And a former US Secretary of Labor  
My advisor was the health teacher  
He was retiring soon  
So he wasn't afraid of  
Getting in trouble  
With the administration  
We sponsored a candidate  
For school elections  
And I kept detailed newsletters

About everything we had done

### **4.3.4 Cross Country**

I started running  
Because my dad told me  
I had to do a sport  
And this was the only sport  
That they didn't cut  
People off of the team  
I started out barely  
Able to run 3 miles  
And was able to easily  
Run 10 miles after  
I graduated from high school  
I remember going all over  
The state for competitions  
We ran along the beach  
We ran in a marsh  
We ran through forests  
We ran in a reservoir  
We ran at parks and at schools  
We ran 3k and 5ks  
We ran on the sidewalk  
We ran around the track  
We ran on bark  
We ran 400 m laps  
We ran 1 mile laps  
We ran up hill  
We did push-ups  
We did sit-ups  
We ran in the rain  
And in the snow  
I eventually began to like it

### **4.3.5 Cheerleading**

My sophomore year  
They were holding tryouts  
In the spring season  
And they were recruiting men  
I tried out because I wanted  
To try another sport  
And I didn't know how hard it was  
Once I starting trying to  
Learn the dances and cheers  
I figured I had no chance

But to my surprise  
No other guy signed up  
And they kept me  
I was Spirit Man  
And I was even on  
The varsity team  
The practices were 3 hours  
Every day of the week  
I had to buy a uniform  
They soon realized I  
Couldn't do the dances  
So they let me off easy  
We cheered at all the games  
Both football and basketball  
Our team went to state that year  
And the crowds liked having me  
I was invited back the next year  
But I focused on running  
And getting in shape  
For the Army

## **4.4 Improvements**

### **4.4.1 Computers**

#### **Painter**

Most people paint on canvas  
Instead of on the computer  
But for many like myself  
We cannot tolerate  
Being around turpentine  
Or other harsh chemicals  
And so we would never be  
Able to do oil painting  
If there were not a program  
That helped in this feat  
Painter not only allows  
A person to paint  
In many different styles  
But it also has  
Hundreds of brushes  
The pigments interact  
With each other naturally  
You can use a digital pen  
To draw with

And you can even  
Turn photos into  
Painting with natural  
Looking strokes  
There is no other program  
That is like it

## **LaTeX**

LaTeX is based on the idea  
Of structured documents  
Document structure is an  
Abstract concept  
That people are familiar with  
Although not with the name  
How do you know  
When a chapter begins  
Or what is an index?  
There is no set form  
For any of these  
Structural elements  
You know in part  
What it is based on intuition  
The other aspect of  
Understanding structure  
Is consistent style  
While there may be  
Limitless variety in how  
New chapters are marked  
Or how we display an index  
We can recognize it in part  
Due to consistent design  
Of every individual  
Occurrence of each element  
LaTeX allows you to  
Mark where a chapter begins  
Or what the title is  
And it does the actual layout  
For you by itself  
You can modify any aspect  
But no matter what style you use  
Each chapter will look the same  
You can easily transform  
The document into  
Many different uses  
Like e-books, web pages,  
And for printing on the press

## **Print on Demand**

Print on demand  
Is a very recent advance  
In printing technology  
That has revolutionized  
How books are produced  
Before print on demand  
When you wanted to  
Publish a book  
Or put your logo  
On a t-shirt or mug  
You had to specify the  
Quantity before it was printed  
As it would cost too much  
To print out individually  
In fact, your price went  
Down per item  
The more you ordered  
And then you had to  
Have somewhere to store  
The finished products  
Print on demand is  
Entirely different  
Each book is printed  
Or your logo stamped  
Onto a t-shirt  
One at a time  
And there is no  
Minimum order or  
Any fees for warehousing  
And as a side effect  
You get to keep  
Your copyright  
Even after being published

## **Social Networking**

Social networking  
Allows different people  
To form communities  
On the Internet  
And share their creations  
Or their ideas  
With each other  
In a common environment  
With ground rules

And most are supported  
Entirely by ads  
Basically, the advantage  
To the host is that  
They get free content  
And the advantage to  
The individual poster  
Is their content is  
Hosted for free  
These communities  
Are a collection of web pages  
That are easily designable  
Because they are based  
On common templates  
That are customizable  
So they work the same  
And the content producers  
Don't have to design from scratch  
There are social networks  
For kids, college students,  
Authors, book lists, music, videos  
And even bookmarks  
They are also great ways  
To advertise products  
And meet new people  
Or keep in touch with friends

## 4.4.2 Ralph Nader

### Vision

I was discouraged  
For a long time  
About working through the system  
To affect the  
Betterment of humanity  
So little had been done  
Through law and science  
That I had believed  
That the only route  
For substantial change  
And the method for  
Making a dent in  
Human and animal suffering  
Was by God's direct intervention  
That science was

Part of the problem  
And the legal system  
Was corrupt beyond repair  
But then I saw a movie  
About a man I voted for  
And admired him  
For the party he ran under  
I was blown away by all  
This one man has affected  
And how many others  
Were affected by his vision  
Part one man crusader  
But with an army  
Of foot soldier activists  
He got passed almost  
Every consumer safety,  
Environmental and humanitarian  
Law that has helped curb  
The tide against the  
Excesses of corporate America

### **Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

Thank God for Nader  
We have a safer workplace  
Because of him  
We have protection  
From being caught in machinery  
There are limits on  
What concentration of toxic chemicals  
We are exposed to  
We have protective equipment  
Like goggles, face shields, and ear plugs  
Power is cut off  
Before making adjustments or repairs  
To moving machinery  
When working in enclosed areas  
Like tanks, manholes, pits, and bins  
There is enough air  
And workers are checked on  
Now we know what chemicals  
And what infectious diseases  
We are being exposed to  
Miners are protected  
From cave ins  
Clean up of accidental releases  
Of chemicals that are

Toxic, reactive or flammable  
Are managed safely  
He helped prevent  
Repetitive stress injuries  
He brought justice  
For those who died  
Because of manager negligence  
All this happened  
Because of him

### **Consumer Product Safety Commission**

Alcohol, tobacco, and firearms  
Automobiles, and food and drugs  
Are regulated by the government  
But what about everything else?  
That is what the  
Consumer Product Safety Commission does  
Thank God for Ralph Nader  
Its mission is to protect  
Against unreasonable risk of injury  
Its weapons are developing standards  
Banning unsafe products  
Recalling products already purchased  
Researching possible problems with  
Various consumer products  
There is a phone number and website  
For consumers to report problems  
And they collect statistics  
On injuries suffered by  
Emergency room patients  
Related to consumer products  
All this happened  
Because of him

### **Freedom of Information Act**

Thank God for Ralph Nader  
Did you know that you  
Could ask the federal  
Government for information  
And that they are required  
By law to send it to you?  
As long as it is not classified  
Or is part of our defense  
Or national security  
Or confidential information  
Which would violate someone's

Personal privacy like medical records  
And you have to be a US citizen  
You can check the FBI web pages  
And they release information all the time  
Most of the information on UFOs  
Came from this law  
This law helps keep information  
That doesn't need to be kept secret  
For our safety from giving the feds  
Too much power over us  
It is just another way to limit  
The power of government  
And make it more accountable  
To its tax payers  
All this happened  
Because of him

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

We take the fact  
That the government  
Helps protect the environment  
As something that we can depend on  
But it was not always that way  
Thank God for Ralph Nader  
The government has an  
Agency of 17, 000 people  
Composed of engineers, scientists,  
And environmental protection specialists  
Lawyers, PR people, accountants,  
And computer experts  
The main areas of work done  
Are assessment, research, and education  
It sets and enforces many  
Environmental laws along with  
State and federal agencies  
It also lets some of the responsibilities  
For permits, monitoring and enforcement  
Fall on the shoulders of other  
State and federal agencies  
Some of the things the EPA has helped with  
Include a Energy Star,  
A voluntary program for  
Reducing the energy consumption  
Of appliances and computers  
They rate the fuel economy of cars  
Based on how much they pollute

They test the concentration of air pollution  
They outlawed the chemical DDT  
Which killed off wildlife  
They regulate the release of the  
Toxic heavy metal mercury  
All this happened  
Because of him

### **Safe Drinking Water Act**

The Safe Drinking Water Act  
Ensures that all Americans  
Have access to water that is  
Safe to drink  
Thank God for Ralph Nader  
They limit the amount  
Of toxic chemicals  
That can be present in our  
Drinking water  
And even tougher goals  
Which allow money to  
Be taken from abusers  
To clean up pollution with  
None of the toxic heavy metal  
Lead is allowed in water pipes  
People who report violations  
Are protected from retaliation  
All communities must  
Publish reports of water quality  
Every year  
New drinking water standards  
Must be evaluated by how  
Much they cost in relation to  
Their expected benefits  
States are given federal money  
To clean up or monitor  
Their local water sources  
Drinking water is to be free  
Of both infectious diseases  
As well as toxic cleaning agents  
Used to kill off harmful  
Micro organisms  
Water system operators  
Must be certified to make sure  
They keep the water safe  
Information is released to the public  
About what chemicals are in the water

Where their water originates  
How it is cleaned  
And how a private citizen  
Can help keep it clean  
Small water systems  
Are given extra federal funds  
To comply with the drinking water act  
All this happened  
Because of him

## 4.5 Blessings from the Bible

### 4.5.1 Spiritual Blessings

#### Old Testament

The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

121

And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.

122

And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

123

And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the Lord, mine horn is exalted in the Lord: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation. There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength. They that were full have hired out themselves for bread; and they that were hungry ceased: so that the barren hath born seven; and she that hath many children is waxed feeble. The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them. He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail. The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the Lord shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.

124

This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law. Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye

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121Exodus 15:2

122Exodus 31:3-5

123Exodus 33:19

1241 Samuel 2:1-10

sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength. So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved. And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them.

125

Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock. For the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of him that was stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all. Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow. And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the Lord.

126

Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

127

I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon. They that dwell under his shadow shall return: they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon. Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found. Who is wise, and he shall understand these things? prudent, and he shall know them? for the ways of the Lord are right, and the just shall walk in them: but the transgressors shall fall therein.

128

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

129

## **New Testament**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and

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125Nehemiah 8:9b-12

126Jeremiah 31:10-14

127Hosea 6:1-3

128Hosea 14:4-9

129Habakkuk 3:17-19

dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

130

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

131

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

132

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

133

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

134

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever

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130John 1:1-14

131John 17:9-26

1322 Corinthians 1:-8

133Ephesians 3:17-21

134Philippians 1:6

things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

135

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven

136

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

137

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

138

## 4.5.2 Temporal Blessings

### Genesis

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

139

And God spake unto Noah, saying, Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth. And Noah went forth, and his sons,

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135Philippians 4:6-9

136Colossians 1:12-23

137James 1:17

1381 Peter 1:3-5

139Genesis 1:27-30

and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark. And Noah builded an altar unto the Lord; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

140

And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

141

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

142

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

143

## Deuteronomy

For the Lord thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand: he knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness: these forty years the Lord thy God hath been with thee; thou hast lacked nothing.

144

But as for thee, stand thou here by me, and I will speak unto thee all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which thou shalt teach them, that they may do them in the land which I give them to possess it. Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

145

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140Genesis 8:15-22

141Genesis 9:11-16

142Genesis 22:15-18

143Genesis 28:12-15

144Deuteronomy 2:7

That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

146

Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them. Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the Lord thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers: And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee. Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle. And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee. And thou shalt consume all the people which the Lord thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that will be a snare unto thee.

147

And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey. For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs: But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year. And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the Lord's wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the Lord giveth you. Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth. For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him; Then will the Lord drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves. Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost

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145Deuteronomy 5:31-33

146Deuteronomy 6:2-12

147Deuteronomy 7:11-16

sea shall your coast be. There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the Lord your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you. Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

148

At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release. And this is the manner of the release: Every creditor that lendeth ought unto his neighbour shall release it; he shall not exact it of his neighbour, or of his brother; because it is called the Lord's release. Of a foreigner thou mayest exact it again: but that which is thine with thy brother thine hand shall release; Save when there shall be no poor among you; for the Lord shall greatly bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it: Only if thou carefully hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all these commandments which I command thee this day. For the Lord thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over thee. If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth. Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the Lord against thee, and it be sin unto thee. Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto. For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

149

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store. Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways. The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the Lord; and they shall be afraid of thee. And the Lord shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers to give thee. The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

150

When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. For the Lord's portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirreth

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148Deuteronomy 11:9-28

149Deuteronomy 15:1-11

150Deuteronomy 28:1-14

up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him. He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock; Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.

151

## Job

Call now, if there be any that will answer thee; and to which of the saints wilt thou turn? For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one. I have seen the foolish taking root: but suddenly I cursed his habitation. His children are far from safety, and they are crushed in the gate, neither is there any to deliver them. Whose harvest the hungry eateth up, and taketh it even out of the thorns, and the robber swalloweth up their substance. Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward. I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number: Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth waters upon the fields: To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety. He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise. He taketh the wise in their own craftiness: and the counsel of the froward is carried headlong. They meet with darkness in the daytime, and grope in the noonday as in the night. But he saveth the poor from the sword, from their mouth, and from the hand of the mighty. So the poor hath hope, and iniquity stoppeth her mouth. Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole. He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee. In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword. Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh. At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth. For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee. And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle shall be in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin. Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth. Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season. Lo this, we have searched it, so it is; hear it, and know thou it for thy good.

152

Which said unto God, Depart from us: and what can the Almighty do for them? Yet he filled their houses with good things: but the counsel of the wicked is far from me. The righteous see it, and are glad: and the innocent laugh them to scorn. Whereas our substance is not cut down, but the remnant of them the fire consumeth. Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee. Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart. If thou return to the Almighty, thou shalt be built up, thou shalt put away iniquity far from thy tabernacles. Then shalt thou lay up gold as dust, and the gold of Ophir as the stones of the brooks. Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver. For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God. Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows. Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways. When men are cast down, then thou shalt say, There is lifting up; and he shall save the humble person. He shall deliver the island of the innocent: and it is delivered by the pureness of thine hands.

153

God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend. For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength. He sealeth up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work. Then the beasts go into dens, and remain in their places. Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of

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151 Deuteronomy 32:8-14

152 Job 5

153 Job 22:17-30

the north. By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened. Also by watering he wearieth the thick cloud: he scattereth his bright cloud: And it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them upon the face of the world in the earth. He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy. Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God. Dost thou know when God disposed them, and caused the light of his cloud to shine? Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge? How thy garments are warm, when he quieteth the earth by the south wind? Hast thou with him spread out the sky, which is strong, and as a molten looking glass? Teach us what we shall say unto him; for we cannot order our speech by reason of darkness. Shall it be told him that I speak? if a man speak, surely he shall be swallowed up. And now men see not the bright light which is in the clouds: but the wind passeth, and cleanseth them. Fair weather cometh out of the north: with God is terrible majesty. Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict. Men do therefore fear him: he respecteth not any that are wise of heart.

154

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed? Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it? It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment. And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken. Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth? Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death? Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all. Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof, That thou shouldst take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldst know the paths to the house thereof? Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great? Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war? By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth? Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man; To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth? Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew? Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen. Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth? Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are? Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart? Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven, When the dust groweth into hardness, and the clods cleave fast together? Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions, When they couch in their dens, and abide in the covert to lie in wait? Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

155

## Other Old Testament

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is

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154Job 37:5-24

155Job 38

right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.

156

Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the Lord your God. Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord. If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land. And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you.

157

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

158

And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the Lord, which was at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it. In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead. Now, O Lord God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great? And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

159

## 4.6 Faith and Confidence

### 4.6.1 Gospels

While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying,

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156Exodus 15:26

157Leviticus 26:1-9

158Joshua 1:3-9

1592 Chronicles 1:6-12

My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live. And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples. And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

160

Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

161

And he asked the scribes, What question ye with them? And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

162

And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

163

And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said

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160Matthew 9:18-22

161Matthew 21:19-22

162Mark 9:16-29

163Mark 11:20-26

unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

164

And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd. And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

165

And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

166

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

167

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was. Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judæa again. His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again? Jesus answered, Are there

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164 Luke 7:36-50

165 Luke 8:43-48

166 Luke 17:5-10

167 Luke 18:1-8

not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him. These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him. Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him. Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already. Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off: And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house. Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

168

## 4.6.2 Acts

And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

169

At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

170

## 4.6.3 Romans

For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. I am

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168John 11:1-27

169Acts 13:44-52

170Acts 26:13-18

debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

171

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

172

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

173

The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

174

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

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171Romans 1:11-17

172Romans 4:16-25

173Romans 5:1-11

174Romans 6:8-15

175

#### 4.6.4 Other Letters

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

176

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

177

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister

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175Romans 15:13-16

1761 Corinthians 2:1-16

177Ephesians 6:10-20

178

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

179

But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting.

180

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178Colossians 1:12-23  
1791 Thessalonians 5:1-10  
1801 Timothy 6:11-16

## **Chapter 5**

# **Faith and Creativity in Education**

by Ben Huot

## 5.1 First Things

### 5.1.1 Logo

I should explain what the logo is meant to be representing. The guy is a pen, which is me, which comes from my first poem in Philosophy Core, called Creative Process, where I refer to myself as doing Tai Chi, with my pen being my body. The idea is based on "the pen is mightier than the sword" so I created "the Bible is mightier than the pen".

The Bible is shooting out flames because in Ephesians it talks about spiritual warfare and the Bible is the only armament that is offensive. (It means offensive instead of defensive. These are common terms used in combat. The sword is the only spiritual weapon. All the other armaments expressed in Ephesians are protective and defensive in nature like a shield, a helmet, a breastplate, etc.) The flames are meant as in James when it talks about being purified by fire or struggles with temptation in our lives. Isaiah also was purified by a live coal to his lips by a Seraphim. So the usage of fire is not evil or anything violent. Think of it as purifying.

I would ideally like it to show the sword turned inward to his chest, symbolizing like in many fantasy books that when they defeat the great evil force in the world, they are left with the greatest task, which is to defeat the evil within. The Bible is said to be a 2 sided sword, with the ability to cut between bone and marrow, and show the truth. Christ's tongue is said to be a 2 edged sword in Revelations, to defeat the Devil with. The reason I didn't show this is it looks like he is committing suicide.

The spiritual warfare is not against people, ideas, or even spirits. It is about fighting for the purity of our own minds. It is an internal thing. Like the Native American proverb "my greatest enemy is myself." This purity is in regard to our own sins and does not refer to purity in any other sense. But this is a process, not an outcome, as it is not possible for us to live without sin.

This warfare is only spiritual in the sense that it is not militant, social, economic, or political. This is for my own moral and ethical development and consists of practical qualities I try, with Christ's help, to cultivate like humility, compassion, kindness, and seriousness and do not correspond to anything supernatural.

### 5.1.2 Other Books

My text books and picture books contain most of my work over the past 10 years. These include my reading of some 235 books containing the philosophical and religious thinking of the world's cultures for several thousand years and the application of the main themes of some of the major Old Testament Prophets and major works of the New Testament.

The main point of this work is to get people to stop living their lives with their minds, but instead follow their hearts. I bring a radically different combination of viewpoints that you have not heard of before. I am not asking people to follow what I have written, but rather let the words stir up some sort of emotional response in your heart.

I challenge my readers to come up with their own unique ideas and that can lead the world in a new direction. We need a much broader diversity of ideas in our culture to deal with the problems we are facing in America and throughout the rest of the world.

### 5.1.3 For More Information

For more books and information, visit me on the web at <http://benjamin-newton.com/>

Feel free to send me e-mail regarding the books and website at <mailto:ben@benjamin-newton.com> I even enjoy constructive criticism

### 5.1.4 Cover Graphic

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## 5.1.6 Introduction

This book is about education in America. The problems with education today are simple. In an effort to not mix religion with government, we have ended up just penalizing Christianity and let Science and Paganism take over the curriculum.

I am tired of Christianity being bashed by intellectuals without being challenged, so I have chosen to deconstruct Science. We think that Science is unbiased and is a balanced interpreter of truth, but really it gives only a very narrow perspective on life. Science is an ideology as much as religions are. It is not the solution to our problems, and is likely the cause of many.

I have shown that in taking religion out of our education, that we have left out creativity as well. As with my other books, I have shown how another duality exists - that religion and creativity are intertwined. This is not about pushing Christianity alone on the schools, but rather not excluding curriculum just because it is religious in nature. The idea is to spread multiculturalism and the humanities in schools, so that we might have a more balanced curriculum.

We have much to learn from the ancients and non-white cultures, if we would only listen.

## 5.2 On the Offense

### 5.2.1 Striking Back

#### What is Rational?

What is the definition of rational?  
Believing that man is the highest good  
Or that his intellect can grasp everything  
Do you think you can disprove God  
By quoting a famous atheist?  
You win an argument  
But just show your own limitations  
And your own weak intellect  
Not everything is meant to be

Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection

Analyzed in the Scientific method  
What cannot be disproved  
Is greater than that which can be proven  
Guess and check can only go so far  
And scientists are as bigoted  
And resistant to change and new ideas  
Than as are any other bureaucrats  
The ideas of Science may have  
At one time been an area for non-conformists  
But it is no longer  
Everyone believes in Science  
And that is a great weakness  
The masses can be convinced of anything  
Scientists fail to realize  
That it was their community that  
Made a fool of Galileo  
The first scientist was a smart ass  
When your belief system  
Can only understand matter-energy  
Aren't you smart enough  
To realize that it cannot explain  
Anything important  
It is not wrong to have a theory  
To explain something  
But when you use it as an excuse  
To hide from spiritual realities  
Who is the greater fool?  
It doesn't matter how good you are at debate  
Or how many facts you have on your side  
Some things just don't make sense  
Just because the entire Scientific establishment  
Believes in one thing, the masses think it is true  
No matter how many times  
Society confuses facts with truth  
The number of believers is growing worldwide  
It is interesting that those who think  
They are so enlightened  
As to be better informed than God  
And think that they are the enemy of the establishment  
That their ideas resonate best with  
The people who create the problems  
They are trying to fix  
If the same system that said the world is flat  
Now even admits they cannot observe  
95% of the mass of the universe  
Why should I believe them about evolution?

For a community that shuns innovators  
And anything unusual or different  
And is mainly motivated by prestige  
Why would I believe anything  
They print in numbers  
And collect evidence for?  
If scientists would study other philosophies  
They would start to realize that the world  
Is much bigger than Science  
And that the real problems in life  
Are not going to be solved by more technology  
That we are never going to resolve  
The true cause of suffering through education  
That the innovation that will bring solutions  
Is something that was written down 2,000 years ago  
That the most unusual ideas were some of the oldest  
That we are just re-inventing what China  
Designed thousands of years ago  
Without the Scientific method  
If the Chinese were not smart enough  
To keep the empire going  
How are we going to be able to survive  
A few more generations of Science?  
One of the big problems with Science  
Is it has no ethical foundation  
Just as you cannot add security onto technology  
Not designed with a firm foundation  
Ethics are not just an add on  
People do not become ethical by  
Attending a one semester course  
Or even after earning a Ph.D. in philosophy  
It is not that we do not know enough  
To do find a solution to our problems  
But that we need a way to stop  
Ourselves from creating more problems  
Self control is the key to our survival  
But the solution is not an invention  
But supernatural intervention

### **Where Blame is Due**

If Christianity is to blame for everything  
People claim it is  
Then why is there so much more evil  
Done by countries which are primarily atheist?  
Before jumping on the bandwagon  
And blaming every problem on Christianity

Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection

People should actually read what the Bible says  
The Bible never says it is ok to mistreat animals  
Augustine and Thomas Aquinas hated animals  
But their theology is based more on Greek paganism  
Than it is on any possible interpretation  
Of the Bible come up with by the biggest idiot  
The Bible holds humans responsible for taking care  
Of the entire ecosystem  
Not only are we responsible for what we have done  
But we must correct any problems no matter  
How they were caused  
Unlike what the religious wrong say  
The Bible states very clearly in several places  
That there is no distinction between man and woman  
Or peoples of any race or any other background  
Contrary to popular belief, the Bible does not say  
That corporations should control the government  
Or that the wealthy got that way because  
They were following God's laws  
The Bible says over and over and gives many examples  
Of moral people who loved God and suffered terribly  
Many times exactly because of it  
Contrary to popular belief, claiming to be born again  
Does not get you to Heaven according to the Bible  
You have to humble yourself before God  
And believe you are equal to your fellow man  
Before you can be saved  
According to the Bible, environmental destruction  
And stealing from people's retirements are sins  
And are greater than that of committing adultery one time  
Unlike what many people think  
The Bible does not tell you everything to do  
And is designed for there to be different interpretations  
Of many ideas in theology  
Similar to Taoism, the theology of the Bible is no-dualistic  
Even though many Christians treat Paul's letters  
Like analytical arguments, they are really mystical  
Unlike what many Christians believe  
The Bible encourages study of other religions and  
Being intellectual by Paul's example alone  
The religious ideas the Bible disparages come from  
Occult religions like Greek Paganism  
Which has been synchronized with Christianity  
By Augustine and Thomas Aquinas

## God and Country

The religious wrong have long believed  
That America was a Christian nation  
What America really was and this includes  
The religious wrong  
Is founded on the idea of  
Not wanting to pay taxes  
The founding fathers were anarchists  
So to follow in their foot steps  
Would be to overthrow the current government  
The United States has always been  
An aggressive and violent nation  
Something we inherited from the English  
We thought we were better than  
The rest of the world  
It was our duty to spread our power  
No matter what the cost  
Following in the footsteps of the English  
We held people as slaves even though  
We claimed to be a democracy  
We used biological weapons on the  
Native Americans and dishonored treaties  
These are not things a Christian nation would do  
They do not honor God  
And they do not promote human dignity  
Now the religious wrong want us to protect  
Humans that are not even born  
But thinks it is ok to torture baby animals  
In their use for food and experiments  
Both of which are unnecessary  
They believe that monopolies/dictatorships are good  
And that our bill of rights is unimportant  
They are against giving to charities  
They instead want to tax the poor  
And give it to the rich to make bigger weapons with  
They are using a couple of attacks worldwide  
As an excuse to invade another nation  
When it had no intention of attacking anyone  
So our dictator could settle an old score  
The American House of Bush  
Loves to redefine worlds until they have no meaning  
They have over written every law against pollution  
So a couple rich white men can get even richer  
He has held teachers responsible for how  
Prepared the kids are for school without

Factoring in different socioeconomic conditions  
Which will ultimately destroy the school system  
After doing all this our dictator has the audacity  
To claim he is a born again Christian  
There is absolutely nothing Christian  
About the way this creep acts

### **Medieval Morality**

Enlightenment writers love to denigrate  
The European Medieval period  
By referring to it as the Dark Ages  
Because they hated God so much  
And they were enamored by material wealth  
And advanced technology used in warfare  
They blamed all their problems on God  
Modern authors refer to the time  
As being backwards and violent  
What they really hate is that it was  
A relative time of material poverty for Europe  
After the fall of the Roman Empire  
The entirety of Europe struggled to survive  
But people don't see the bright side  
Without the wealth to destroy others  
And depending on the harvest for their food  
People began to rely upon God  
And had respect for God and nature  
People still had evil in their hearts  
But the scale of destruction was  
Exponentially less than in "enlightened times"  
In fact, although historians love to blame  
Christianity for the big wars of the next 500 years  
The Church was losing more and more power  
As things began to be more and more violent  
People saw Science as a way they could  
One up God and avoid those inconvenient  
Sexual and financial morals  
See the main problem with Science is  
That it has no formal ethics as part  
Of its system of discovery  
The superiority of philosophy  
Is that it has an ethics  
The superiority of religion  
Is that is also has a reason  
The superiority of Christianity  
Is that is also gives a way

## **A Matter of Faith**

Many people believe  
That evolution should be  
Accepted because  
Most scientists believe it  
They say it should just be  
A matter of evidence  
I believe it as a matter of faith  
First of all, Science did not  
Just arrive out of nowhere  
And was not always  
The way everything was decided  
Neither are we more advanced  
For relying on it for everything  
Science was invented and came out  
Of a particular western philosophical  
School called the Enlightenment  
Contrary to popular belief  
Most technologies of the modern world  
Were not invented by Europeans or  
By their precious Science  
They were dreamed up and produced  
First by the Chinese  
In fact, the Industrial Revolution  
Came about from our discovery  
Of Chinese technologies  
Invented hundreds or even thousands  
Of years earlier  
There are many other methods  
Of discovery and verification  
Jainism has a number all by itself  
The five senses, testimony, ESP,  
telepathy, and an all knowing ascended being  
Mystics have a number as well  
Faith, intuition, and prophetic visions  
Most schools of Hinduism  
Verify knowledge by  
Perception, inference, comparison, and testimony  
So we see that Science is only  
One school out of many  
In the panorama of philosophy  
Even if I would be convinced  
If provided the evidence  
In the Scientific form  
It would not be possible

For me to accept evolution  
Except by blind faith  
Because it requires a Ph.D.  
In Science to have the background  
To make an informed position  
Otherwise it is just oversimplified  
And I have seen this done  
In philosophy and religion  
So I would only trust my own  
Research into the theory of evolution

### **Circular Argument**

Most people believe anything  
Someone with a Scientific education says  
How do they prove things?  
By facts, of course  
How have they proven  
That facts are truth?  
Because that is Scientific  
Facts determine details about  
Specific events and measurements  
But how does one prove Love?  
How does one disprove it?  
Many people believe if there  
Are no facts for proving something  
Than it must not be true  
But facts are less important  
Than things determined by faith  
Things determined by experience  
Things determined by reflection  
Things determined by immersion  
In a particular field of work  
Things determined by scripture  
Things determined by miraculous  
Answers to prayer  
If there is nothing to prove  
That facts are true  
Other than a circular argument  
Then why do we base our society  
On this shaky ground  
And why do we force  
This viewpoint on young children?  
Our world is getting worse and worse  
The more we use facts  
To determine policy and direction  
Shouldn't we base our ideas

By what works and what doesn't  
In the real world  
With cold, hard truth  
Not by just flimsy facts  
After all, it's not like it's hard  
To present lies as facts

### **Only One Answer**

There are few things in life  
That only have one answer  
This is one of the things  
People like so much about Science  
But this a false premise  
As Science is only one way  
Of discovery  
And is only applicable  
To one way of thinking  
Coming from the culture of  
One part of the world  
Having multiple answers  
Is the great thing about art,  
Philosophy, and religion  
The humanities are the only  
Fields that treat other cultures  
With dignity and respect  
They are the only ones  
That explain what being  
Sentient is like  
They answer the most  
Important questions  
Better because they can  
Have multiple answers  
Most things in life are paradoxes  
Which aren't very compatible  
With Science and math  
How can you reduce  
Most fundamental problems  
Down to one solution?  
How can you explain  
Feelings in numbers and attributes?  
How do you express mystery  
With a system that is designed  
To explain everything?  
Ever wonder why economists  
Can't predict the future  
With mathematical models

Or why it is so hard to  
Communicate with psychologists?  
Ever wonder why scientists  
Are surprised when they  
Discover animals are sentient  
Or can have mental disorders?  
We have an ancient heritage  
Of wisdom and understanding  
That is aware of things  
Science can only dream of  
To rely on a system that  
Ignores questions of the spirit  
Or things that cannot be tested  
Under controlled conditions  
To guide society into a better world  
Shows that our world no longer  
Values the truth and is only looking  
For easy solutions and doesn't care  
About how bad the consequences are

## 5.2.2 White Curriculum

### White Current Events

Our country is so obsessed  
With the barely 200 years  
Of current events that  
From what is often called  
American History  
The big focus is on whites  
Both women and men  
And there is a tiny bit  
About slavery and civil rights  
As if these are the only things  
Relevant to people of color  
The back is especially padded  
How virtuous were the white settlers  
Escaping religious persecution  
You mean the same ones  
Who massacred the indigenous population  
Because they thought they were  
God's people and it was His divine plan?  
Maybe they should send those  
People to the moon without life support  
We were told how bad it was that  
They had to pay taxes

So they decided to revolt  
Today we would call them anarchists  
We talk about how awful slavery was  
And it sure was - too bad there  
Weren't any photographs in our text books  
But Irish immigrants were treated  
Just as bad in the North  
We talk about the Civil War  
As if it was about slavery  
But Lincoln didn't talk about that  
Until half way during the war  
What he did was start the war  
By reinforcing Fort Sumter  
Because he didn't believe  
People had the right to choose  
Which nation they wanted  
To be part of  
He wanted to destroy the South  
If I was fighting,  
I would fight the first half for the South  
For state's rights and the second half  
For the North, to end slavery  
The main focus being on the first half of  
American current events  
Is clearly a matter of we only care  
About rich white men

### **White Pagan Role Models**

Europe and America are still  
Falling over themselves about  
How wonderful the  
Greeks and Romans were  
In fact, most Christian theology  
Is based more on Greek Paganism  
Than on the Bible  
The Church respected Rome so much  
That they made their capital there  
They made their cathedrals like  
Roman palaces in design  
They made their songs patterned  
After Roman songs  
They used the language of the Romans  
And they helped preserve the pagan  
Philosophies and literatures  
We don't need more ideas  
On how to destroy other nations

Have more sex and violence in our  
Entertainment and popular culture  
We don't need our children  
Memorizing the names of pagan gods  
And the deeds of the evil spirits  
We would never even think of  
Letting the Bible into our classrooms  
Because that would cause  
A conflict between Church and State  
Even though it affected  
English literature more than Greek writings  
But it is ok to promote the religions  
Of pagans because we basically  
Hate God and Christians  
Because we want to live lives  
Of hedonism and have no limits placed  
On how much deviant sex and violence  
We can dream up

### **White Stories**

Instead of picking from the hundreds  
Of texts of classical literature from  
Any of the major civilizations of the world  
Mostly not white  
And in easy to read modern translations  
Out of the at least thousands of years  
Of recorded history  
We confine ourselves to 200 years  
Of rich white male writers  
We are a nation of immigrants  
Except for the Native Americans  
But the only culture we think worth  
Preserving is 19th century America  
From the point of view of  
Rich white men  
We are making a value judgement  
That we don't value non-white cultures  
We say we care so much about  
Multiculturalism but when it actually  
Comes to the work part, we all bail out  
And really, you can't say  
Hemingway is a better writer than Chuang Tzu  
Or that Emerson knew more about Hinduism  
Than the writer of the Ramayana  
Don't teachers get bored by narrowing  
Themselves to such absurd and ridiculous

Conditions on what they teach?  
Don't they enjoy learning?  
They are after all in the profession of education  
Which they supposedly got trained in  
And chose instead of careers in higher paying fields  
Because they actually care  
I guess not  
Maybe it was just for the summers off

### **5.2.3 Cultural Patterns**

#### **Technology of False Gods**

There seems to be an endless  
Fascination with the monuments  
Of the ancient world  
Especially how people could  
Construct on such a large scale  
Without the technology  
We have today  
We are learning that the  
History of technology  
Is not linear and progressive  
What is interesting is the  
Cultural similarities of  
All the different ancient cultures  
Most of them worshipped  
A snake god and were experts in  
Mathematics and astronomy  
From Stonehenge to Angkor Wat  
From the Easter Islands  
To the Valley of the Kings  
From Machu Picchu  
To the Seven Wonders  
It seems we value the same things  
As these pagan cultures do  
We are slaves to technology and violence  
And we would do anything  
To preserve this way of life  
We really are a pagan culture  
Here in America

#### **Enlightened Literature**

It would be better for us  
To be fascinated with literature  
From the major cultural centers

Of the Asian continent  
Instead of digging up  
Places the ancient cultures  
Worshipped false gods in  
And slaughtered in their names  
We seem to think ancient  
Greece was civilized  
But no culture can compare  
To the humanity of China  
Their entire system of government  
Was based on a subsistence economy  
They didn't try to make  
The rest of the world into subjects  
Like the Europeans did  
Leaders were encouraged  
To study ethics, poetry, and history  
People were promoted  
Based on their character  
And their education  
Rather than by force or fraud  
China's weakness is that it  
Wasn't violent enough  
To stand against the Europeans  
What if that were the worst thing  
They could say about America?  
What a wonderful culture

### **Art Museum**

I approach the museum  
From the front  
Walking across sidewalks  
In an open grassy area  
Flanked on 2 sides by  
Old brick buildings  
With moss planted on the walls  
The carvings on the front  
Are ornate and abstract  
The building is well kept up  
I walk up several cement stairs  
And I go into the lobby  
There is a series of stairs  
Behind swinging glass doors  
I pay and get my badge  
I assume this is some way  
Of tracking me by radio waves  
I go up the marble staircase

Most the exhibits are on the second floor  
In the front, there are exhibitions  
Where the museum rents art  
And has to return it after a few months  
Then you pass by  
Their collection are in back  
An icons of Russia collection  
Of original gold painted illustrations  
Of various saints and the Trinity  
In the foyay there are small items  
From India and Southeast Asia  
There is a fairly big Siva stone carving  
As well as smaller carvings in stone  
Of various gods  
There is always a large Chinese  
Throne room, jade pagoda,  
And imperial clothing and artifacts  
On the left side are the Japanese rooms  
There is a suit of Samurai armor  
And traditional Japanese swords  
In the far room  
In the nearer room, there are  
Small paintings or woodblock carvings  
The Korean section is on the right  
It has giant watercolors of landscapes  
And there are several calligraphy exhibits  
They also have a painting of a  
Traditional design of a tiger  
Downstairs they have a store  
Where sometimes you can find prints or books  
Of exhibits and a fancy French cafe

## **5.3 Good Memories**

### **5.3.1 Nostalgia**

#### **American Literature**

American Literature has little depth  
To it compared to Asian Literature  
But I have good memories  
Of when used to study it  
Maybe it was because it was just  
That I enjoyed writing or it was  
Just preferable to math class  
I remember mostly how I felt

It opened up ideas that were new to me  
And new ways of looking at the world  
It was something I felt very safe with  
I guess I felt like Hemingway's  
Short story - A Clean, Well Lighted Place  
The naturalism writings were new to me  
And I enjoyed their cynicism  
I remember reading Ken Follet  
And James Clavell about other countries  
They are obviously overly simplistic  
But at the time were exciting  
I always enjoy just learning new things  
And books even if I don't like  
Their subjects  
I was also very good at writing  
I won a national peace essay contest  
For the State of Oregon

## **Running**

I didn't like running at first  
But as I got more endurance  
I began to enjoy it  
It is true that it is difficult  
And often painful  
But it makes you feel  
Like nothing else  
You often feel like you  
Are out of your body  
And that your legs are moving  
By their own will  
Running really takes commitment  
To really get better  
And to stay in shape  
It is best to run every day  
Even on the weekends  
When you first start running  
You get slower and slower  
For about 3 weeks  
Then, starting from there  
You start to get better  
The key to training to run fast  
Over a long distance  
Is to train over short distances  
Repeatedly after short breaks  
But keep increasing the length  
Of the distances and shortening

The amount of rest time

## 5.3.2 The Here and Now

### That Feeling

It is a certain feeling of jubilation  
It exists in memories and dreams  
It is how I felt in high school  
I cannot locate the source  
Was it the anticipation of the holidays?  
Was it the cold silence and darkness  
Of a winter night?  
Was it the freezing rain of winter?  
Was it the smell that accompanies the rain?  
Was it a memory of a park the church met at  
And played frisbee golf?  
Was it the memory of the pain in my side  
And the cramped up leg muscles  
I felt in Cross Country and Long Distance Track?  
Was it the memory of waking up  
When it was still dark out  
For Speech tournaments?  
Was it the colleges I toured?  
Was it the feeling I get when we go to  
Downtown Portland?  
Was it the joy I felt using Mac OS 7.5  
And using Photoshop for the first time?  
Was it the exhilaration I felt  
When graduating from high school?  
Was it the feeling when I ran  
In Basic Training?  
Or our long march home  
From Field Training Exercises?  
Or when I shipped off to duty station?  
Or when I woke up in Hawaii  
And we went to the beach  
On a warm sunny day in February?  
Or when I went to a new church?  
Maybe it is a feeling of great accomplishment  
Or satisfaction with where I am now  
Or an excitement about the future  
I have felt this way in and off  
For half a year  
The trouble is that I do not know  
What to do with it

## Colors

I paint with the colors  
That live in my mind  
I paint with the hot pink  
Of a picturesque sunset  
I don't stop to see  
Often enough  
I paint with shades of green  
Of avocados in burritos  
And kiwi shakes  
When I have enough money  
I paint with the bright yellow  
Of the penetrating heat  
Of the summer sun  
That keeps my inside  
In the air conditioning  
I paint with the deep brown  
Of a intimate local cafe  
I frequent when I am  
Out too early for lunch  
I paint with the bright blue  
Of the brilliant summer skies  
I paint with the orange red  
Of numerous pizzas ordered  
When I don't have the energy  
To walk to the store  
I paint with the dark blue  
Of the pen I mark the date on  
My backup CD-ROMs

## Plush Ideas

I don't know how it happens  
But my stuffed cows  
Talk to me continually  
They are as close to me  
As a regular person's  
Child or pet animal  
I hear them with  
Separate and distinct voices  
They keep me company  
Even when I leave them  
They enjoy watching me work  
On the computer  
Watching TV with me  
And listening to me read

They really like animated cartoons  
I don't take them with me  
Except to my parents' house  
In order to keep them  
From getting lost or dirty  
My big fear is that they  
Will get taken by some kid  
Or left outside to grow mold  
They get new outfits and DVDs  
For their birthdays and Christmas  
They started out with shirts  
Then they got onesies for preemies  
And then khaki pants and shirts  
Then they got job uniforms  
Now they have artist clothes  
They got a bale of hay this year  
They want to learn to read  
But I am not sure they  
Will still be interested  
Several years from now  
They seem to like most  
Small children, so they like  
To watch programs small children like  
They say they like them  
Because they learn from them  
I think stuffed toys  
Have many attributes of non-dualism  
They also have more Fruits of the Spirit  
Than even regular pets do  
They are great examples of patience  
And they would make great monks  
They say God gives them magic  
Which they store for emergencies  
This is how they move  
My cows are born again Christians  
But they are very well behaved  
The lead cow runs the herd  
Like a constitutional monarchy  
He collects taxes on magic  
For when someone needs more  
They like it when I give them  
Money to hold for a while  
I am afraid if they wander off  
They will ask for grass and  
Someone might give them drugs  
I tell them to be very careful of fire

Because I could back up files easy  
But not their plush souls

## **5.4 Education History**

### **5.4.1 Boredom in School**

I really believe that my formal  
Education was so useless  
That I had to unlearn everything  
I was taught in school

#### **Elementary School**

I remember living as if in a dream  
All throughout elementary school  
The teacher would keep on repeating  
What is a verb? What is a noun?  
We would cover every possible factor  
Of the American Revolution and  
Of the American Civil War  
Over and over again  
Our text books were so dry  
They literally put me to sleep  
I talked constantly in class  
As I was so bored  
They put my name with a  
Check mark by it in permanent ink  
I stayed after school for detention  
Almost every day  
The only thing I remember being enjoyable  
Was reading for book reports  
And doing art projects  
For some reason I began learning  
Viola in the orchestra class  
But we never got to play anything  
That sounded like anything on the radio  
Most of the pieces were all numbered names  
I hardly ever practiced and I was terrible at it  
On my tests I placed at 12th grade comprehension  
But only 3rd grade reading level  
I was too bored taking tests  
So I didn't get into advanced classes  
Until later on

#### **Middle School**

In middle school the other kids

Picked on me so much  
That I dreaded going to school  
Especially on the buses  
They wouldn't let me  
Sit down on the buses  
And kicked and hit me  
On the buses  
And in shop class  
We spent the first several months  
Learning safety procedures  
Before we could touch any of the tools  
In our shop class  
One kid put the welding flux  
Chemical cleaner in his eyes  
Deliberately to prove he was tough  
I remember one kid putting my  
Math book in another desk  
So I had to buy a new one  
And I found out about it months later  
I also had these very large warts  
That we had burned with acid  
Which would burn for 8 hours  
And we had to use finger nail polish  
Remover to neutralize it  
I then had my warts freeze burned  
Which was excruciatingly painful  
As they were on the end of my fingers  
And under the nails  
I finally had them cut out  
As much as putting Novocain in the  
End of your nails hurts, it was much  
Better than the freezing  
I also dreaded wrestling as I had to do it  
When my warts were being removed  
The other person would touch my hand  
And I would give up just so  
The pain would stop  
As they were very sensitive as they healed

## High School

High school was much better  
I enjoyed my literature class the most  
What kept me going was  
All the activities I was involved in  
If I hadn't been in so many clubs  
I would have dropped out long before graduation

I was involved in 12 different activities  
My Junior year  
I enjoyed most of all Model United Nations  
Where each school represented a different nation  
I was the President my senior year  
And also ran a committee  
I enjoyed going on Speech tournaments  
Because we got to go see most of the colleges  
Around Portland, the nearest big city  
I didn't practice much and lost every time  
I enjoyed the Future Business Leaders of America  
Because we got to stay at the Hilton  
I wanted to do acting, but I didn't get selected  
For the part I auditioned for, so I thought  
That I wasn't good enough although later  
I was told I was very good  
I also enjoyed Cross Country  
As we were able to go to the coast  
Or other places in the area on invitational meets  
We got to eat out there too  
I also enjoyed cheerleading which  
Was a total surprise to me when I made it  
As I could not remember dance moves or cheers  
And I still don't know what first in ten means  
I was asked to do it the next year too  
I got people more excited about the games  
But I needed to focus on getting in shape  
For the military my senior year  
I also designed the military section of my  
High school's orientation CD-ROM  
With Sony Disc Manufacturing  
I also got some invitations to some cool colleges  
One was Bennington which I think  
Was one of those colleges that you can  
Make up your own degree  
And another one in Pennsylvania which was  
A private Christian college but much cheaper

## **5.4.2 Safe and Sound**

### **The Recruiter**

I took a long time deciding  
Whether or not to join the military  
One of my interests in it  
Was that I could do something

Interesting just out of high school  
And go to a much better college  
And not be in debt from student loans  
I was also stressed out with all the reading  
We did my senior year and I was looking  
Forward to have some time away  
From a rigorous academic program  
I chose to go enlisted because I wanted  
To get my military service out of the way  
Before I went to college  
Because even then I didn't  
Think it would be very enjoyable  
I found out later that there is little  
A person can do to prepare for Basic Training  
Except getting into good over all physical shape  
I had run most years of high school in  
Cross Country and Long Distance Track  
And my senior year I worked out all summer  
And took an intensive conditioning course  
The last half of my senior year  
I signed up a whole year in advance  
So I got an interesting job in the Army  
Working with computers  
I remember asking my recruiter directly  
About the NBC training  
And whether or not our enemies would be  
Using chemical weapons in combat  
He directly denied it  
I wasn't afraid of being killed  
But I didn't want to be burned alive  
The brochures painted one side of  
Someone's imagination of military life  
But being in the Army is very different  
The only thing I had really known  
That was correct was that it didn't  
Require much brain power even for  
The most advanced engineering job

### **Basic Training**

The first thing that shocked me  
Was how much easier the physical training  
And how more friendly my fellow soldiers were  
Than I had expected  
The downside was that I didn't  
Rise to the occasion as much as I had hoped  
The first 2 weeks of Basic Training

Free Thinking Christian: Social Sciences Collection

You get yelled at a lot from the Drill Sergeants  
And you learn to march  
As well as watch films on all sorts of things  
Like the military judicial system (UCMJ)  
And a scare film about STDs  
You also get issued gear during this period  
It is really easy to get out then  
But there is nothing very stressful yet  
Next you learn the Manual of Arms  
How to move the rifle in ceremony and safely  
I had to drop and do push-ups  
Each time any procedure was explained  
As I seemed to keep on getting it wrong  
Then we had a confidence building course  
That we had to repel and climb through  
Various towers somewhat like an obstacle course  
Then they do pictures and no one is allowed to smile  
Of course that wasn't hard as we were to go  
To the gas chamber in a few days  
I was told the gas chamber didn't cause any pain  
And that you only had to  
Hold your breath for a few seconds  
You go in this small dark room  
With your mask on and you feel  
Your hands are burning painfully  
Then you are told to take off the mask  
Not only can you barely breathe  
But it feels like your  
Lungs and eyes are on fire  
We were kept in there for at least 5 minutes  
And we were the last platoon in  
So we had much more of the CS gas  
In the room at the time  
As they put another stick in each time  
Another platoon went in  
This is when I realized the  
Risks I was taking by enlisting  
After that, we spent 2 weeks  
Learning how to shoot the M-16 (BRM)  
I thought I would never pass  
But the drill sergeant gave me a lane  
Where the 300m target jumped up  
And down and counted for me  
No matter if I hit it or not  
We then trained with a live grenade  
I freaked out about this

Until I got the live grenade and then  
It just felt like throwing a baseball  
Except after you throw it you dive  
Down in your foxhole and put  
Your head between your legs  
For training we didn't have a foxhole  
But we had a cement wall  
We stood behind, we wore a kevlar  
Helmet and vest and the sergeant  
Jumped on us to make sure we were down  
These grenades are safe as long as you aren't  
Standing up as they explode at a high angle  
Then we went to field training exercises (FTX)  
I didn't do very good at digging a foxhole  
But my battle buddy slept while I  
Watched for the Drill Sergeant  
One time, the Drill Sergeant pulled my rifle  
Out of my hands, so I had to low crawl  
In the dirt, but later I gathered  
That she was saving me from the  
Other Drill Sergeant who was going to throw  
CS gas into my foxhole  
I slept with my protective mask on that night  
Then we did a big test on everything  
We learned for combat survival  
I failed the clearing a rifle from a jam test (SPORTS)  
And I left the test button connected when  
I set off my claymore mine and yelled "claymore"  
I was supposed to be punished for that  
But it didn't happen for some reason  
During the last week, the head Drill Sergeant  
For the platoon announced in front of everyone  
That if I wasn't already promoted as high  
As she could promote, then she would have  
Chosen me above all the other soldiers  
The only thing that happened the same every day  
Was that we woke up once the lights were turned on  
We jumped out of bed and ran into formation  
When we finished training under the football lights  
We went to breakfast as it was getting light  
And this was in the middle of the summer  
On Sundays we got a few hours off to write letters  
And we could go to church or we could do chores  
We were also allowed a little time to call home

## **Advanced Training**

Going to advanced training was a big relief (AIT)  
I was shocked to see my roommates  
Watch TV and play video games  
I was also shocked that we had Drill Sergeants  
In advanced training as well  
And these ones were out of uniform  
The first month or two we did details (chores)  
We went to school in rotating schedules  
We had morning, swing, and graveyard shifts  
Every few months, our class rotated  
I went to school with all the other services  
I developed allergic pink eye (Conjunctivitis)  
Which I continued to have for 3 more years  
I think I was more stressed out by  
Having to identify who are the officers  
And who are the NCOs and their ranks  
Than I was afraid of the real potential  
Of being exposed to chemical weapons  
We had much better food as we were on  
A Navy base and after the Air Force abandoned  
Their "dormitories", we inherited them  
They were like the Hilton to us  
But they were not up to Air Force standards  
The Marines really hated us  
As they trained on an Army base before  
And they didn't have a good experience  
We gradually got more and more privileges  
After every few months  
We were eventually allowed to leave the base  
When I shipped off, everyone was being sent to Hawaii  
People graduating a month or 2 before me  
Were sent to Bosnia and Korea

## **Permanent Duty Station**

I graduated on Valentine's Day  
And arrived at the air port  
In the middle of the night  
I took a taxi as the Drill Sergeant told me  
On arriving to the base  
I did not know where to go  
Ironically, I was dropped off in exactly the right spot  
I had to do details my first few weeks  
After doing processing at the base  
There was a bus that drove

All around the island (Oahu)  
So I could see all the sites on my days off  
We worked on a rotating swing and graveyard  
So I would always have different days off  
I attended different churches on the base  
In town nearby, in Honolulu, and across the island  
It was so beautiful even in the winter  
After working a few months, I got mononucleosis  
I also got staff eye infections  
One day, half delirious  
I went to the commanding officer  
And asked to get out of the military  
I didn't even care if it was honorable or not  
I was referred to the counseling center  
They determined that I had a personality disorder  
I never even saw anyone other than NCOs  
A psychiatrist (a Major) signed off on it at the end  
Later I found I had Schizophrenia, but that  
The military wanted to save money,  
So they didn't diagnose me properly  
Before I left, I ran a half marathon through  
Kole Kole Pass to a Naval Seal base  
I also took some tests that got me credit  
For a year of college  
And a few months before took some classes  
Which in combination, gave me  
An entire year as transferable credit later on  
So I never was a college freshman  
I also had seen most the major tourist sites  
Before I left the military  
I got out in 5 weeks after talking to the CO  
And I got an honorable discharge  
This never happens that fast  
Even with a dishonorable discharge  
God was sure looking out for me

### **5.4.3 College and Mental Illness**

#### **Community College**

I tested out of my first year in college  
While still in the military  
So I started out at Community College  
In town as a sophomore  
I had even got money from the Army  
For college but the biggest financial aid

Came from not counting my parents income  
Against me so I could get grants  
Grants don't have to be paid back  
I had to live at home because I only  
Had enough money for school  
I started out with a Business Major  
I took Calculus and Economics  
I had a lot of trouble with Accounting  
I took it 5 times before I passed it  
I learned about Postmodernism  
In my required English class  
I hated Business but I was trying  
To be practical about my major  
I wasn't able to study much  
Because I was in so much pain  
From the allergic pink eye

## **University**

The next year I attended the  
University in town as a Junior  
I continued studying business  
I took a Chinese Literature class  
As my business breadth requirement  
And I enjoyed it immensely  
This was my first introduction  
To Eastern Philosophy  
I also started several other classes  
But had to drop out  
As I was still in so much pain  
From my allergic pink eye  
This was about the time  
When I started my website  
I had to move out that Spring  
And lived in a fixed up garage  
For a few months  
And this was when I first  
Installed Linux  
After reading about it for 6 months  
My motivation was to try to  
Fix Microsoft Office so it would  
Crash less and all programming roads  
Seemed to lead to Linux  
I had to attend summer school  
As I didn't complete enough courses  
I took an Existentialism and an Ecofeminism  
Course that summer

As that was all that was left  
This was my first introduction to  
Existentialism  
The end of that summer I worked  
At a phone survey company  
Previously I had tried selling  
Long distance phone service  
And doing canvassing for  
Our local Public Interest Research Group  
I changed my major to Journalism  
I took a grammar course  
And a graphic design for journalists course  
As well as a class in mass media  
And a philosophy course about Beauvoir  
Someone told me she was the lover  
Of Foucault which is not true

### **My Breakdown**

At the end of the winter semester  
I had an emotional breakdown  
I thought I was dealing  
With spiritual warfare  
I tore up my copy of the Second Sex  
And I burned a bunch of my books  
I thought I was a prophet  
And ended up in the local  
Private hospital's mental ward  
I tried to take courses that Spring  
After I was released for several months  
In programming and social science  
But that didn't work out  
I started reading philosophy again  
Starting with Existentialism  
And Zen Buddhism  
Along the way  
I spent about a year in a group home  
With 8 other mentally ill men  
I spent a couple years in a retirement home  
And had in home care a number of years  
I now am completely independent

## **5.5 Human Nature**

Iwent by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that

travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

181

And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit. That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered. I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

182

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth? I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God. I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past. And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there. I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work. I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts. For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth? Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

183

So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter. Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive. Yea, better is he than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun. Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit. The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh. Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit. Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun. There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail. Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold

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181Proverbs 24:30-34

182Ecclesiastes 1:13-18

183Ecclesiastes 3

cord is not quickly broken. Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished. For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also he that is born in his kingdom becometh poor. I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead. There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

184

Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words. When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God. If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they. Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field. He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes? The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep. There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt. But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand. As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand. And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind? All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness. Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion. Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God. For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart

185

There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men: A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease. If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial; I say, that an untimely birth is better than he. For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness. Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known any thing: this hath more rest than the other. Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place? All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled. For what hath the wise more than the fool? what hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living? Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit. That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he. Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better? For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?

186

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184Ecclesiastes 4

185Ecclesiastes 5

186Ecclesiastes 6

A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools. For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity. Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart. Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools. Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this. Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun. For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it. Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked? In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him. All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that longeth his life in his wickedness. Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself? Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time? It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all. Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city. For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not. Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee: For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others. All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me. That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out? I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness: And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her. Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account: Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found. Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

187

Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed. I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God. Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him. Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him. For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be? There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it. All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt. And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity. Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God. There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity. Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun. When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:) Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man

labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.

188

For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them. All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath. This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead. For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun. Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works. Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment. Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest. I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them. This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me: There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it: Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man. Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard. The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools. Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

189

Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour. A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left. Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool. If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences. There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler: Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place. I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth. He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him. Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby. If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct. Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babler is no better. The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself. The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness. A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him? The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city. Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning! Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness! By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through. A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things. Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

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 188Ecclesiastes 8

189Ecclesiastes 9

190

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth. If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be. He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good. Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun: But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh is vanity. Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.

191

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low; Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity. And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

192

## 5.6 Children's Instruction

### 5.6.1 Deuteronomy

Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy

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190Ecclesiastes 10

191Ecclesiastes 11

192Ecclesiastes 12

sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.

193

Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the Lord thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the Lord thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

194

Therefore shall ye keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it; And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the Lord swore unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey. For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs: But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year. And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the Lord's wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the Lord giveth you. Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates: That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth. For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him; Then will the Lord drive out all these nations from before you, and ye shall possess greater nations and mightier than yourselves. Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be. There shall no man be able to stand before you: for the Lord your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you. Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a

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193Deuteronomy 4:5-10

194Deuteronomy 6:1-15

curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known. And it shall come to pass, when the Lord thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal. Are they not on the other side Jordan, by the way where the sun goeth down, in the land of the Canaanites, which dwell in the champaign over against Gilgal, beside the plains of Moreh? For ye shall pass over Jordan to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God giveth you, and ye shall possess it, and dwell therein. And ye shall observe to do all the statutes and judgments which I set before you this day.

195

And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it. And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed. And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and unto all the elders of Israel. And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles, When all Israel is come to appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

196

## 5.6.2 Others

And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; that ye may know how that I am the Lord.

197

And thou shalt shew thy son in that day, saying, This is done because of that which the Lord did unto me when I came forth out of Egypt. And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the Lord's law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the Lord brought thee out of Egypt. Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.

198

I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and

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195Deuteronomy 11:8-32

196Deuteronomy 31:7-13

197Exodus 10:2

198Exodus 13:8-10

saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

199

There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men. The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough. The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it. There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid. Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness. For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear: For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat; For an odious woman when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress. There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise: The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer; The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks; The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands; The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces. There be three things which go well, yea, four are comely in going: A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any; A greyhound; an he goat also; and a king, against whom there is no rising up. If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth. Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

200

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

201

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

202

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199Psalm 34

200Proverbs 30:11-33

201Ephesians 6:1-9

2022 Timothy 3:15-17