

“Silly Things”

It is simply amazing the new things that men come up with in their imaginations against God. Max Newby sent me an article from the USA Today website, posted on July 22 of this year, entitled **“Atheists choose ‘de-baptism to renounce childhood faith.’** (You can find the article at http://www.usatoday.com/news/religion/2009-07-21-atheists-debaptism_N.htm.)

According to the article, in the de-baptism in this particular ceremony a hair drier labeled “reason” is used to symbolize the blowing away or drying up of the baptismal waters. Then they partake of a “de-sacrament” of a cracker with peanut butter. Then they receive certificates stating that they had “freely renounced a previous mistake, and accepted Reason over Superstition.”

One lady who was de-baptized, Jennifer Gray, of Columbus, Ohio, said about the ceremony, “It was very therapeutic. It was a chance to laugh at the silly things I used to believe as a child. It helped me admit that it was OK to think the way I think and to not have any religious beliefs.”

Some may laugh at the silliness (lack of understanding) of Ms. Gray. But this is just the tip of an iceberg that is sinking this country into the abyss of humanism. Humanism has a multitude of faces. But at the root of this philosophy is the idea that each individual is his or her own god. As a result, right and wrong are determined by personal desires of each individual. Therefore, according to this philosophy, there can be no higher authority for moral standards than man’s own desires. Satan loves it.

This philosophy is readily apparent in the cultural standards being promoted by the world. Abortion is no longer *murder*. It is a “choice.” Homosexuality is no longer a *sin*. It is a “lifestyle” decided at birth. Divorce and remarriage for any cause is no longer *adultery*. It is a human right to pursue happiness wherever and with whomever that leads.

This humanistic philosophy is also affecting religion. This is clearly seen in the fact that denominations that once took a firm stand against many of these humanistic philosophies are now altering their creeds and fundamental doctrines to be more “inclusive” and “accepting” of those who walk the halls of these ice castles.

Humanism’s effects are also seen in the fact that there are so many different kinds of churches with so many different kinds of enticing doctrines popping up on practically every street corner. Men are seeking after their own religious pleasures rather than seeking to follow God’s revealed way. The Bible clearly states that there is one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is over all (Ephesians 4:4-6). The proliferation of denominationalism denies this. Jesus said that such prevents the world from believing that God sent Him into the world (John 17:20-21). The world says “Bah humbug.” But Paul asked the revealing question, “Is Christ divided?” (1 Corinthians 1:13a). Humanism when mixed with religion says, “Yes!” The Bible still says, “No!”

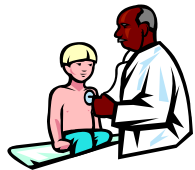
Humanism is also affecting the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When congregations seek to alter the worship from the God-given pattern of taking the Lord’s Supper each first day of the week to some other day, is this not man seeking his own way? Or, when some seek to add mechanical instruments of music to the a cappella singing that God has asked for, are they not seeking their own pleasures?

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Continue to remember in prayer:

Sick

Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty & Walter Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, Martha Keith, Al Furrow, Marguerite Charles, Jo Musgrove, Evelyn Scott, Ruth Stanton, Lynn Anderson, Carol Daniels, Andrea Halling, Kyle Ruf, Willard Campbell



- WJ Wood is in the VA Hospital.
- EV Wimmer is doing better.
- Jo Hartman is home after her surgery last week.

Happy Birthday this week to:

Mark Brooks-3/1	Jeremy White-3/1
Jo Hartman-3/2	Ben Nikkel-3/2
Glenn Neighbors-3/3	David McFalls-3/3
Barry White-3/4	Jerry Wood-3/5
Mandy Tyler-3/7	



Military

Jay Martin—Afghanistan
(need an update please)



FEBRUARY ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:

Clear packing tape & dry erase markers. (these items are desperately needed) Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



WOW

The next regular meeting will be on March 9 at 10:30.

Upcoming Events:

Team 3 (Valentine) will be having a lunch after services on March 28 at the

K&W
Restaurant.



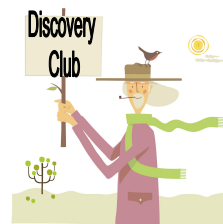
Teens

March Events

March 6—Bible Bowl
 March 13—Winter Youth Devo
 @ Lake Drive
 March 21—Teen Bible Study



The Discovery Club will be starting back up next month. On March 14 there will be a meeting in the large classroom at 4:30; and on March 20 a Field Trip is being planned to the VWCC Gardens. Times will be decided at the meeting!



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On a more personal note; when a person chooses to follow after his or her own pleasures rather than attending the assembling of the saints, is that not the influence of the humanistic philosophy upon that individual? Someone may say that it is really not that important to miss one assembly of the church. Does that make it a "silly thing"?

Consider it from Jesus' point of view. Jesus died in order to build the church (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28). The church [every member] is His holy bride. Will you forsake Him? (Hebrews 10:25.) If forsaking Him one Sunday is okay, what about two? Four? In accordance with the context of this article, perhaps a more appropriate question would be, who is the one who decides when forsaking the assembly is acceptable to God? If the answer is "Me" is that not Humanism in its purity? God is the one who has called us to worship Him (Matthew 4:10; John 4:23-24; Hebrews 10:25).

Consider this. How would you go about explaining to God why that ball game was more important than worshipping Him? Or, what words would you use to tell Him how that Sunday is really the only day you can get an extra hour of sleep. What words would you use to enlighten God to the fact that Sunday was really the only day you could carry the family to the lake because you can't afford to take a day off from work? Or, maybe you would tell God, "I just didn't feel like worshipping you today. My heart wasn't in it." I would be interested to know if Ms. Gray's parents thought it was just a "silly thing" to be at all the assemblies of the church. I can't help but wonder if perhaps her friends pulled her in the direction of following her own pleasures, her own reasoning, rather than keeping her eyes on "silly things" like Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2).

This I know, being "de-baptized" will not spare Ms. Gray, or anyone else, from one day obeying Philippians 2:10-11: "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

-Steve Vice

Weekly Reminders

For Your Information

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The monthly Men's Breakfast will be on March 13 at 8 AM at Famous Anthony's.

TURN, TURN, TURN

There will be a meeting on March 14 at 4:30 for the T3 Planners.

AREA WIDE PREACHERS' MEETING

The Area Wide Preachers' Meeting will be held at Radford on March 15 at 10:30. All are welcome!

MARCH LADIES NIGHT OUT

The March LNO will be held at the building on March 18 at 6:30. More details to follow!

MEN'S RETREAT

The Men's Retreat sponsored by the Lake Drive congregation will be held on March 19 & 20. Registration forms are located in the foyer. Please respond ASAP!

PRIMARY TEACHERS MEETING

The Primary Teachers Meeting will be held on March 21 at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Second & Third Grade teachers are in charge of snacks.

EVENING AT WEST SIDE

There will be a meeting for hostesses on March 21 after evening services to choose invitees.

MSOP LECTURSHIPS

The Annual MSOP Lectureship will be held March 28—April 1 in Memphis, TN. See Eddy for details.

Bible Class Broadcast

All Bible teachers and education workers/helpers, spouses, and special friends are invited to attend the **Education Appreciation Banquet** on March 13 at 5:45. There is a new sign up sheet for this event so make sure you resign up by March 7 if you are attending!

Spring Quarter Classes start on Sunday, March 7. Upcoming teachers include:

Primary: Kristie Jearls, Amanda Brown, Jennifer Laplante, Kim Brown, Lisa Valentine, Shree Lowe, and Michelle Earnhart.

Secondary & Adult: Jim Harrington & Eddy Gilpin, Bob Garby & Jeff Durham, Eric Earnhart & Marc Laplante, Jeanny Gilpin.

Big Thanks to our Winter Quarter Teachers!! Karen Munsey, Sandy Garby, Jean Argabright, Annette Shrader, Melissa Yarbro, Charlene Guard, Greg Edwards, Eddy Gilpin, Jeff Durham, Jerry Anderson, David Brown, Squeaky Valentine, Eric Earnhart, Jim Harrington.

Prayer List:

Marguerite Charles	Collin Gregory
Lynn Anderson	Evelyn Scott
Martha Keith	Danny White
Miriam Majors	Jo Musgrove
Walter & Betty Jenkins	Ruth Stanton
WJ Wood	Carol Daniels
Margaret Kratz	Jo Hartman
Jim Dorsett	Glenn & Ruth Hartman
E.V. Wimmer	Al Furrow
Charlie Puckett	Sandra Wood
Andrea Halling	Bill Bryant
Kyle Ruf	Thelma & Velma Vaughan
Willard & Marie Campbell	

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March 2010

Announcements: Charlie Gwaltney
 Song Leader (AM): David Brown
 Communion: Marc Laplante (preside)
 Glenn Hartman, Bob Garby
 Greg Edwards, Josh Whitlow
 Prayer: Gene Benefield (open)
 Mitch Jearls (close)
 Next week prayer: Bob Martin (open)
 Squeaky Valentine (close)

Song Leader (PM): Eric Earnhart
 Scripture Reader: Ethan Rogers
 Prayer: Bob Garby (open)
 Tom Rogers (close)
 Next week prayer: Jeff Durham (open)
 Gene Benefield (close)
 Communion: Sam Valentine, Jimmy Harrington

Song leader (Wed): Garrett Durham
 Prayer: Eric Earnhart
 Next week prayer: Herb Baker

Open/Close Building: Bob Garby
 Greeters: R. White, D. Guard
 Nursery: Velda Gearhart (AM)
 Linda Maness (PM)

Ushers: Roger Mays, Tom Rogers
 Handouts: M. Brooks, D. Tyler, C. Jearls
 Prepare Communion: Lori Cook
 Jean Argabright

Attendance 2/21&24/10
 Sunday Class—152 Worship—163
 Sun. Eve.—115 Wednesday—122
 Contribution—\$4837

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First 100 Days

Skating Down the Wrong Lane

Feb. 28 (Romans 11)

- Read Romans 11 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 11
 - Jewish rejection is not irrevocable
 - Memorize Rom. 11:22
- Write a note or card this week
- *Increase your contribution by \$1 today

Mar. 1 (Romans 12)

- Read Romans 12 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 12
 - Practical matters of Christianity
 - Memorize Rom. 12:2

Mar. 2 (Romans 13)

- Read Romans 13 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 13
 - The Christian and the state (1-7)
 - The law of love (8-10)
 - Spiritual awakening (11-14)
 - Memorize Rom. 13:1

Mar. 3 (Romans 14)

- Read Romans 14 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 14
 - Christian freedom and optional matters
 - Memorize Rom. 14:12

Mar. 4 (Romans 15)

- Read Romans 15 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 15
 - Mutual concern (1-14)
 - Paul's plans for the future (15-33)
 - Memorize Rom. 15:4

Mar. 5 (Romans 16)

- Read Romans 16 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 16
 - Greetings to various people (1-16)
 - Dealing with apostasy (17-20)
 - Paul's co-workers and closing words (21-27)
 - Memorize Rom. 16:17

Mar. 6 (Romans 1)

- Read Romans 1 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 1
 - Gentile world under sin (before the cross)
 - Memorize Rom. 1:16

On February 24, at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, Dutch speed skater Sven Kramer was disqualified after apparently winning the gold medal (which would have been his second) in Olympic record time, crossing the finish line a full four seconds ahead of his nearest competitor. There was only one problem: for the last eight laps he skated down the wrong lane, a violation which cost him and allowed South Korean Lee Seung-hoon to claim the gold. According to the rules of the 10,000 meter event, each participant must cross over lanes 25 times. On the 17th lap, Kramer's coach told him to go inside when he should have gone outside. A number of lessons come from this incident.

Like Kramer, many young people are "skating down the wrong lane." They are headed for what they think is enjoyable and pleasurable, but what is in actuality deadly. They are experimenting with drugs, alcohol, sex and other matters that will ultimately devastate them and cause permanent emotional scars. The Bible principle of reaping as one sows (Gal. 6:7) is far from their minds, but ever so close to their actions.

Like Kramer, many in the religious world are "skating down the wrong lane." Jesus said, "I am THE way, THE truth and THE life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (Jn. 14:6). The vast majority of the religious world is headed for destruction while thinking they are "in the right lane." The Bible condemns division (I Cor. 1:10-13) and reveals that there is but one body/church acceptable to God (Eph. 4:4; 1:22, 23). It is the one of which Christ is the Savior (Eph. 5:23), and the one to which He adds the saved (Acts 2:47). Like Kramer, many will think to "raise their hands in victory" only to realize they were "in the wrong lane."

Like Kramer, many are following the directions of their "coach." Far too many depend upon a man or men for their religious guidance and fail to seek out what the Bible has to say. Sven Kramer admitted that he thought he should have stayed outside, but trusted his coach and took the inside lane. Sadly, many followers of men and man-made doctrines will follow the lead of their trusted advisor over a "thus said the Lord." Take heed, dear one, that you not be found "skating down the wrong lane."

-Eddy