

# Fulton County Gospel News

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## The Scientific Accuracy Of John 3:5

By Harold Turner

One of the greatest proofs that the Bible is of divine origin is the accuracy of the Bible in the fields of history, geography, and science. Though the Bible is not designed to be a book of secular history, every historical event mentioned is true. The Bible is not designed to be a book of geography, yet every geographical location mentioned within it is correct. Neither is the Bible designed to be a book on physical sciences, yet every scientific statement related to is accurate. Archaeology has confirmed many of the historical events that were previously held in doubt by historians. Archaeology has also confirmed many geographical locations that were doubted prior to the findings.

If the Bible were proven to be incorrect and false in the historical events mentioned, or the geographical locations described within it, or if it were proven scientifically incorrect in the statements that relate to scientific facts, we might then have reason to question its origin. It is because of its proven accuracy in each of these fields of study that gives us greater assurance that the Bible is of divine origin.

Many of the statements made in the Bible could not have been known by the writers unless they were inspired in what they wrote. Consider the statement of Job 26:7 "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." In recent years, astronomers have, by the use of powerful telescopes, learned that there is a great empty space in the North with no planets or stars. How could Job have known this without these powerful telescopes? Job also stated that God hung the earth upon nothing. This too is a fact that was unknown for many years after the days of Job. How did Job know this? Isaiah wrote about the circle of the earth (Isa. 40:22). It was nearly two thousand years later before men began to accept the earth as being round. How did Isaiah know this? David wrote about the "paths of the sea" (Ps. 8:8). In recent years these paths have been charted, and are now followed by oceangoing vessels. How could David have known about these?

These statements of Job, Isaiah, and David, along with many, many more, provide us with great reason to believe

that the Bible could only have been written by an allwise God. And every statement made of a scientific nature, is scientifically accurate.

Recently while thinking of the scientific accuracy of the Bible, I began thinking about the teaching of Jesus on the subject of the new birth-- "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5). Is this statement in harmony with scientific facts?

For years I have heard that the water in this statement referred to the natural child birth. This teaching was illustrated by stating that a woman's water breaks prior to the birth of a child. This inference is stated in the foot notes of one of today's modern translations of the Bible.

Is the Bible scientifically accurate? Then is the above interpretation of the new birth scientifically true? Surely Jesus would not have made a statement so vitally important, that could be proven inaccurate as scientific knowledge grew. He died that men might be born again, and He knew that Satan would develop strong critics toward His teaching.

Scientifically, a child cannot be engulfed in water and live. The clear liquid that erupts prior to child birth is an amniotic serous fluid, which completely engulfs the child while being developed within the mother. As one Doctor explained, this fluid is no more water than blood is water.

Did Jesus make a statement that critics can prove is both inaccurate and false? Or, did Jesus mean just what he said? -- Man must be born of water and the Spirit. Some have suggested that Jesus used the water symbolically. Yet if we deal honestly in our efforts to understand the Scriptures, we know that such would be improper. If the water is symbolic, so would the Spirit be symbolic for they are linked together to bring about the new birth. Jesus said that one must be "born again", hence one birth. How can this be? He explained that the new birth was of water and the Spirit. Both are linked together to produce the new birth.

Is it possible that Jesus used water here in reference to baptism? In Romans

(Continued on page 2)

## The Importance Of Light

By Clovis Ragsdale

Of all things God created, light was one of the most important. It was the first thing God set in motion in His scheme of creation. Some may be concerned that since light comes from the sun, and since the sun was created on the fourth day, there must be a discrepancy in the Bible. However, we must not forget that "God is light" 1 John 1:5. From Revelation 22:5 we learn that in Heaven there will be no need for light from the sun because "God giveth light." We can conclude that wherever God is present, there is no need for outside light.

Light is an important factor in life. Children are often afraid of the dark. Man is unable to maneuver without light. Business and other activities must come to a standstill unless light can be provided to dispell darkness. Life is much richer because we have found ways to make light from artificial sources.

Because man is dual in nature (physical and spiritual), it stands to reason that he needs light for both natures. God, who provided us a source of light for our physical nature, has also provided us a source of light for our spiritual nature - this source of light is the gospel. Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 4:3-6, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them . . . For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Before Christ came, man groped in spiritual darkness, unable to obtain forgiveness of sin. Christ came and died on the cross to make forgiveness possible, and to bring light to all who heed his teachings - the gospel.

Christians are to become light giving vessels. Christ stated in the sermon on the Mount, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the

(Continued on Page 4)

**The Fulton County Gospel News**

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EDITORS: Erwin Cowen  
and Harrold Turner.

**“And Strengthened His Hand In God”**

By Robert R. Taylor, Jr.

“And Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.” (1Sam. 23:16)

It can be said in the everlasting credit of both loveable lads that one had strength to impart and the other was wholly deserving to be strengthened. Before there can be strengthening of hands in God it is essential that there be those capable of doing the strengthening and those willing to be endeavor without the willing consent of David. Both are worthy of praise.

There are many realms in which the above principle applies, but let us consider it in the realm of the home.

In the exciting period of courtship and dating it is essential that one choose a person who will not weaken his faith but will strengthen it. As vital as this is in dating, such becomes an imperative in marriage. Marriage is the closest human relationship known to man and woman. Marriage is closer than that of father and son, mother and daughter, brother and sister. In this intimate relationship there should be reserved a place of top priority which belongs to God. Each person who becomes one with the marriage mate should think in terms of strengthening the other’s faith, trust, and love in God.

This ideal situation cannot exist unless you do some wise planning and make some important selections during your dating years. A young man who cares nothing for God, Christ, the Bible and the church while you are dating him will in all probability be even less tolerant of your religious convictions after marriage. A young man some twenty or more years ago promised his wife to be that he would become a Christian soon after their marriage. Instead of keeping that promise he has made it very hard for her to live the Christian life. His prejudice toward the church of Jesus Christ becomes more pronounced year by year. A young lady who is Christless in courtship will not become filled with faith just after the final “I do” is pronounced. Marriage works no miracles.

What about the husband and wife relationship in your home? Is there a mutual interest in the things of the Spirit? Can you both sit down and read joyfully the words of life from God’s Book? In times of trial, as well as moments of mirth, can you pray for strength and sing for joy? What about Sundays at your house? Does the wife do all the church going with the family while the husband prefers fishing to faith or comics to the

Christ? Does the husband have to do all the getting ready of the children for Bible Study because the wife prefers sleep over active sainthood and rest over the Redeemer?

Such situations can be bravely and successfully endured but who will affirm that such is ideal? In such there is no mutual strengthening of each other’s hand in God.

The apostle Peter suggests the great ideal in 1 Peter 3:7, “Ye husbands, in like manner, dwell with your wives according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, as being also joint-heirs of the grace of life; to the end that your prayers be not hindered.” Christian husbands and wives who fulfill their mutual duties toward each other can be “joint-heirs of the grace of life.” Too frequently their prayers are short-circuited because they fail to obey the Lord’s will toward each other.

Going home to heaven is the sweetest of all anticipations. We ought to be like the little fellow who said if he could have two wishes, they would be for him to go to heaven and as number two for all others to go. We cannot visualize what it would be like to build a home here without that strong desire of making sure our inheritance in a greater home -- the heavenly one. Each husband and wife should be striving for that home of the soul. Toward that end each should be strengthening the hand of the other in God. This writer wants to go to heaven. He wants his wife to go. He wants to live in such fashion that we can be with God in the eternal Palace of the Universe.

Is this the kind of home you presently have? Is it the kind you envision when you do form a home of your own? How much have you strengthened the hands of your family in God in the past? How much are you strengthening their hands in God right now? How much do you plan to strengthen their hands in God for the future?

“What have you done for Christ the past week? What have you done for others? What have you done for yourself?”

“The Christian surely means to be considerate and kind in Heaven. But why not here on earth in these trying circumstances where perhaps his friends and neighbors need it most?”

**The Scientific Accuracy (Cont.)**

6:1-6 we have the picture of baptism. A person dies to sin, is buried into the death of Christ, and is then raised to walk in a newness of life. Here we have a death, a burial, and a resurrection to life. Something takes place in baptism. When we arise from the water it is in newness of life. Jesus said in John 6:63 “It is the Spirit that quickeneth;” Quickeneth means to make alive. The blood of Christ washes away our old sinful person. Hence we are baptized into His death. Why? His blood was shed in His death - the blood washes away our sins. We are baptized into His death, the blood washes away the old sinful man, the Spirit quickens, and we are raised to walk in a new life -- born of water and the Spirit. Jesus was scientifically accurate as He described the new birth. In Col. 2:11-13, Paul shows that the operation of God takes place when we are buried in baptism.

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## The Foolishness Of Man . . .

By Thomas J. Seay, Jr.

Hosea 7:11, 13 "Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria. Woe unto them! for they have fled from me destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me."

Ephraim is here said to be like a silly dove. Could anything be more foolish than to flee from him who hath redeemed us? To flee from him is to flee to destruction. What a shame that this practice should be so common today!

"I have redeemed them" shows what the Lord has done for them. Think of their wretched condition in Egypt, and how he redeemed them out of the house of slavery. Think of his condescension in coming down to dwell in a bush, that he might manifest his purpose of grace to Moses. Think of what he hath done for us in coming down to dwell in the man Christ Jesus, that he might show forth the riches of his grace in redeeming us by his own blood. What a sacrifice of the wealth of divine love is here. "He is the propitiation for our sins."

What did they do with the Lord? "They fled from him." It is impossible to flee from the presence which is everywhere, or from the all-searching of his eyes; but we may flee from him in the love and confidence of our hearts and in the choosing of our will and way. It is a sure sign that there is something wrong within when we turn away from those who love us. The guilty is ashamed to look its father in the face; its eyes flee from him. Some flee from the Lord like Johan, by refusing to obey his word; but there are many who flee from him like Adam, because they know they have sinned against him. It is utter madness for a thirsty soul to flee from the fountain of living water to broken and empty cisterns.

Those who flee from the Lord often speak evil of him. They speak lies against him when they say; "that God does not love them", "that the death of Christ was not for them", "that their sins are too many to be forgiven." Those who speak such lies against the Lord have come under the power of the devil.

Those who flee from the Lord rush into grief and misery and into the destruction of all peace and fellowship with God. To turn away from our Redeemer is to turn back to the bondage of our restless self-will. "He that is without Christ is without hope." (Ephesians 2:12)

## Where Else, Indeed?

By D. L. Smith

Recently a bulletin crossed my desk with this item;

A mother was in the process of buying new suits for her two sons. One of the boys said to his grandmother, who has accompanied them, "won't I look nice in church tomorrow?" A lady standing near said, "Oh, do you and your brother go to church?" The little boy, only five years old, looked at the lady and said, "Where else would you go on Sunday morning?" Blushing, the lady remarked, "That's the best sermon I've ever heard."

Smile, but don't miss the point! It never occurred to him that they would not go. Habit is a powerful force, either for good or evil, yet regular church attendance is more than a good habit. It is a decision, made and kept.

I have not had to decide whether or not to attend church services since I was a teen-ager. That decision was made then - and has been kept through the years. Around our house on Sunday morning, Sunday evening, or Wednesday night no one asks, "are we going to worship?" Barring sickness or some unforeseen event we will be there.

If you have to decide each service whether or nor you will go, perhaps you need to take a good long look at your commitment to the cause of Christ. When you are absent you miss a source of spiritual strength, an opportunity to worship God, and a time to fellowship with other Christians.

Where else would a faithful Christian want to be when the saints assemble to worship God?

### IF I SHOULD DIE

By Joe R. Barnett

"If I should die before I wake," prayed young Tommy. "If I should die before I wake-if I should . . ."

"Go on, Tommy," urged his mother, "you know the rest of the prayer."

"I'll be back" blurted the youngster. Scrambling to his feet, he ran into the next room. Soon he was back. Dropping to his knees, he rattled off the familiar bedtime prayer without a bobble.

Tucking little Tommy in bed, his mother issued a gentle rebuke for the interruption, insisiting he should think about what he was saying, when he prayed.

"Mom, I was thinking about what I was saying," said the boy defensively. "That's why I had to stop. You see, I stood all of Tod's wooden soldiers on their heads just to see how mad he'd be in the morning. If I should die before I wake. I wouldn't want him to find them that way, so I had to go and fix them right away."

"You're right, dear," said a proud mother, voice quivering. She thought of herself, and many other adults, who should stop in the middle of their prayers and undo some wrong against another.

There are lots of things that may seem fun if you're going to keep on living. But you don't want them that way at the end of life's "few days."

Is everything all right . . . if you should die before you wake?

"One life showing the way is better than ten tongues trying to tell it."

### I LOVE YOU, LORD.

I love you, Lord --

Did I tell you yet today?

My life got so entangled,

And myself got in the way.

I didn't really mean it

When my tongue lashed out those words,

And now I feel so saddened,

For I'm positive you heard.

But I love you, Lord,

And I cannot go to sleep

Till I've said I'm really sorry,

And so ashamed down deep.

You've been so very patient

And tender from the start,

And I've been such a bother --

But I love you in my heart.

Oh, I love you, Lord!

And the knowing that I failed

Just reminds me even more

Of the cross where You were nailed.

So forgive me --

And with Your presence fill,

For I love you, Lord --

And I know I always will.

by Shirley A. Jolley

"The reason some folks have no interest in the church is because they have no investment in it."

"We usually tell the faults of others because it takes less time than to tell our own."

# Friendship With The World

by Lavern Stewart

James 4:4 states, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

In the Old Testament days, when God's people turned from Him to a false religious system, it was called adultery. One instance of this is in Ezekiel 23, where two sinful women are made to represent Judah and Samaria, and are rebuked for their spiritual adultery. Jesus speaks of the Jews, who had started 'running' with the world, as an adulterous and sinful generation, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels" (Mk. 8:38).

The Jews were married to God (Jer. 3:14), and Christians are married to Christ (Rom. 7:4). Now, just as a wife is adulterous who bestows her affections on another man, other than her husband, so the bride of Christ is guilty of the same sin when she starts 'courting' the world.

When we participate in the same sinful things the world engages in, we are forming a friendship with the world; on the other hand, if we stand for what is pure and right in the sight of God, the world will not 'love' us - "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:18-19).

Since the days of Cain and Abel, ungodly men and women have hated those that are godly, which fact emphasises our Lord's saying, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers of the false prophets" (Luke 6:26).

If the church does not maintain clearly the line between itself and the world, how can any be converted from the world? What would we have to offer? The world could rightly say, "I am as good as you are."

Further, how can we ask and expect God to bless our efforts to grow strong ourselves, and then teach and edify others, if we are unfaithful to God by courting the world? The Bible plainly says, "Love not the world!" Be a man and stand for what is right. Be strong enough to say "NO" to the advances of the world. Don't be God's enemy.

# It's An Odd Contrast

by Jim Bill McInteer

Just the other day I called the school, saying, "You perhaps are aware of the fact I haven't been to school since January. There were other places I wanted to be frankly, but you do have my diploma, don't you? You see when anyone asks, 'where do you go to school?' I always give our school's name. I'm loyal and love it just as much as those students that come every week. Where Do I get my diploma? . . . What do you mean I won't get one! My name's on the roll, isn't it? My daddy pays taxes, my mother went to the same school!" Oh, there are requirements to complete to graduate? I've failed! Why? . . . Well, thank you for not sitting in judgment on my ability, I'm glad you think I could have done it if I'd just been there. Honestly, I guess you're right . . . I did nothing for the school, did I?"

About that time I heard Dad call his Civic Club secretary. "But surely my name's on the roster! Removed? Why? You mean for little things like non-payment of dues, non-attendance, failure to complete committee assignments, and unexcused absences you'd remove someone as important as I am? What do you mean if every club member was just like me? I tell you right now, it would save a lot of worry . . . you wouldn't be concerned about dues, membership drives, attendance reports, fellowship, and a lot of other insignificant things! What kind of club would that be? Well, I guess you are right . . . sorry I failed."

But I say, "Thank heaven for the church." That's the one thing left where you don't have to attend, give, serve, work, enlarge, or give any answer to anybody for anything, and your name still stays on the roll! It's nobody's business but mine. Grace is so wonderful.

But, can the above possibly be true? If absence makes me fail home, school, club, business, and you name it; why in the name of reason can absence from the assembly of the saints make the backslider a member in good standing? The most expensively purchased thing in the world is the church of Christ. God help us if we make membership in it the cheapest activity of our lives! Luke-warmness nauseates Jesus. If you aren't sick you make him sick by negligence, and indifference. Quit playing games with glory. Come, make your life right with God; be fair with what you know is right.

# The Importance of Light (Cont.)

house, Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" Mat. 5:14-16.

How does a Christian let his light shine? In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul lists the fruit of the Spirit, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." When we do these things we let our light shine. But this is not all Paul said for Christians to do. In Gal. 5:19-21, he lists things that Christians must not do, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and the such like."

With almost one third of all the people who have ever lived, living on the earth today, the need for spiritual light is greater than it has ever been. No one is going to furnish the world the light it so desperately needs, except those who are followers of Christ. We are to be as a lighthouse which sends forth its beacon to lost ships on a dark sea, searching for their home port. Our lives must be a beacon to men lost in sin. The responsibility is great, but the promise of reward is far greater.

"If there is righteousness in the heart . . . there will be beauty in the character . . . If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home . . . If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation . . . If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world."

Rosa Nagdsdale  
 Mammoth Springs, Arkansas  
 1955