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Scientists and God

This article is from the August 1964 issue of the Christianity Today magazine.

Many people today say that the rapid advance of modern knowledge is giving man mastery of the world and that the mastery of the universe is just around the corner. They imply that man is self-sufficient. As a result, some think that we no longer need God and that He should be dropped from our lives.....

A position often implied and sometimes openly expressed is that every scholar knows man to be self-sufficient and that no real scientist believes in God...This is not true as we can see by the following evidence:

A few years ago a conference of M.I.T. faculty and religious leaders was called to discuss the best ways to meet the spiritual needs of the Protestant and Orthodox students on the campus. A number of professors attended. But what was particularly significant was which ones attended. Three of the most distinguished professors attended this conference....They meet the standards of real scientists, all leaders in their fields, and yet have a deep faith in God.....

Some of the greatest scientists have believed in God. A seventeenth-century example was Sir Isaac Newton. He was a very pious man and wrote extensively on the Scriptures. He was a great scientist; on his work, all physics rests, and even Einstein needed it as a start for his own great work.... In the same century we see the French scientist and mathematician, Blaise Pascal. One of the greatest mathematical minds of all time, he was a profound Christian; his *Pensees*, one of the world's great books, is a landmark in Christian philosophy...

John Von Neumann is a modern example of a world-renowned scientist who was a believer from the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study. He led in the development of high-speed digital computers. All mathematicians know him for his great contribution to pure mathematics. Also a believer in God is Professor Victor F. Hess who received the Nobel prize in physics for his discovery of the cosmic rays...

These scientists happen to be among those who, in addition to being first-rank scholars, have made their religious convictions publicly known. But there are many more who have not made them known. Many of the world's greatest scientists are christians but we have no space to name many of them...

Russia's most distinguished crystallographer, Academician N.V. Belov, is a believer who can no longer practice his Orthodox faith because Russia has banished God. Is it not significant that, even in Russia, there is a believer among the greatest scientists? One is reminded of the Biblical statement, "I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to Baal", (1 Kings 19:18; Romans 11:4).

Eugene, Oregon

David Bridges has a house now in Eugene. He and Mr. Kim immediately started to hold meetings in their chapel. One girl, who plans to be a social worker, has been attending regularly.

The Portland, St. Helens, and Salem families have been uniting on Friday nights for these regular weekly meetings. Other contacts have been made, so we believe that very soon others will be coming to these meetings. Because of the weekly ad in the Eugene paper with David Bridges' name, many of the university students are curious as to what he is doing and what his lecture series is about. Out of their curiosity, many will be stimulated to attend these meetings.

Chicago, Illinois

Mrs. Eileen Welch and the Chicago family had a four day campaign in Saint Joseph, Michigan during the Thanksgiving holiday. During these meetings, we know that many seeds will be planted and then soon the harvest time will come.

Let us continue to remember them and their work in the Chicago area.

Bible Study for This Week

Our Bible study this week is taken from Mark 13:28-32. These verses deal with the time of His Second Coming.

This is a broad period of time. We can tell that it is the same period of time in the Restoration Providence, but we cannot tell the exact day or hour.

Metaphysicians in Asia claim that they can figure out a persons whole life by knowing four particular details in a persons life:

- 1) Year of birth
- 2) Day of birth
- 3) Month of birth
- 4) Hour of birth

According to these particulars, our Master is always figured as the King of Kings.

In verse 28, Jesus gave His disciples the parable of the fig tree concerning the time of His Second Coming. The fig tree in summer rapidly produces the flower and fruit at once from the tree. In like manner, as soon as the disciples

perceived the signs of Christ's coming, they were to learn that He was close at hand, as certainly as the ripening fruit of the fig tree showed that summer was at hand.

Verse 30 states, this generation shall not pass away, until all these things be accomplished.

Liberal scholars say Jesus did not know the will and time of God, because 2,000 years passed and He had not come yet.

Jesus did this to encourage His disciples. Each generation thought He might come in their generation. This thought was to encourage them in a life of sacrifice for Him.

"This generation will not pass away....". This really means that all will be fulfilled in one generation.

Verse 31 states, Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away. This means, my words are final and absolute proof. Heaven and earth will pass but my words will not pass away. My Second Coming will fulfill and complete all things, I must come again.

In our next weeks study we will discuss the watchfulness in view of the return of our Lord.

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