



CONNECTED

January-March, 2025

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*Milledge Lester Hutson
Born May 30, 1941
Born again Oct. 14, 1954*

LIVES THAT ARE SO FULL AND GOOD

In his glorious song, *My Tribute*, Andrae Crouch expressed how I feel:

*"How can I say thanks
For the things You have
done for me?
Things so undeserved
Yet You gave to prove
Your love for me
The voices of a million
angels
Could not express my
gratitude
All that I am and ever
hope to be
I owe it all to Thee."*

Last year was one of the fullest, busiest years of my (our) life. In spite of advancing years and lots more time in doctor offices, we travelled thousands of miles in several states, I preached in 6 churches besides my own, conducted 6 revivals, celebrated Granny's 80th birthday with the family in Galveston, fished with dear friends in both Illinois and Colorado, and hunted elk in Colorado. Granny spent two weeks with lady

friends in Newfoundland, Canada, had hip-replacement surgery; and I attended my 65th high-school class reunion in Lufkin, Texas. We spent two weeks in Traverse City, Michigan with our daughter and son-in-law; and two weeks in Durango, Colorado with our son and daughter-in-law. I was able to publish a new book on pain and suffering; *When Trouble Comes*; and have 47 chapters ready for volume 3 of *What We Believe and Why*.

I have nothing but thanksgiving. God has been nothing but extra-generous to Mrs. H and me. It's hard for me to grasp that He has allowed me to reach fourscore and three; and still be mobile, in reasonably sound mind and still be able to quietly be a true friend, mentor and spiritual advisor to lots of dear people with real needs. I thank Him, and would

like to be giving my best when I cross the finish-line.

My prayer is that 2025 will be a truly fruitful year for you, and for me. In the natural world, fruit trees have a life. Old trees like peaches and apples are known for producing their sweetest, biggest, best fruit just before they die. Oh, how I want that to be me! For me, I don't want "*We'll work till Jesus comes*" to be a lovely, but empty song.

**This Little Prayer
seems especially for
me:**

*"Lord, keep your
arm around my shoul-
der, and your hand
over my mouth!"*

Now, if you ever
feel this doesn't apply
to you, stick around
awhile. It will!

**CHRIST
DIED FOR
YOU!**

NOT ALL, BUT SOME

A few weeks ago, I read Casey Cobb's post on Facebook. It triggered a flood of memories. I met Casey shortly after August of 1984 when at 13 he arrived at *Boys and Girls Country*. It's a place near Houston for "troubled youth." As Casey put it, "I was developing into a little gangster at thirteen, and BGC was my last chance before going into the juvenile justice system."

At *Boys and Girls Country*, Casey found himself in the cabin of Willie and Mildred Hill. Suddenly, there was a house full of love, lots of rules and discipline, work, high expectations and a life based on wholesome, godly living. Momma and Daddy Hill showed how it's to be done; they were right in the middle of the lives of "their boys:" their schooling in Hockley, their homework, their schedule, what was going on in their lives and what was on their minds. Those boys ate like kings and went to church every Sunday. Momma Hill made sure every boy went through the *Basic Bible Truths* and knew exactly what it meant to personally know Jesus Christ as Savior. Momma Hill was not out for pretense; she wanted every boy to see the truth for himself.

I'm so happy to tell you that Casey's life turned around. At Berean Baptist Church in Houston, Casey came face-to-face with Jesus Christ and his personal need for forgiveness of sins and the eternal salvation that is only available because of the finished work of Christ. He became a believer. After leaving *Boys and Girls Country*, Casey returned to the South where he earned a Master's Degree at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He accepted a tenure-track in East Tennessee where he has also worked in the community trying "every day to give back a little of what *Boys Country* gave me."

Some years ago, my attorney friend Hutson Smelley and his wife Tabitha adopted a young girl from China. There are millions of these young girls in orphanages over there until they become teenagers, then it's the streets. There aren't many options to prostitution. One of Hutson's friends probed him about adopting this child when there are so many just like her. His response: "I can't save all of them, but I can save this one." Brothers and sisters, we who know Christ and the eternal hope that is in Him can't reach everybody, but we can reach some. And, we must! Many will never come to Christ. God gives every person a choice; and many will ignore the evidence, harden their hearts and say "No" to God; but not all. A few Casey Cobbs are still out there. God forbid that we fail to do all within our power to give every person an opportunity!

HOW MUCH COURAGE DO YOU REALLY HAVE?

King Henry VIII had the power to send to prison or behead, and was prone to do so. Once 16th century reformer Hugh Latimer stood before him.

Latimer struggled within himself. "Latimer, do you remember that you are speaking before the high and mighty King Henry VIII; who has the power to command you to be sent to prison, and how he can have your head cut off, if it please him? Will you not take care to say nothing that will offend royal ears?"

Latimer paused for a moment, then continued, "Latimer! Latimer! Do you remember you are speaking before the King of kings, and Lord of lords; before Him at whose throne Henry VIII will stand; before Him to whom one day you also will have to give account yourself? Latimer! Latimer! Be faithful to your Master, and declare all of God's Word."

Latimer did declare God's Word. King Henry spared his life; however, Henry's daughter Queen Mary (Bloody Mary) later had Latimer burned at the stake at Oxford.

Erwin W. Lutzer, *We Will Not Be Silenced*, (Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers: 2001), pp. 123-124.

Knowledge is free at the library. Just bring your own container!

Grandpa loved chocolate cookies. As the heavenly aroma drifted across his deathbed, Grandpa pulled himself up, made it down the hall and stretched out his trembling arm.

Suddenly a spatula caught him across the back of his hand, as grandma's voice rang forth, "Keep your hands off those cookies; they're for the funeral."

THIS IS AN EXCELLENT BOOK ESPECIALLY FOR SERIOUS READERS

Is Atheism Dead?

By Eric Metaxes

Salem Books

Washington, D.C.

ISBN: 978-1-68451-173-0

This 412-page book consists of 30 powerful, overwhelming chapters. From the start, in an intellectual, scholarly, scientific and highly documented way, Eric Metaxes is on the offensive against atheism. He quickly establishes the great gap between true, objective science and the subjective, extremely radical and hate-filled bias of a large percentage of the scientific world, particularly many of its renown leaders. With documented scientific fact after scientific fact, Mr. Metaxes exposes their known, provable lies. With a broad, scathing brush, he uncovers the clandestine, on-going efforts of atheists (multitudes of them popular, leading scientists such as Richard Dawkins) to eradicate from the human psychic all ideas and concepts of God in any form. They have had the wide backing of the academic community, the university system, the media/press and government. They have viciously attacked the Bible and Christianity (all religion and belief in God of any sort) as being an anti-intellectual, false and corrupting belief system unfit to exist or be tolerated among men.

Is Atheism Dead is presented in three parts. Part 1 is *Does Science Point to God?* The 8 chapters in this section present proven, objective scientific evidence which is almost universally accepted, even by the atheistic community. Metaxes appeals to Einstein, Newton, Sandage and Hubble. Contrary to the long-standing atheistic evolutionary stance which contends that matter has always existed, science has now proven that the Universe had a beginning-point. It has not always existed. Einstein saw it, but under intense pressure from the atheistic, evolutionary community, he buckled. Atheism had declared God dead, but Einstein's discovery undermined their premature conclusion. His and other evidence confirmed that the Universe continues to expand from a beginning-point. Undeniable intricacy and overwhelming evidence throughout the Universe confirms intelligent design. Metaxes presents an astounding parade of scientific proofs which continues to change brilliant, objective minds. Just one of many examples is the makeup and function of a single human "cell." The cell defies all odds of being an accident. A growing number of earth's most astute scientists are increasingly coming to the conclusion that the cell (and other phenomena) came into existence and continue to exist only at the hand of a creator. You owe it to yourself to go through Part 1 of *Is Atheism Dead?*

Part 2 is sub-titled *The Stones Will Cry Out*. This fascinating section consists of 10 chapters dealing with mostly recent archeological discoveries which confirm Bible claims. Scientific archeological digs, especially of the last 200 years, have repeatedly verified Bible claims which had been written off as spurious and figurative. For many "scholars" and scientific people, especially atheists, the Bible (and the God of the Bible), was summarily written-off as unscientific and unreliable, just a book of fables to be rejected and mocked. For well over 100 years, that picture has been steadily and rapidly changing. Without exception, long-rejected Bible claims have been validated. Biblical archeology has become a scientific discipline within itself, and the Bible is increasingly being viewed as the chief guide or map to the uncovering of factual information. As only a few of many, Metaxes points to The Black Obelisk, The Dead Sea Scrolls, Hezekiah's Tunnel, The Pilate Stone, The Pool of Siloam, The Nazareth Home of Jesus and the location of ancient Sodom and Gomorrah. The evidence is irrefutable, and has turned the atheist world on its heels. Needless to say, they do all they can to keep quiet and downplay all such evidence.

Part 3 is a 12 chapters expose of life in the atheistic world including the inevitable turmoil that rages in the atheistic mind. The atheistic stance is one completely void of purpose and hope. It flies in the face of overwhelming evidence. Atheism is a myth. Metaxes cites cases of atheists who have wrestled with the emptiness of their lives. A few have turned to God. Only God gives hope, and only the God of the Bible offers a plausible explanation for the existence of the Universe or a means of addressing the sin problem and hope beyond the grave.

"*Is Atheism Dead*" is a book for serious, mature thinkers and readers. It is not casual, flippant reading. The book will educate you, greatly expand your horizons and challenge you. It enriched me, and I highly recommend it.

Contact us at:

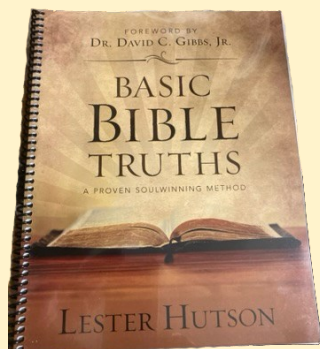
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"Once that you say your views are based on the high moral ground of love, everyone who doesn't agree with you must be filled with hate and irrational bigotry."

Erwin W. Lutzer

"The first hour of the morning is the rudder of the day." Henry W. Beecher

AN OLD AND PROVEN TOOL UPGRADED



Through the years, I have worked to make *Basic Bible Truths* a more-functional, user-friendly tool. Many who teach the six one-hour Bible lessons prefer the comb or spiral binding over the perfect binding. Each of the six Bible lessons is accompanied by a summary "Outline." It is common for teachers to take the outlines with them to teach. They simply open the *Teacher's Manual* and follow the "Outline" as they teach the lesson.

For teacher ease, I have created comb-bound copies of *Basic Bible Truths* in 8½ X 11 size. When the book is opened to the six "Outlines," the entire outline will lie flat on the table top. Except for Bible passages, no turning of pages will be needed throughout the lesson. Since teachers almost always use their teacher manuals to teach lesson after lesson, for endurance purposes I had these special teacher copies printed on a heavier, higher-quality paper.

These special comb-bound copies of *Basic Bible Truths* for serious teachers are not available from Amazon. They are only available from me at lesterhutson@gmail.com. They are \$10.00 per copy plus a mailer and postage.

ONE OF THE BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE

As I write these lines, it is December 7, 2024. 57 years ago today, I departed Beaumont, Texas in route to preach a weekend revival at a Baptist church in Midland, Texas. 20 miles after departure, I collided head-on with an 18-wheeler carrying an oilfield workover rig. Four months later on April 3, I stood up again for the first time. From a shattered pelvis, to a split hip socket to lots of other breaks and cuts, by the grace of our great God, I lived through it.

I had 4 months on my back to think of life; of what really counts most. The love of God sent Jesus to this world to save lost sinners. While I was down, my mind was consumed with how to better present the saving message of Christ to needy people. The *Basic Bible Truths* method of presenting the gospel was born. Somehow, God has used it by pastors, missionaries and hundreds of godly people to bring many to Christ.

How I thank Him! As painful as December 7, 1967 was for me, I consider it one of the best days of my life. Had He not put the breaks on me, it's probable that I would never have slowed down long enough to think-through and get a handle on this most foundational of all Christian teachings. *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes," Psalm 119:71.*

Don't
count the
days;
make the
days
count!

WHEN TROUBLE COMES IS NOW AVAILABLE ON AMAZON



Though it's considerably later than I thought, I'm happy to say that my new book is now available on Amazon: *When Trouble Comes*. Here is the short explanation on the back cover:

You know that Old Testament Jeremiah was spot-on when he said, *"We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and behold trouble!" Jeremiah 8:15*. Trouble is everywhere. You may very well think yours is too great, and that you can't bear it. God is aware of where you are, and He is both willing and able to help you.

When Trouble Comes: Understanding Adversity and How to Respond is a serious and more than cosmetic look at the issue of trouble with all its forms of pain, grief and suffering. This book is not hard and harsh; but it is honest. It doesn't offer empty platitudes, quick fixes or advice that ignores reality. It talks about the reality of pain and suffering; physically, emotionality and spiritually. It documents the origin and source of all evil with the consequences in which we all find ourselves. The book takes an honest look at the role of God in the picture. It presents many answers.

When Trouble Comes offers hope, real lasting hope. It makes no promise that you won't have trouble in your life; it does show how you can deal with your trouble and move forward with peace and joy in your heart in spite of your trouble. You don't have to become negative, bitter and defeated. You can win over trouble. Whether you win or lose is your choice. The difference between winners and losers is always response. God will help you, but you have to let Him do so. The reality of what brought trouble into your life won't go away, but God's grace is greater than any trouble which you will ever face. Actually, trouble can make you better and stronger; and it provides you the opportunity to become a hero in the truest sense.

The central theme of this book is the on-going immediate and eternal help of God which is readily available to all who will come to Him and receive it.