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Dramatic impersonation: Paul

**Jesus Christ
died, was buried
and rose for you!**

CONNECTED

October-December, 2025

BALANCING THE SCALES

When I married Margaret on August 3, 1962, I was already in the Gospel Ministry. Our entire married lives have been there. Our three children never knew anything but a *Preacher's Home*; they've always been *Preacher's Kids*.

As much a part of me as is my skin has been a *workaholic* mentality: *can 'till can't, 110%, nothing but all you have all of the time*. Sometimes (not always), the kids got the short end. There was always *something going on at the church*: a special meeting, guest speaker in town, a person in crisis: sick, family, marital, some other crisis. It's VBS, youth camp, revival, Missions Conference, Thanksgiving, Easter, Christmas, Anniversary time. Missionaries and preachers *just show up*. It didn't take me long to learn what happens if they don't get enough attention.

Staff meetings, deacon meetings; and when you routinely teach a Sunday school class, preach twice on Sundays, and every Wednesday night plus conduct lots of funerals, you spend lots of hours preparing to preach. Ready to take the kids on a little Saturday outing, but a dear ole *pillar-in-the-church* dies midweek. Yes! You guessed it! The funeral *just has to be* on Saturday. That's the *best day for the family* to all get together for the service.

Many times, Mark, Clint and Dena got what was left; they were somewhere back there in line. Kids are people too, and their look at what's going on is not too savory. It's pretty easy for resentments to creep in; lots of *Preacher's Kids* grow up and quit church. Of course, the *holy brethren* can be pretty critical of them.

In our twilight years, Margaret and I are deliberately trying to balance the scales. We're aware that you can never wipe up all of the *spilled*

milk; we're also aware that we can confirm our love and loyalty to our kids in tangible ways that escaped us along the trail. One way is spending more quality time in their lives. This summer, we were with Mark and Julie in Durango, Colorado. A little later, we were with Dena and Scott in Traverse City, Michigan. No agenda except love and tangible affirmation.

Along the way, I was able to read some really good books. I also finished two more books of my own: *What We Believe and Why 3*, and *Genesis: A Commentary and Study Guide*. Both these books are in the hands of my editor who is working on the formatting, layout and design.

Mrs. Hutson and I wish each of you a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving, a VERY Merry Christmas and the best New Year of your life to date.

GREATLY USED OF GOD

Tom Hardin, Cristobal Yanez and Robert Creech. Tom reached Robert with the transforming Gospel of Christ when Robert was a hippy living off the land in the Ozarks. God called Robert to Panama, a heathen *Banana Republic*. Robert reached Cristobal.

In September, Panama nationally celebrated *The Month of the Bible*. She's now more Christian than the USA.

What a glorious success story! Early this year, Tom was promoted to his eternal home.



“IF I WERE THE DEVIL”

Paul Harvey was a striking and colorful broadcaster. Back in 1965, he first aired this masterpiece which is more applicable than ever:

“If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I’d want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I’d have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn’t be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee. So, I’d set about however necessary to take over the United States. I’d subvert the churches first — I’d begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: ‘Do as you please.’

“To the young, I would whisper that ‘The Bible is a myth.’ I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what’s bad is good, and what’s good is ‘square.’ And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, ‘Our Father, which art in Washington...’

“And then I’d get organized. I’d educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I’d threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I’d pedal narcotics to whom I could. I’d sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I’d tranquilize the rest with pills.

“If I were the devil, I’d soon have families that war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings, I’d have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you’d have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

“Within a decade I’d have prisons overflowing, I’d have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil, I’d make the symbol of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

“If I were the devil, I’d take from those who have, and give to those wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And what do you bet? I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work, in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I’d just keep right on doing on what he’s doing. Paul Harvey, good day.”

WHY DID GOD CREATE EVIL?

Albert Einstein was not an atheist. The idea that philosophically “cold is merely the absence of heat” is often anecdotally attributed to Einstein. It was supposedly presented in a challenge to a professor. The story is not confirmed to be true; however, it well-illustrates an accurate reality. Here is the widely circulated story:

A university professor asked his students, “*is it true that everything that exists was created by God?*” One student bravely answered: - “*Yes sir.*” The professor then said, “*If God created everything, then since evil exists, God created evil. Furthermore, according to the principle that our deeds define ourselves, then God is evil.*” The student became silent after hearing such an answer. The professor was very pleased with himself and boasted to his students that he had once again proved that faith in God is a myth.

Another student raised his hand. “*Can I ask you a question, professor?*” “*Of course,*” replied the professor. “*Professor, is cold a thing?*” “*Of course it exists. Have you ever been cold?*” Students laughed at the young man’s question.

The young man then said, “*Actually sir, cold doesn’t exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is actually the absence of heat. A person or object can be studied on whether it has or transmits energy. Absolute zero (-460 degrees Fahrenheit) is the complete absence of heat. All matter becomes inert and unable to react at this temperature. Cold does not exist. We created this word to describe what we feel in the absence of heat.*”

The student continued, “*Professor, does darkness exist?*” The professor said, “*Of course it exists.*” The student replied, “*You’re wrong again, sir. Darkness also does not exist. Darkness is actually the absence of light. We can study the light but not the darkness. We can use Newton’s prism to spread white light across multiple colors and explore the different wavelengths of each color. You can’t measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into the world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you tell how dark a certain space is? You measure how much light is presented. Darkness is a term man uses to describe what happens in the absence of light.*”

The young man continued, “*Sir. does evil exist?*” The professor said, “*Of course, as I said before. We see evil every day. Cruelty, numerous crimes and violence throughout the world. These examples are nothing but a manifestation of evil.*” To this the student said, “*Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist of itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is like darkness and cold, man-made word to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is not faith or love, which exist as light and warmth. Evil is the result of the absence of divine love in the human heart. It’s the kind of cold that comes when there is no heat, or the kind of darkness that comes when there’s no light.*”

The student has long been thought by many to have been Albert Einstein. Whether or not the incident occurred, the point is clear and irrefutable.

What do you call a factory that makes good products? Satisfactory!

THIS IS A VERY GOOD BOOK

ICR Materials

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In the strict sense of the word, this is not a book review; it's an effort to expose you to an entire family of extraordinarily good books. For many years, I have been reading a variety of excellent books which fall under the umbrella of the *Institute for Creation Research* (ICR). This great organization which came into existence largely through the efforts of the late Dr. Henry Morris offers a treasure house of great materials. All of the materials fully embrace the God of the Bible, the final and absolute authority of Scripture and the literal truth of divine creation and a worldwide cataclysmic flood. You would do yourself a favor to visit their website and bookstore: <https://store.icr.org/books>. Allow yourself some time. They're big!

I've read *Days of Praise* (their daily devotional) for over 50 years. It's the pacesetter in devotionals. For almost that long, I have read *Acts and Facts* (their bimonthly beautiful and factual creationist magazine). What a resource! Fascinating! They're leaders in unbiased, factual research and reporting. Yes! They address the tough, controversial issues.

ICR books are legendary; some of the best, most authoritative materials I've ever encountered. Everybody, especially people with children in their lives, should visit the ICR Discovery Center and Museum at 1830 Royal Lane, Dallas, Texas 75229. They routinely host creation seminars and scholarly events.

In my personal library, I have three full shelves of ICR books: Dr. Morris' benchmark commentary *The Genesis Record* as well as his *Scientific Creationism*, *The Genesis Flood* by Henry Morris and John Whitcomb, *Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth* by Jonathan Wells, *Buried Alive* by Jack Cuozzo, *The Fossils Say No* by Dr. Duane Gish, *Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe* by Steven A. Austin and a large number of books on dinosaurs. I especially enjoyed Dr. Morris' book: *Remarkable Record of Job*.

ICR has a treasure-house of books for children and other beginning learners. Recently, they have begun publishing a very informative and colorful series of short books. I found *Fascinating Creatures: Evidence of God's Handiwork* to be particularly delightful. This little book deals with the Platypus, spiders' built-in algorithms for constructing webs, butterfly wings, the one-hump camel, poison dart frogs and other anomalies of nature which absolutely defies evolutionary concepts which leave out God. They have another little book on volcanoes and another on eclipses. Their little biography on Isaac Newton who was a believer is outstanding.

ICR has far too many resources for me to mention in this brief review. Besides devotionals, magazines, books and a museum, they have tremendous video presentations on DVD, Blu-ray and other formats. They are full of authoritative answers to hundreds of questions which many in the scientific world use to discredit and silence Christians, especially young students in public schools particularly the University system.

I challenge every reader of this *Connected Newsletter* to acquaint yourself with *The Institute for Creation Research*. God said, "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge*," *Hosea 4:6*. In this age, when so much excellent material is readily available, no Christian Ambassador can legitimately plead ignorance.

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Revelation 22:17

THE ONLY BIRD THAT DARES TO ATTACK AN EAGLE IS A CROW, BUT THE EAGLE NEVER FIGHTS BACK. THERE'S A MESSAGE



- ◆ THE CROW IS THE ONLY BIRD BOLD ENOUGH TO SIT ON THE EAGLE'S BACK AND PECK AT ITS NECK. RELENTLESS. ANNOYING.
- ◆ BUT THE EAGLE... STAYS CALM.
- ◆ THE EAGLE DOESN'T FLAP. DOESN'T FIGHT. DOESN'T WASTE ENERGY. IT DOES ONE THING: IT RISES.
- ◆ THE HIGHER THE EAGLE SOARS. THE THINNER THE AIR BECOMES. THE CROW? IT CAN'T HANDLE THE ALTITUDE.
- ◆ EVENTUALLY, THE CROW GASPS. LOSES STRENGTH...AND FALLS OFF.. NOT BECAUSE THE EAGLE ATTACKED BUT BECAUSE THE EAGLE ASCENDED.
- ◆ LET THE CROWS TALK. LET THEM PECK. YOU DON'T HAVE TO RESPOND. JUST KEEP GOING HIGHER.
- ◆ THEY CAN'T FOLLOW YOU FOREVER. YOUR GROWTH WILL SUFFOCATE THEIR NOISE. SO DON'T ENGAGE. ELEVATE. SOAR!

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FULL AND NOT EMPTY

A few days ago, I found myself unusually hungry. Mrs. H put together a feast fit for a country boy. I ate fresh pinto beans, sweet-corn on the cob, fresh sliced homegrown tomatoes, elk steak and homemade cornbread. Along with Arnold Palmer tea and a fresh peach cobbler, I was full! Really satisfied.

As I savored the moment, it occurred to me how hard it is to put that kind of *fullness* and *satisfaction* into words. There's an inexpressible peace and contentment.

It's on the opposite end of the scale from deep hunger and thirst. Most Americans don't really know what it is to be truly hungry and thirsty for food and water. We take for granted *the Land of Plenty* where very few people starve to death. There are people on this planet who live with hunger pangs; day after endless day with gnawing hunger pangs. Hungry! Always hungry! Never full! Never satisfied!

I sat there at the table contemplating how blessed I am to have enough to eat, to be full and not hungry.

My mind moved to the multitudes who have full stomachs; but empty, unfulfilled lives. Always hungry! Wanting more! Never satisfied. Empty! Restless! Most of the world is there. There are those who have hungry stomachs plus hungry lives. There are those who have full stomachs, but they're hungry, thirsty, empty! Their lives are unfulfilled. Their money and affluence have failed to satisfy that deep hunger and thirst in their souls.

It's striking that Jesus always *cut-to-the-chase*. He went straight to the juggler vein, to the heart of matters. People have lots of fleshly appetites: sex, acceptance, security and many more. None quite compare with the need for food and water. You can live without many things; you can't live without food or water. You hear Jesus saying such things as "*I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst,*" **John 6:35**. "*I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world,*" **John 6:51**. To the woman at Jacob's Well in Shechem, Jesus said, "*If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water . . . Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life,*" **John 4:10, 13-14**. That blew her away! Like most people, this Woman at the Well had a hard time getting hold of the fact that Jesus Christ is the only one who can give us long-term satisfaction for the incessant hunger and thirst that's deep in the heart of every one of us.

All people have appetites. Be it physically or spiritually, nobody likes to be hungry and thirsty. People search! And search! And search! That's really the heart of *The American Dream*. Most of them die hungry and thirsty. King Solomon said, "*Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry,*" **Ecclesiastes 8:15**. We call it wine, women and song. Solomon was there; he had it. Richer than Bill Gates, Warren Buffet and Elon Musk combined. "*He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines,*" **1 Kings 11:3**. That's a lot of sex. "*Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men.*" Furthermore, "*His fame was in all nations round about.*" **1 Kings 4:30-31**. On top of that, "*He spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five,*" **1 Kings 4:32**. Solomon lived *The American Dream* on steroids, yet here are his own words: "*All things [are] full of labour; man cannot utter [it]: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing,*" **Ecclesiastes 1:8**. He continued, "*I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem. 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,*" **Ecclesiastes 1:12-14**.

My heart often weeps as I think of Jesus' question, "*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?*" **Matthew 16:26**. So many hungry and thirsty people, and most of them are going to die that way. I know what it's like to be hungry, and I know what it's like to be full. Only Jesus can satisfy that incessant hunger deep in your soul, but He can! He said, "*I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst,*" **John 6:35**. I can personally attest to the truth of His own words, "*Blessed [are] they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled,*" **Matthew 5:6**.

FROM RUINED RAGS TO RICHES

Queen Victoria stopped one day at a paper-mill near Windsor Castle, and was shown through it by the foreman. He did not know who she was, as she was alone and was plainly dressed. The queen was intensely interested in every process of the paper-maker's art. She was conducted at last to a place where a number of rag-pickers were emptying out the dirty rags which they had gathered from the gutters and alleys of the great city. There was a large pile of these filthy, blackened rags, which looked as if they never could be made clean. The queen asked the foreman what he would do with these. To her amazement, he told her that he would make them into the finest, whitest paper.

When the queen had gone, the foreman learned who she was. Some days after, there was received at the palace a package of the purest, most delicate paper, having the queen's likeness stamped upon it, with a note from the foreman of the mill, telling her that this paper was made from the very rags she had seen on her visit!

What a message! The Holy Spirit takes human lives, ruined and blackened by sin and makes them whiter than snow. He stamps upon them the holy image of Jesus! No life is hopeless in its ruin. The transforming grace of God can renew anybody. God can take the most sin-soiled soul, and give to it radiant beauty!