

PARACLETE

ADVOCATING FOR THE TRUTH OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH



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Give Up on the World?

By Dr. Don Bierle, *FaithSearch* President

A Christian friend recently said to me, “I am praying like never before that Jesus will return to end it all.” **He had given up on the world.** Is that what Jesus said His followers should do?

I’m hesitant to criticize because I have had similar thoughts. Many Christians have. There is a sense in which those thoughts are right, as C.S. Lewis wrote, “A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do.” (*Mere Christianity*, Macmillan, 1960, p. 118)

The Bible says we “groan” in this body, “longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven” (2 Corinthians 5:2).

The apostle Paul told the Roman church that as Christians “we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body” (Romans 8:23).

We are instructed to “look not at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen, for the things



The Crucifixion, by Spanish Baroque painter Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, ca. 1675. (Public domain)

which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:18).

This is the believer “looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus” (Titus 2:13).

God So Loved the World

On the other hand, I can’t stop reflecting on the familiar John 3:16 passage in the Bible where God says He loved the world so much that the Son was sent to die for us. The Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Peter to explain why Jesus was delaying His return: “*The Lord is not slow about His promise...but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*” Jesus wept over Jerusalem because He longed for their repentance and salvation (Luke 19:41-42; Matthew 23:37).

The heart of Jesus for today is reflected in the forty days He was on earth after His resurrection in that He gave multiple commissions to His disciples to go to the lost world (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:7-8). He said, “*My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working*” (John 5:17); “*We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work*” (John 9:4).

In the parable of the talents, Jesus has the master saying to his servants, “*Do business with this until I come back*” (Luke 19:13; emphasis added) and was deeply offended by the one who buried his talent (gave up on the world?) rather than invest it (Matthew 25:26-27).

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IN THE NEWS

Color Me Blue

If you have ever had a vaccination or surgery, you are almost certain to have benefited from the **horseshoe crab**. Its bright blue blood, due to a high concentration of copper, has been used for forty years as a diagnostic test for endotoxins. A component of some bacteria, endotoxins can cause fever, toxic shock, and even organ failure. Even sterilization does not eliminate it.



So vaccines (including COVID-19), IVs, pacemakers, artificial hip and knee joints, etc. must be screened for its presence. **Horseshoe crab blood clots in the presence of endotoxin.** It can also detect beta-glucans (indicative of fungal infection) within hours whereas other diagnostics take up to a week.

Horseshoe crabs are known as “living fossils” since they are almost

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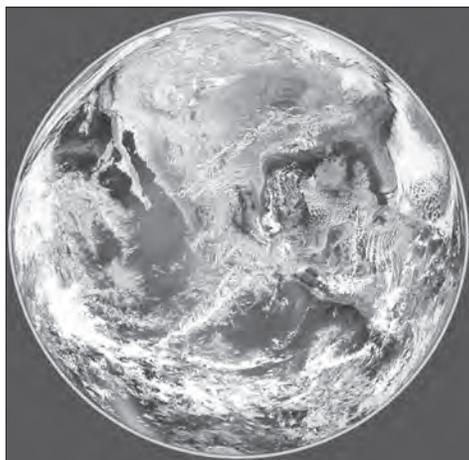


Image courtesy: NASA/NOAA/GSFC/Suomi NPP/VIIRS/Norman Kuring

Our world, as seen from space, whose people God loved so much that He gave His only Son.



Animal Olympics: What a Creator!

If you watched the Summer Olympics and marveled at the human talent and performances, be prepared to be awe-struck if you ever attend an animal Olympics.

Only God could create the gold medal winners in the following events:

Weightlifting:

Dung Beetle: 1,141 times its body weight
Human equivalent: lift an 80-ton bulldozer

100-Meter Dash:

Mexican Free-Tailed Bat: 100 mph
Human maximum: 23.35 mph
(world record for 100 meters)

100-Meter Freestyle:

Black Marlin: 82 mph
Humans: Not even close!

Long Jump:

Snow Leopard: 50 feet
Humans: about half that

High Jump:

Flea: 150 times their body height
Human equivalent: jump over a 60-story building

Diving Depth:

Cuvier's Beaked Whale: 9,874 feet (nearly two miles!)
Human world record: 702 feet

"Marathon":

Arctic Tern: 50,000 miles per year (Arctic to Antarctica)
Humans: no contest!

Source: Answers Magazine, "Animal Olympics," Vol. 16 No. 3, July-Sept 2021, pp. 54-60.



The lowly dung beetle feeds on the feces of other species but is a powerhouse lifter. (Public domain)

FOR REFLECTION

Sometimes there is more gold in the Olympics than what's in the medals. **Sydney McLaughlin**, who won two gold medals at the Tokyo Olympics (400 meter hurdles and 4x400 meter relay) revealed a "golden" perspective in an Instagram® post:

What I have in Christ is far greater than what I have or don't have in life. I pray my journey may be a clear depiction of submission and obedience to God.

Source: World Magazine, Vol. 36, No. 16, p. 17



Eyes on the Prize:

Sydney McLaughlin, competing in 2018. (Image courtesy: jenaragon94, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic [https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en] license.)



"I once asked **Chuck Smith** [the late founder of the Calvary Chapel movement] if he thought we'd ever see another Jesus Movement – another **spiritual revival in America**.

"His response was an interesting one. He said, 'I don't know if we are desperate enough.'"

Source: Decision Magazine, "Would God send another great awakening? By Greg Laurie, June 2021, p. 20

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"I Also Send You"

The first thing that Jesus said when He appeared to His disciples on Easter evening was, "...as the Father has sent Me, I also send you" (John 20:21). He then "breathed on them" to receive the Holy Spirit (v. 22). For what purpose? To deal with the sin of the world (v. 23). This is the same thing He told His Father in prayer the night before His crucifixion, "As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world" (John 17:18). Why was Jesus sent? So that people would not perish, "but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

"...also for those who will believe in Me..."

Jesus made clear that His heart for the lost would not change, even 2,000 years later, by praying, "My prayer is not for them [His apostles] alone. I

pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message." **That's us!** Jesus made no provision for us to "give up on the world."

To finish the quote by C.S. Lewis at the beginning of this article: [a continual looking forward to the eternal world]

"does not mean that we are to leave the present as it is. If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next."

I think Jesus would approve of that.

Your partnership in prayer and financial support with **FaithSearch International** is your affirmation of the heart of Jesus. Our mission is "to extend the Gospel with evidence to all peoples everywhere." Together, through this message, we are adding spiritual great-great-great... grandchildren for the apostles. And it makes the world a better place. 

Color Me Blue

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identical to their fossilized ancestors. A staple today in the medical industry, they are raised in aquacultures or caught commercially and "donate" their blood in laboratories before they are released to the wild again. Conservation restrictions have been initiated on harvesting to ensure that crab numbers do not decline. **Compassionate animal care is a biblical principle of creation stewardship** (Proverbs 12:10; 1 Corinthians 4:2).

"God's design for this crab is, in turn, provision for us," wrote Troy Lacey. "The horseshoe crab's intriguing designs make it a medical marvel, benefitting humans... and presenting Christians with a unique opportunity to mitigate the effects of the curse by wisely stewarding God's creation." 

Source: Answers Magazine, "Lifesaving Living Fossil," Troy Lacey, Vol. 16, No. 3, July-Sept 2021, pp. 14-17.

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