

The Compass

John Doughty
Director
Charles F. Williams
Assistant Director

"...When He set a compass upon the face of the depth..."

Proverbs 8:27

PO Box 379 • Bridgewater, VA 22812 • (540) 476-2954 • August 2007

DEFENDING THE FAITH

A battle for truth

In this issue:

- **BATTLE FOR TRUTH,**
Charles Doughty pg 1
- **SET FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL,**
John Doughtypg 2
- **Biblical Authority, Mormonism and Islam Seminar with Dr. Crane,**
John Doughty..... pg 4
- **The Scriptures: Their Own Best Defense; Charles Doughty Gives Lecture,**
John Doughty pg 6
- **MARK 16:9-20: DOES IT BELONG IN THE BIBLE OR NOT?**
Dr. Keith Wise..... pg 9
- **Combating Postmodernism with Biblical Truth**
John Doughty.....pg 10
- **INTELLIGENT DESIGN vs. EVOLUTION DEBATE,**
John Doughty..... pg 11
- **Preacher Doughty Leads Bible Studies at Virginia Tech.....pg 13**
- **Russian News.....pg 14**



Who will stand up and defend the integrity of the true God?

*By Charles Doughty
Published in The Winchester Star
Winchester, VA
Commentary Open Forum section
Thursday, March 29, 2007*

The Apostle Peter put it this way: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). The word "defense" in the original means an authentic proving of the

integrity of the eternal hope we are taught in The New Testament. If we are waiting for God to defend his own holy spiritual integrity—forget it! God does not work that way. If the hope we get from His blessed book is not worth living and dying for, then don't expect your minister to speak at your funeral in glowing terms of your departure to Heaven, the blessed hope. We are facing opposition on several fronts. The Islamic clerics tell us our original manuscripts are corrupted. Yet, the whole Islamic religion is based on original oral tradition. They do not even have ancient manuscripts. "The Da Vinci Code" has been proven in just a short time to be one of the biggest hoaxes pawned off on a gullible people who, for some reason, want the Christian faith to collapse. In addition to the laughable, yet serious assertion that "Mona Lisa" was the Virgin Mary, the author concocts the

The apostle Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7). Can you and I say the same? We cannot fight to defend our Lord's integrity if we do not enter the battle for truth.

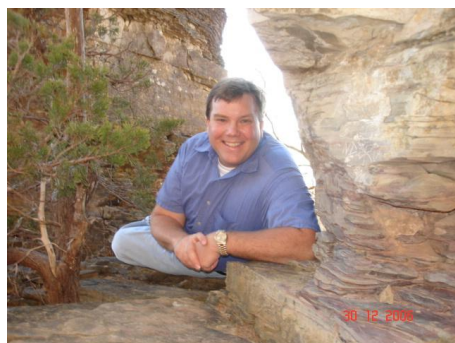
veracity of something and is the root word for what we call "apologetics." God asks us to defend the

idea that Jesus entered into a conspiracy with Judas to get himself crucified. Yet, scripture makes it clear: "Satan entered into Judas" (Luke 22:3) and he betrayed his Lord for money. "Then Judas, His

betrayed, seeing that He had been condemned was remorseful and brought back the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders” (Matthew 27:3). Lately, we are faced with another anti-Christ money-making scheme based on the finding of a box in Egypt. Would you believe it has the bones of Jesus and some of his family members in it? Scripture again comes to our aid when we realize that Christ had no family burial plot. He was buried in a rich man’s tomb (Matt. 27:57). This was prophesied in Isaiah 53:9. The sepulcher was guarded by Roman soldiers (Matt. 27:65) and after his resurrection the awe-struck soldiers told the chief priests what had happened. They were bribed and invented the big lie: “Tell them, His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept” (Matt. 28:13). Dear readers, it is time for us to rise up a mighty army of Christian apologists. The battle is clearly spelled out for us, a war of truth versus lies. The ancient Christian manuscripts are not only superior to the fabricated documents of Muslims, Mormons, and other religions, but their existence renders all other religious sources null and void. The world is at war with us. The apostle Paul said, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7). Can you and I say the same? We cannot fight to defend our Lord’s integrity if we do not enter the battle for truth.

Charles Doughty is a senior evangelist at the Church of Christ at Mountain View in Stephens City

SET FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL



by John Doughty

“I am set for the defense of the gospel,” Paul said, (Philippians 1:17.)

How many Christians today are prepared to give a defense of their faith? Giving a defense is critical if we are to evangelize the lost. One of the purposes of the church is to equip the

saints for ministry (Ephesians 4). This is military lingo that Paul is using to analogize the Christian faith to military warfare. We need to “get set” so that we can be defenders for Jesus Christ.

Four military-spiritual campaigns have recently been accomplished; a discussion with popular media figure Eleanor Clift, challenging an evolutionist at an Intelligent Design versus Evolution debate, Preacher Chuck Doughty leading a series of Bible studies on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, two weeks before the shooting rampage, and the hosting of a seminar: Biblical Authority: Mormonism, & Islam with Dr. Charles Crane, President of Boise Bible College (Idaho) held in Harrisonburg and Winchester, Virginia. Furthermore, there were more evangelistic calls on the schedule at the time this article went to press, including a discussion with Seventh Day Adventists held in Delaware, on which we hope to report later.

There is a cost to military preparedness. There is also a cost to being a Christian disciple. Discipleship involves teaching, learning, living, and being prepared. “The things you have learned, commit to faithful men, who in turn can teach others,” Paul told Timothy (2 Tim. 2:2). Christian discipleship is a school of life-long learning; we never graduate until we hear those words, “Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter in...”

I love teaching creation and apologetics at Christian Kingdom College. Even if I am not teaching, I always take the classes myself,

(Preacher Chuck Doughty teaches on Tuesday nights here in Harrisonburg) for the sheer pleasure of learning the Word. I also love fellowshipping with other Christians during our break time, and sharing in discussion on the questions that have been raised during our study. I also thrive on seeing brand new Christians getting excited about the Word of God and building a depth of knowledge of the scripture. It is important for me to be a Godly example to them.

The antithesis (opposite) of having an attitude of preparedness for Christian ministry can be found

in a recent email I received from a retired theology professor at Eastern Mennonite Seminary:

“The things you have learned, commit to faithful men, who in turn can teach others,” Paul told Timothy (2 Tim. 2:2). Christian discipleship is a school of life-long learning; we never graduate until we hear those words, “Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter in...”

“It was good to hear from you. Thanks, too, for the invitation to the seminar on Biblical Authority. I considered attending at least one session but failed to do so, but for what reason I now forget. Thankfully, I am convinced about the matters to which Dr. Crane addressed himself. His lecturing to me would have been much like preaching to the choir. Moreover, since I no longer teach I

am not obliged to hone my skills and add to my knowledge on matters of apologetics and biblical authority. God’s blessing to you and yours.” H.

Apparently, this man is of no real service to the Lord anymore. He seems to have retired on God and has no desire to even “give an answer” (1 Peter 3:15), let alone to prepare himself for such an opportunity. The hypocrisy is that this man who has taught “theology” for many years has forgotten the instructions of the very God in whose name he has claimed to teach. How foreign an example to that shown by the apostle Paul, who wrote, “I do not consider myself as having arrived. But this I do, forgetting the past, I press on toward the mark of the high calling...” We are thankful for Godly preachers who have proven to be finishers in their lives and ministry. Paul said, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course.”

I am thankful also for the example of my own father, Preacher D, who has exhibited a consistent Christian spirit in public and private. He has truly been faithful “in season and out of season;” in fact he has been in “alert” mode, 24x7, for as long as I can remember. Many are the times I have accompanied my father on some serious souls-at-stake spiritual mission. At 67 years of age, Dad shows no signs of stopping. In addition to his CKC summer assignments, he has recently conducted a special “Prophecy Seminar” at the Ocean View Church of Christ near Bethany Beach, Delaware, on July 15-18. His zeal for the Kingdom of God is

contagious. It is in this spirit of zeal and Kingdom fervor, that we present to you a report on our latest evangelistic endeavors.



Biblical Authority, Mormonism & Islam Seminar

By John Doughty - Dr. Charles Crane, President of Boise Bible College, was the featured speaker in a five day seminar sponsored

by Christian Kingdom College, with presentations at the Harrisonburg Church of Christ and the Church of Christ at Mountain View, April 10-15, 2007.

Crane spoke on the authority of the Bible, and also the illegitimacy of the Mormon religious texts and religion. His first presentation was on the Subject of the inspiration of the Scripture. The word for inspiration is THEO-PNEUSTAS, which literally means “God-breathed,” and this verse, he said, shows the divine origin for the Bible, it is not just man-made literature. Furthermore, he continued, since Jesus, Himself is the Word LOGOS, (John 1:1) and the Truth, (John 14:6) attacks against the Bible are really attacks against the person of Jesus. People who try to find fault with the Word really have a problem with Jesus.

Crane presented information on what the Bible says about itself, citing six scripture texts to show the inspiration of the Bible. He examined Hebrews 1:1-2, 2:1-4, where that “God spoke through the prophets” and even “by angels...” and this “word was unalterable,” but now He “has spoken through his Son.” This word was preached and confirmed by the apostles. He read 2 Peter 1:19-21, “we have the prophetic word made more sure...” and “no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation... no prophecy came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.” This verse is not just a reference to the inspiration of the Old Testament scriptures, but in fact bolsters the integrity and even superiority of the New Testament scriptures, as they were being delivered by Peter and the rest of the apostles for

accomplishing God's purpose and the salvation of man.

Crane showed that Peter acknowledged "all of Paul's epistles" in 2 Peter 3:16, and mentioned that even then, "unlearned and unstable [men]" were trying to "wrest" or "twist" his writings, as they were trying to do also to "the other scriptures," unto their own destruction.

Crane mentioned a few of the critics who have attacked God's Word such as Graff and Wellhausen, Owen, and the most recent critic, Bart Ehrman. The German theologians, Karl H. Graf and Julius Wellhausen, applied Darwinian Theory to their study of the Bible. They concluded that the Old Testament had evolved! They tried to undermine the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch with their JEDP theory, also known as the Documentary Hypothesis, introduced in 1865.

Robert Owen, the father of socialism, disavowed God and private property and lectured and published in England and America, establishing a commune in "New Harmony," Indiana. Owen had a godless philosophy and attacked the Bible as being the Word of God, but this proto-communist had a special contempt for Moses. Owen's anti-Christian philosophy was rendered ineffective by Alexander Campbell, who marshaled his case on the evidences of Christianity in their 1829 debate. In 2006, Bart Ehrman, a textual scholar who studied at the Moody Bible Institute, made headlines for renouncing his Christian faith mainly because the original autographs of the New Testament authors do not exist today. He did this, notwithstanding the fact that over 5,000 ancient copies of their texts have been preserved. His conversion to atheism proved to be a good career move; it came just in time for him to accept the position as head of the religion department at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

The problem with those who attack God's Word, Crane said, is that they "keep dying," and so it is better to trust in a man like Jesus Christ, who said, "scripture cannot be broken," and who is alive forevermore. Crane touched on 2 Tim. 3:16-17, "all scripture is God-breathed," inspired by God, that the man of God be adequately equipped unto all good works. Also Jesus' statement in the Sermon on the Mount, "not one jot or title would pass away from the law, till all be fulfilled..."

(Matthew 5:18) is a good proof for the veracity not just of Moses' books, but also for the whole Bible.

Crane emphasized John 10:34-35, "Scripture can not be broken," and gave several references from the Old Testament, including Deuteronomy 18:18-22 where that prophecy is more than just predicting the future, "yes, the prophecy involved fore-telling," Crane said, "but its purpose was primarily for forth-telling," which means that the message that the prophet preached was the most important thing. Crane concluded with a passage from the last words spoken by David in 2 Samuel 23:2: "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and his word was in my tongue." Who can deny the inspiration of the Bible as God's Word? Crane also presented lectures on the veracity of the Old and New Testament and the inconsistencies in the Book of Mormon and Mormonism. The seminar also included presentations by Charles Doughty, John Doughty, and Jeff Wickert.



The Scriptures: Their Own Best Defense

By John Doughty

Charles Doughty set the tone for the Biblical Authority seminar with his opening presentation, "The Scriptures: Their Own Best Defense." He presented evidence from the New Testament which revealed the process God used for confirmation of His Word. God used apostles, men who possessed exclusive qualifications and to whom was given special powers to notarize, as it were, the divine

word with which they were entrusted. Christ entrusted the apostles with the word of God. "I have given them thy word," Jesus said, praying for "all who believe on me through their word," says John 17:14, 20.

Doughty pointed to the various descriptions of the apostolic ministry. The apostles were the "ministers," DIAKONOS, of the last will and testament of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:6). They were "stewards", HUPERETES, (under-rowers, ministers, officers, servants) of the mysteries of God (1 Corinthians 4:1). One of the most frequent apostolic characteristics, he said, was their job of being "witnesses," MARTUREO (to witness, testify, give evidence or testimony, bear record in a judicial proceeding), of Christ and His resurrection (Acts 1:8, 2:32, 3:15, 5:32, 10:39-41), to mention a few examples. The apostles were (and are) the "foundation" (along with the New Testament prophets) of the church, (Ephesians 2:20.)

The apostles were given authority to "judge the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19:28, Luke 22:28-30), and as executors of the new covenant of Jesus Christ, the apostles' authority would even exceed that of the Old Testament prophets, whose cryptic utterances the apostles would now elucidate to the whole world for all time. This means the apostles would have the final say. "We have the prophetic word made more sure," Peter claimed in 2 Peter 1:19-21, where the words "more sure" or "more certain" referred to the apostles' unique responsibility in unlocking and unfolding God's final revelation. This authority was given to the apostles by Christ, Himself (Mt. 16:19) and involved a legal transfer of earthly and heavenly power ("keys of the Kingdom, binding and loosing") no Old Testament prophet could ever claim, not even Moses nor Elijah!

Furthermore, God provided a sign/wonder ministry as a means whereby the apostles could confirm, or prove their credentials as witnesses and prophetic word givers, (Hebrews 2:2-4, Mark 16:20, 2 Peter 1:19). Peter is referencing this

ability or ministry of confirmation in the words "more certain." The word "more certain" or "more firm" (BEBAI00) is the very word, "confirm," which is used in Heb. 2:2-4 and Mark 16:20. According to Vine's Dictionary, this word was used frequently to describe the settling of business transactions. It is used to describe when a testament is "in force" in Hebrews 9:17, and Paul used it in Philippians 1:7, where he mentioned his ministry in the defense (APOLOGIA) and confirmation (BEBAI00) of the gospel. In Hebrews 6:16, the writer says that men would bind covenants and confirm them by oaths. This was done to demonstrate the immutability of the things that were being bound. How appropriate that God provided a means of confirmation of His Word, through the person and ministry of the apostles.

What greater confirmatory proof could an apostle like Peter give, of all the sign/wonder/miracle/gifts of the Spirit at his disposal, then to give testimony of his being an eye-witness (OPTI-MARTUS) of Jesus' glorious transfiguration and the voice which came from heaven, which overshadowed even Moses (the law) and Elijah (the prophets).

The apostles, then, are not just like any ordinary Christian. They were the big-boys, the heavyweights, of the Christian faith. "By the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought..." Luke records in Acts 5:12, 13, "And of the rest, no one dared join them, but the people magnified them."

To tamper with an apostle was life and death, as Ananias, Sapphira, and Simon and Elymas, both sorcerers, ultimately discovered. Peter rebuked Simon the sorcerer, who wanted the power to transmit the apostolic gifts, "You have neither 'part' nor 'lot' in this matter," (Acts 8:21.) Doughty said that this "part" and "lot" refers back to Acts chapter 1 and the selection of Matthias as to who would be enrolled as the twelfth apostle. He said that the word part, MERIS, means partnership, and hearkens back to Acts 1:25, who would take "part of this ministry and apostleship." The word "lot" KLEROS, refers to the casting of lots, and in Acts 1:26 the KLERONOMIA, or "lawful lot" or

At stake, said Doughty, is the supremacy of God's Word. The Roman Catholic Institution claims that it "produced" the Bible by deciding which books belonged in it. Do you really think God waited three centuries for the Romanists to compile the books into the Bible?

“divine inheritance” fell upon Matthias. By asking for the power to transmit the apostolic gifts, Simon was in effect, asking for apostleship, itself.

Apostolicity, then, (that which pertains to the apostles) is the key-not just to answering the claims of those who abuse Holy Spirit power-but also to understanding the authority and authenticity of the New Testament Scriptures. Apostolicity argues against the Romanist, whose leader claims he is equal in **authority** and even a successor to Peter. Second, it argues against any Charismatic “pastor” who claims he has the **power** of Peter. Finally, it argues against the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox Institutions, who try to take credit for the compilation of the books of the Bible, when the scripture can clearly account for itself. The scripture does this by virtue of apostolic **identification**, and the mutual **recognition** that the apostles and prophets shared for one another, going so far even to reference one another’s writings in their own epistles.

For example, Peter makes reference to “all [Paul’s] epistles in 2 Peter 3:16. Jude, in his short epistle, verses 17, 18, admonishes his readers to remember the words of the holy apostles, “how that **they** told you... there should be mockers in the last time.” Jude is quoting a specific passage from 2 Peter 3:3. Paul, in his 1 Timothy book, quotes the Gospel of Luke in 1 Tim. 5:18, “For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The laborer is worthy of his reward. The part about the ox comes from Deuteronomy 25:4, but the second half about the laborer being worthy comes from Luke 10:7. Paul acknowledged Mark as a prophet in Colossians 4:10. He told the church to receive Marcus, Barnabas’ cousin, (no wonder Barnabas loved John Mark so much) but Paul went onto say about Mark, “concerning whom ye received the commandments.” What were the commandments that Mark delivered to the Colossian church? At the least, Paul acknowledges Mark to be a prophet. The word “commandment” means an injunction, charge, precept, or commandment and is equated to scripture at least once by Jesus with reference to the law and prophets in Matthew 5:18, 19. Paul gave commandments of the Lord (1 Corinthians 14:37, as did Peter (2 Peter 3:2) and John (1 John 2:8, 4:21).

So Peter refers to “all” of Paul’s books, Paul quotes Luke, and Jude quotes Peter. Luke mentions at least two others who had written gospels before him, and in his Acts history, he referenced his own Gospel. All of the New Testament writers, (four apostles and four prophets) are mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. They shared mutual recognition one with another, to the point that John could castigate the antichrists (1 John 2:19) as having, “went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us...” (KJV) or “none of them belonged to us,” (NIV). For whatever reason, the writer of Hebrews did not inscribe his name, but his acknowledgment to the apostles in Heb. 2:3,4, authenticated the epistle.

At stake, said Doughty, is the supremacy of God’s Word. The Roman Catholic Institution claims that it “produced” (or compiled) the Bible by deciding what books belonged in it. Does one really think God waited three centuries for the Romanists to compile the books into the Bible? Doughty asked. He was critical of the traditional view of the “Canon” as explaining the origin of scripture. He said that the word “Canon,” is a Latin word, and charged that the New Testament Church has suffered from many innovations of nomenclature that Rome has produced, whether arising from Latin words, or by changing or adding new meanings to Greek words, such as clergy, laity, hierarchy, and so on. The Latin “Canon” meaning “a measuring line or rule” is related to the Greek KANON, with a similar meaning: a reed, rod, or rule, however, said Doughty, the idea behind the KANON “rule” has been removed entirely from its New Testament context.

Canon theory is comprised mostly of the study of scriptural references in the post-apostolic history of the so-called church fathers and seems to give greater importance to the role of the church fathers in the preservation of God’s word than it does to the apostles who originated it! This is confirmed by the Webster’s Dictionary, where the third definition under Canon reads: “The books of the Holy Scriptures universally received as genuine by Christian churches. “Universally received?” “What?” interjected the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 14:36, “Came the word of God out

from you? Or came it unto you only?" In other words, "who is writing the Bible here, you or me?" This rebuke is equally applicable to those who claim credit for compiling the books of the Bible as it does to those who were abusing spiritual gifts during the time that spiritual gifts were available.

Doughty said that the idea of a reed or rod used as a measuring stick is found in Revelation 11:1. However this word is KALAMOS, used as a stick, staff, and measuring rod. A word study of KANON, translated as "rule" in the New Testament is very revealing because it is used twice with regard to a Christian's living according to Christ, (Gal. 6:16, Philip. 3:16), but its first mentioned usage is a dramatic case used by Paul in 2 Corinthians 10:13, 15, 16. Here it is a clear reference to apostolic authority in the origination of the New Testament epistles. Paul makes it expressly clear that the KANON rule belongs to him and the rest of the apostles.

*For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed: That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters. For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible. Let such an one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present. For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the **rule** (KANON) which God distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. 2 Corinthians 10:8-13*

In addition to the Canon baggage is an equally pernicious idea known as Neo-Orthodoxy which, in a nutshell, is the view that God may be known apart from His revelation. This idea has been advocated by Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) as a moral philosophy, and enlarged upon by Swiss Reformed theologian Karl Barth as the starting point of a "theology" which repudiated biblical inerrancy. Barth argued that scripture cannot be considered identical to God's revelation. Neo-Orthodoxy has also been affirmed by the Roman and Eastern Catholic Institutions in their belief that

the church, itself, is a divine revelation. The Roman Catholic Institution in the Council of Trent (1563) claimed that there are three sources of divine revelation: the church magistrates, tradition, and finally, the word of God.

Canon theory and Neo-Orthodoxy have been used to counter the idea of Sola Scriptura, (the Bible only), and to bolster the claim of Catholic primacy over the word of God. Apostolicity and the Biblical information concerning apostles and prophets proves that the Holy Spirit produced the Word, and the Word produced the Church. The Church did not give us the Bible, but rather the Holy Spirit did! The Holy Spirit gave the Word, and the Word produced the Church. This is easily seen on the day of Pentecost, Acts 2, which incidentally, is the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, filling the apostles who were said to be "baptized with the Holy Spirit," (Acts 1:5, 8, 2:4). Thus begins the ministry of the apostles as witnesses and executors of Jesus Christ. Peter and the eleven began to preach the word of salvation, (Acts 2:14, 40, 41,) through which the obedient were saved, thus constituting the church.

The Bible accounts for itself through the apostolic and prophetic ministry both in spoken and written form. "*When ye received the **word of God which ye heard of us**, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God...*" (1 Thessalonians 2:13). "*Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, **whether by word, or our epistle**,*" (2 Thessalonians 2: 15). "*And if any man **obey not our word by this epistle**, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed,*" (2 Thessalonians 3:14).

In wrapping up his presentation, Doughty finally stressed the importance of the words "testify" and "testimony," which come from the same word for "witness," MARTURION, by reexamining the passages in Mark 13:9- and Luke 21:12-13, [see also Matthew 24:14, John 15:26-27, 16:1-4, 13] where that the gospel would be given by the apostles in legal and judicial form, "*in the synagogues, before rulers and kings, for a testimony **against** them,*" (Mark 13:9). Luke 21:13 records, "*And it shall **turn to you** for a testimony.*" Just as God called heaven and earth, 12 stones, and many other things as a witness against Israel, so He

used the scribes in legal, judicial, and court proceedings, both in prisons and palaces to corroborate the testimony of the apostles. As Jesus took note more than once, “Thou hast said.”

Coffee in the Auditorium??? By All Means, Bring It In With You!!!

“Whenever I’m preaching in a revival, I ask people if I can bring a cup of coffee with me into their “sanctuary” because I want to test people and discover where their emphasis lies. People who are fastidious about physical things are usually very poor when it comes to spiritual things.” Preacher “D” (observation after 46 years in the ministry), to the Harrisonburg Church of Christ congregation, April 10, 2007

Fastidious, a. [L. *fastidiosus*, disdainful, scornful, that feels disgust, from *fastidium*, a loathing, disgust, from *fastus*, disdain, haughtiness, contempt.] 1. Disdainful; squeamish; delicate to a fault; difficult to please; rejecting what is common; suited with difficulty; as, a *fastidious* appetite. 2. disgusting; loathsome. Syn.- Squeamish, hypercritical, overnice, overparticular, punctilious. -- *Fastidious* is applied to one whose taste or feelings are offended by trifling defects or errors; squeamish to one who is excessively nice on minor points, or else overscrupulous.

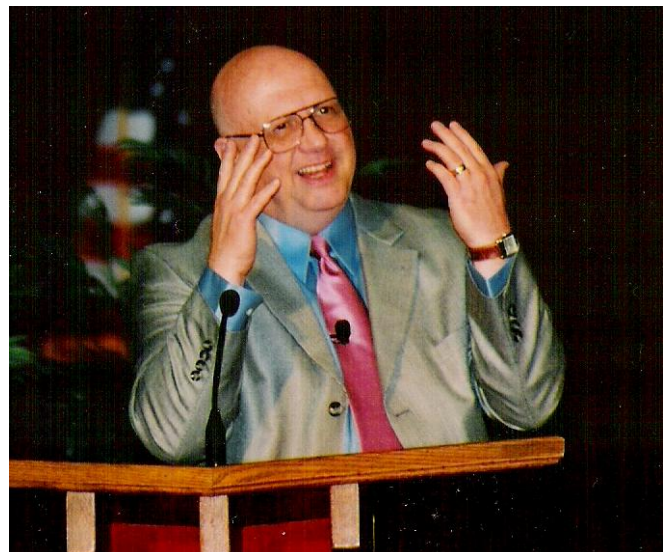
An Answer to the footnote of Mark 16:9-20 in which “the two most reliable early manuscripts have been omitted.”

By Dr. Keith J. Wise- Sr. Minister St. Louis Church of Christ, Prof. of Greco-Roman History

There are a number of reasons why Mark 16:9-20 is questioned and omitted in the manuscripts cited. Some of these are scholarly and some of these are of an emotional nature. However, they put the verses in perspective as we read and seek an understanding of the passage. The two oldest full manuscripts, the Sinaitic and

Vatican, do not contain these verses. On the other hand there are at least 618 other Greek manuscripts that do contain them. Not only so, but the oldest versions, older than the above mentioned manuscripts, do contain these verses. In addition, the Latin Vulgate, translated from older Greek manuscripts than we possess today, include these verses. This is also true of the majority of the Egyptian, Armenian, Gothic, Ethiopic and Georgian Versions. These are much older than the two that were cited as “complete” versions. There are nearly a hundred early Church Fathers who lived prior to the Sinaitic and Vatican manuscripts that make references to these verses and include them as Scripture. These are, to name a few: Papias (A.D. 100), Justin Martyr (A.D. 151), and Irenaeus (A.D. 180). In a consistent light of biblical balance and hermeneutics these verses are in agreement with the rest of Scripture. It must be borne in mind that there are three post-resurrection commissions given in the Gospels:

Luke 24: 47- was spoken in Jerusalem to the apostles and “those that were with them,” (**Luke 24:33**) this was on the eve of the resurrection. Later He led them to Bethany... vs.50. **Mark 16:15-18** was spoken as He sat at meat with the eleven.



“He rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.” (vs.15) He did not do this on resurrection night, but prior to His ascension, when He was alone with the eleven.

Word preached all over the world to the whole creation. The Gospel was proclaimed all over the world in THEIR LIFETIME. “... Which is come to you. ALL OVER THE WORLD this gospel is producing fruit and growing... (Colossians 1:6) Or if we consider, “... if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature UNDER HEAVEN, and of which I Paul, have

become a servant.”

(Colossians 1:23) Also,

“First, I thank my

God through Jesus Christ

for all of you,

because your faith is being reported ALL OVER THE WORLD.”

Jesus had kept His Word. We should keep Mark 16: 9-20 in our hearts as another promise fulfilled. We should not expect a promise made to the apostles which He confirmed in their lifetime to be repeated today. To insist on a repetition of these miraculous gifts is to insist that His promise be fulfilled and confirmed over and over again. Such a view demands not only poor interpretation, but would force God to confirm the words of men other than the holy Apostles, to whom he spoke.

By John Doughty

Dr. Charles Crane, a foremost Christian apologist, and long-time student in the field of textual criticism came to the Harrisonburg Church of Christ to conduct a seminar on the authenticity and authority of the Bible as the Word of God, presenting ancient Bible manuscript evidence and showing how the Bible was compiled. This seminar took place April 10-15, 2007 in Harrisonburg and Winchester, Virginia.

This seminar was designed to expose the false theology and spirituality which has been popularized by a slew of recent books such as “The Bible Code,” “The DaVinci Code,” “The Lost Gospel of Judas...” That the public-which has turned these titles into bestsellers-could be so gullible reflects perhaps on the ignorance among Christian people of the Bible and history and also a



Combating Post-Modernism with Biblical Truth: DaVinci Code, Lost Gospels = Modern Gnosticism

Matthew 28:19-20 was in a mountain in Galilee with only the apostles present. This is almost 60 miles away from where the other commissionings were made. Mark records what was promised by Jesus to the apostles, in verses 15-18. Verses 19-20 give the divine commentary telling us the fulfillment.

Mark wrote that fulfillment 35 years later after Jesus spoke the words of Mark 16:15-18. The Lord kept His promise to the apostles, for as they went forth and preached, He worked with them and confirmed the Word with “signs following.” This agrees perfectly with Hebrews 2:3-4. “How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard Him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, the gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.” It is historically true that the signs of an Apostle confirmed the words of the Apostles. (Acts 4:33)

These verses then are not spurious but true. This passage should not be rejected because it is abused by those who try to make these miraculous gifts apply to all believers. The Lord promised the apostles these gifts would follow to confirm the

fascination for things lurid. This ignorance was underscored in my mind by the statement of one of our local university professors, who claimed to be a Christian but said, “We are going to have to reinterpret Christianity now in the light of the discovery of the gospel of Judas.”

The modern preoccupation with humanizing Jesus, the focus on lost “gospels” and hidden knowledge is indicative of a revival of Gnosticism, a popular philosophy in the First Century, A.D. Gnosticism arose in Alexandria, Egypt, the intellectual capital of the Roman Empire, by philosophers who attempted to amalgamate the teachings of Christianity, particularly Jesus and Paul, with Greek philosophy derived from the writings of Plato. The Gnostics had a cliché, “spirit is good, flesh is evil,” and those who espoused this view had a hard time reconciling Jesus Christ, the divine Logos, come to earth in the flesh as the Son of God.

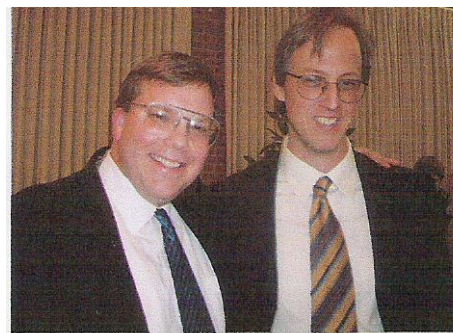
Every Easter and Christmas, we are bombarded by the media tabloids Newsweek and Time, attempting to “spin” Jesus in some new way. Was Jesus a new age guru, socialist revolutionary, etc. etc.” The Gnostics were playing the same game in the centuries following Christ with men such as Clement of Alexandria, Origen, and Arius. They began to debate and put their “spin” on the person and atoning work of the historic Jesus of Nazareth. They were not interested in the real Jesus-as described in the Gospels-but were rather interested in the pursuit of knowledge (Gnosis) for knowledge’s sake, which they believed was not available to the ordinary man. This pursuit of knowledge led them to deny the very Jesus whom they studied. They pictured Jesus as just a man who was “adopted” by God, they denied his physical death on the cross and his bodily resurrection.

The Alexandrian philosophers lived centuries before Soren Kierkegaard, but they produced a Christianized form indistinguishable from his system. Kierkegaard denied that Jesus could ever be known historically, at best he could only be an approximation. Both Gnosticism and Existentialism denied the idea of an absolutely true, divinely revealed Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus is not a real historical personage, they argue, rather, he is whoever you make him out to be.

The apostle John, a close associate of Jesus, and eye-witness of his resurrection from the dead, set his guns on such Gnostic thinking: “*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life...*” he wrote in the introduction to his first epistle... “*This is why we know, this is why we know...*” asserted the apostle, rebutting the heresy of the Gnostic teaching. John declared that anyone who would deny that Jesus Christ came in the flesh is not of God and is “Against-Christ.” This included the Gnostic sect, the very writers of the so-called gospels of Judas, Thomas, etc. etc. John called them “false prophets,” (1 John 4:1), “they went out from us, but they were not of us,” he said, (1 John 2:19).

As for the “lost gospels,” scholars have long been aware of a class of literature known as the “pseudepigrapha” (false writings) which arose in the 3rd and 4th Centuries A.D. These spurious documents did not pass the test of apostolicity, which required the book be written by an apostle or prophet. Thus they possessed no authority over the Christian faith, “once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). The value of the counterfeit, however, is that it provides testimony to the authenticity of the original, thus the imposters were preserved by scribes and handed down to this day.

Intelligent Design versus Evolution Debate Held at Bridgewater College



By John Doughty
Bridgewater, VA – A debate on Intelligent Design versus Evolution took place

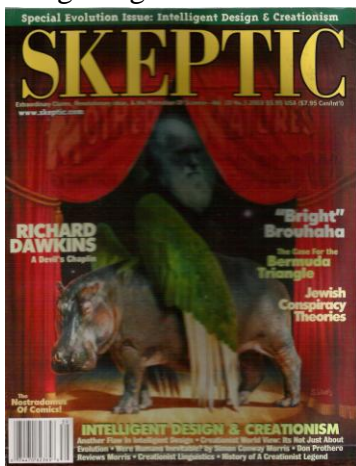
on the campus of Bridgewater College at Cole Hall on Thursday evening, Feb. 15, 2007, between mathematician and Intelligent Design advocate William Dembski and psychologist Michael

Shermer, atheist and founder of Skeptic Magazine, before a packed house. Intelligent Design is a synonym for "creation."

Dembski went first citing Darwin's language from his Origin of Species, 1859 where Darwin used words such as "possibly," "likely," and "probably." This is the language of statistics, Dembski said, and since we know more about biology and the complexity of life than Darwin could ever dream, we can put the claims of Darwinism to the test in the form of rigorous probability calculations. Dembski has done this and his conclusion is that Intelligent Design is a far more satisfying scientific explanation for the complexity of living things than Darwinian Theory.

He showed pictures of the now famous bacterial flagellum which is a universal joint with rotors, stators, bushings, and has a sophisticated sensory system to control the motor. Such examples of enormously complex systems, he said, pose serious problems to evolutionary explanations, especially the currently accepted "mechanism" of natural selection.

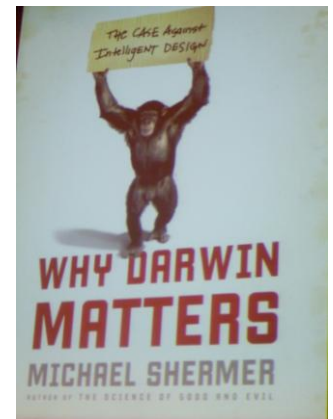
He cited the sophistication of the messenger and transfer RNA and its ability to code in cell reproduction. He touched on probability arguments from statistics showing the impossibility of evolving a component such as a protein, enzyme, or a strand of DNA. Dembski made effective use of popular culture in his media presentation, showing a scene from the movie "Dumb and Dumber" where Jim Carey asks the beautiful girl, Lauren Holly, what his chances are of getting her. He asks if his chances are "one in a hundred?" Holly informs Jim Carey that his odds of getting her are "more like one in a million."



Taken back at first, Carey quickly regained his composure, "So I still have a chance..." and then he shouted with an exclamation, "YES!!!" The audience had a hearty laugh, comprehending the analogy Dembski had just made.



Evolutionists demonstrate even blinder faith than this, when they assert the proposition that the complexity of the cell--and life itself--could arise from chance. Dembski's presentation continued with computer animated



graphics illustrating the complexity of the cell as a veritable city of information and activity. His case was substantive, and he included some references to ID newly published in technical journals, which he said showed that ID is scientific.

Michael Shermer also employed some humor and rhetoric, claiming that creation-ists and ID people "argue from incredul-ity." He said that the creationist makes an appeal to God when he can not account for a scientific explanation. Shermer argued for evolution from vestigial organs, for example, the appendix & male nipples. He mentioned the so-called Junk DNA, which was originally thought to have no function and therefore labeled "vestigial." This argument "Pseudogenes and Plagiarized Errors"

was popularized by Edward Max of the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD, in 1988. We now know this DNA is not "junk" at all, but plays a prominent though not fully understood role in copying information. In some cases, the so-called "junk DNA" lying dormant, activated in times of crisis to override deleterious mutations. (Rachel Nowak, "Mining Treasures out of 'Junk DNA'," Science (Vol. 263, Feb. 4, 1994), p. 608.) The analogy is that of a back-up quarterback coming off the bench upon an injury to the starter and throwing the game winning pass.

Shermer also laid out a case for the fossil evolution of whales, citing Basilosaurus. He denied that there were no transitional forms in the fossil record, arguing that the transition does not have to provide a series of links. His debate points seemed to parrot the "talking points" handed out by Eugenie Scott's evolution organization, the National Center for Science Education, which were circulating back in 1987 and used by

evolutionists such as Karl Fezer, in his debates with Charles Doughty (1987) and Duane Gish (1992). Shermer ended the question and answers session by stating that he had nothing against the idea of God or religion personally, but as for science, he said, "We are only looking for naturalistic explanations."

Taking the first part in the question and answer session, I challenged Shermer on his claim of Junk DNA being an example of vestigial evolution. I asked him to clarify his argument now that "Junk DNA" is known in some cases to activate. I likened this to having a back-up quarterback, and asked Shermer, "Is not the idea of a back-up system an argument against a naturalistic process operating by blind random chance? Furthermore, I asked, is not the vestigial organ argument an argument from ignorance (we assume there is no function because we do not know, or have not yet found it), and therefore is not Shermer (who argues from ignorance) just as guilty as the creationist (whom Shermer accuses of arguing from incredulity.)"

Shermer responded by acknowledging that, yes, Junk DNA has been known to activate, but that for him... this was greater proof for evolution. Dembski responded to this exchange by saying that Shermer did not answer the question.

During the post-debate reception, Shermer admitted that the appendix does serve a purpose in fighting infection. Why would he use the appendix as a proof of evolution if he knew this to be true? Shermer agreed with us when we asserted that there were no real examples of vestigial organs in the human body. Shermer was interested in the two Duane Gish/Vincent Sarich debates which had taken place in Harrisonburg. Sarich is on the editorial board of Shermer's Sceptic magazine, and Shermer said that he holds Sarich in high regard among evolutionists. Shermer also mentioned in his speech that he has debated Duane Gish.

The only constructive criticism we had of Dembski's Intelligent Design presentation was a semantic issue where Dembski used the word "evolution" when he stated that, "ID and evolution can work together..." Our colleague Kirk Rygol thought that this statement was confusing to the audience, especially since Dembski had presented a far more compelling case of scientific evidence in his argument for a Creator, than Shermer had for a naturalistic explanation of origins. Rygol asked

Dembski, "If we make this concession, then why debate at all?" Dembski acknowledged the point. He clarified the comment that by 'evolution,' he had meant "micro-evolution." I asked Dembski to spell it out clearly, "When you say 'micro-evolution,' do you mean "speciation?" "Yes," he said. "For instance," I continued, "the horizontal changes in the Canine family, such as a Great Dane, Egyptian Greyhound, Beagle, etcetera... 'variation within species?'" "Yes," said Dembski. "You are not referring to Darwin's general theory of evolution, the amoeba to man transition?" "No," he replied. We thanked him for his consideration and for coming to debate. He thanked us for sharing our thoughts with him and said that he would take greater pains in the future to make sure he adequately defined his terms.

This clarification was very important to us because we were able to answer one of our local evolutionists, Professor Roman Miller, of Eastern Mennonite University, who attempted to use Dembski's comment to divide creationists and justify his own "theistic evolution" compromise position. Dembski's quote appeared in the debate coverage of the [Harrisonburg] Daily News Record, implying the possibility of common ground between the two positions; however nothing could be farther from the truth.

Shermer was very congenial as we discussed pseudogenes, vestigial organs, and Vince Sarich. He was interested in what churches we belonged to. He said he was familiar with the Churches of Christ. All in all it was an informative and productive event.

See also local newspaper coverage, Daily News-Record, Harrisonburg, VA "An Evolv-ing Debate," by Kelly Jasper, DNR, Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007, Section B, p. 1. www.dnronline.com

Preacher Doughty Leads Bible Studies at Virginia Tech- Two Weeks before Massacre



Blacksburg, VA - Preacher Charles W. Doughty was on a revival assignment April 1-5, 2007 in Christiansburg, VA at the Allegheny Church of Christ (Porter Reiner, minister), where he received an invitation to come to Virginia Tech on Tuesday

evening and Wednesday to speak with the Christian students there on how they could better share their faith on campus.

Doughty was invited by Ken and Carrie (Conway) Logan, and the meeting was held at Christ's Church at Virginia Tech campus center. Carrie is from the Church of Christ at Mountain View in Winchester, as is Jordan Armel, who also attended the studies. Preacher Doughty spoke on the Lordship of Jesus Christ, emphasizing Jesus' person, attributes, and deity. He said that most Christians are familiar with Jesus being the Word, the LOGOS, stressing the eternity & divinity of Christ in John 1:1, but very few people know the meaning of the term "only begotten," of John 3:16, despite the fact that this is the most widely quoted and memorized verse in the Bible?

He said that the word MONOGENES, "only begotten," is better understood as "unique" or "one of a kind." It is equivalent to "darling" and "precious one" which was applied to Messiah in the Old Testament, especially in the Psalms.

A study of its usage in the Bible reveals an eternal Sonship of Jesus Christ, the second Person in the Godhead, and other scripture references are in perfect agreement i.e. the messianic prophecy of Isaiah 9:6, "a child is born, unto us a son is given," and also Paul's statement concerning the Son of God in Romans 1:2-4, where He was "made of the seed of David, according to the flesh" but "proved [determined, predestined, marked off to be] "the Son of God" by power in his resurrection from the dead....

Included in the study was also Jesus' description as being the PROTOTOKOS, (the firstborn,) which suggests pre-eminence. He is

also the CHARAKTER of the father, which means "express image," "exact representation," the divine "impress," according to Hebrews 1:3.

Jeff Wickert, evangelist with the Fauquier Christian Church in Warrenton, VA, attended the revival and the post-revival campus Bible study sessions. He estimated between two and three dozen students attended, and that the study was received favorably. Wickert was impressed that the students lingered long after the studies were concluded, asking questions, and encouraging one another. These Bible studies took place just twelve days before the shooting rampage at Tech's East Ambler and Norris Halls on April 16, 2007 which left 31 dead, underscoring the vital need to reach university students and young people with the Gospel.

Ken and Carrie Logan are pursuing graduate studies, Ken in mining engineering and Carrie, in education, while Jordan Armel is a forestry major.

Russian News

By Svetlana Doughty



Please, pray for Viktor!

Between juggling his time caring for term-inally ill Irina, and working to pay for her month-at-a-time chemo-therapy treatments at the hospital, overseeing his construction and remodeling business, and preaching at the St. Petersburg Church of

Christ; he told me he was tired.

If you knew my dad, it meant that he is really exhausted, because he never ever gets tired. On September 18th, my dad will be 70. If you can, send him an encouraging message. Sometimes he feels like he is an army of one for the Lord in Russia. He would love to know that you love him, and remember him, and keep him and your prayers. His email is gubina23@gmail.com. The Russian church is faithfully assembling every Lord's Day to proclaim the Lord's death and encourage each

other and do everything that the Lord commanded us to do. Praise God!

Lately I encountered an astonishing problem with my documents. When I became an American citizen, I was sure that my Russian citizenship will automatically expire, but a recent phone call to the Russian Embassy enlightened me that in the eyes of Russia, I still belong to them, (whether I like it or not), and my regulatory papers, passports and all other papers need to be updated. This, despite the fact that I have traveled to Russia as an American through the last seven years of evangelism.

The Russian consular office is insinuating that I did not obtain Russian permission to permanently reside in the U.S., and there is also some question that they might try to make me pay taxes to Russia, though I have been a mother and housewife all this time, married to an American, and a U.S. citizen since 2000.

But while we are here in the U.S., I have been working on several projects pertaining to expanding the **Christian Kingdom in Russia** by creating a WEB SITE in RUSSIAN with all the materials that a God-seeking Russian citizen would find about New Testament Christianity. We will have a lot of information about subjects such as: Covenant theology, John's favorite "50 Days" study, Passover to Pentecost, 3000 died in the Old, 3000 saved in the New. We will have studies on the Holy Spirit, and also apologetics, creation, and studies such as we have done at Christian Kingdom College with Chuck Doughty. Perhaps some day, Russian students may be able to take a CKC course on line, or by satellite hook up. I am translating many debates and discussions that Charles and John have had with representatives of different denominations, (Calvinists, Charismatics, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Seventh Day Adventists), because these have been so overwhelmingly successful in their ability to teach people and persuade them about the truth of the Lord's Church, the Church of Christ as it was established on the Day of Pentecost, with baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, (Acts 2:38). I want the Russian people to know the true apostles doctrine and I want the Russian people, starting with my mother Irina, to live faithful unto death!

Of course, we still have many atheists and agnostics and so we need a lot of creation science and apologetics material... Marx, Lenin, and Stalin all despised the Christian faith as being "an opiate of masses" and sadly, the only Christianity with which Russia has been acquainted is mysticism: feeling based religion.

I pray that this Russian Evangelism web site will be a great tool for the Lord in converting the "whosoever will" people in Russia. This endeavor, like all things which have value, comes with a cost. Will you help us to launch this website for the glory of the Lord? God bless you for helping us and supporting this wonderful ministry.

Your sister in Christ, Sveta

From the Editor: The greatest Bible knowledge I ever gained was from going into the front lines of spiritual battle with my father, Chuck Doughty, in real live situations where a jury of souls stood hanging in the balance. "Declare, Demand, & Debate" was not child's play; this was the modus operandi of combat evangelism from our New Testament playbook! More opportunities for discussion and debate arose. None were ever undertaken except for the sole purpose of winning one precious soul to Jesus. I quickly realized the importance of these engagements as educational tools and began to record them. It took a long time and great effort to transcribe them, but now you can go back with us, relive the excitement, and experience the thrill of contending for the faith.

In Christ, *John Doughty*

If you believe in what we are doing, please consider supporting this ministry of apologetics and evangelism in Russia and right here in the States.

Name: _____

Address _____

I'd like to support your ministry with a one time gift of _____

I'd like to support your ministry monthly by \$ _____

I'd like to keep your ministry in my daily prayer and share your materials with my friends.