Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Joy Class

The ladies will meet on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Bring your handicrafts (or not!) and join them for good fellowship.

Wednesday Night

Sign up for this Wednesday's **Pizza** meal in the hall. It is the last night of Wednesday meals until August. The Adventure Club will present a closing program in the sanctuary at 6:45.

Home Fellowships!

We plan to have Home Fellowships the evening of **May 28**. Let Dawn know if you would like to host a group. These are great times of fun and fellowship! The list of home assignments is on pages 12 and 13. Let me know if you have been (unintentionally) left off a list.

Graduate Info Needed!

We have info on a few of you, but need some more! If you are graduating from High School or College, please send your name, a picture, your school and a short summation of your future plans to dawn@fabchurch.com. We will recognize you during the Evening Worship time on **June 11**, at 7:00 p.m. the service will be followed by an After Church Fellowship.

Evening Worship Time Change

During the months of **June**, **July**, **and August**, our Evening Worship services will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School

Our VBS is **June 26-30!** We have classes for preschoolers through kids who have finished sixth grade. Go to

https://fabchurch.myanswers.com/keepersof-the-kingdom/ to register your child. See Cindy Wise if you have any questions!



FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt Senior Pastor 912-398-4363 bob@fabchurch.com Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Church Phone: 912-355-0949 office@fabchurch.com www.fabchurch.com

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Mark 2:15-17 Pew Bible p. 837

Hymn #199, bulletin p. 5

"Christ Receiveth Sinful Men"

Prayer of General Confession Steve Jackson John 10:27-30 Pew Bible p. 897

Hymn, bulletin p. 6

"My Hope Is in the Lord"

Scripture Reading
Psalm 81
Robert Holland
Pew Bible pp. 491-492

Hymn, bulletin p. 7

"Come, Holy Spirit, Come"

Message Tom Keller

Love Your Enemy Sermon on the Mount #20 Matthew 5:43-48, Pew Bible p. 811

Hymn, bulletin p. 8

"Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God"

A.M. Notes

Love Your Enemy
Sermon on the Mount #20
Matthew 5:43-48

I.	Introduction:	Context

II. Pharisaic Hatred (v. 43)

III. Christ's Teaching and Example (v. 44)

IV. Our Obedience (vs. 45-48)



Important Upcoming Dates

May: 28 29	Home Fellowships Office Closed for Memorial Day	6:00 p.m.	
21	Seniors' Recognition After Church Fellowship VBS Work Day D3 High School Camp VBS Work Day Vacation Bible School	7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	
July: 2 4 23 24-27	After Church Lunch & Family Day Office Closed for Independence Day Quarterly Members' Meeting Older Children's Camp	12:00 p.m. TBA	
Augus 16 26 27	st: Adventure Club Kickoff Back to School Bash CMI Speaker: Jonathan Sarfati	6:20 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	
Septe 4 17	mber: Office Closed for Labor Day After Church Fellowship	7:00 p.m.	
Octol 15 15 25 28	Oer: Quarterly Members' Meeting Ice Cream Social Fall Festival Homecoming Work Day	TBA 7:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m.	
Nove	,		



My Hope Is In The Lord

Words and Music by Norman J. Clayton



Come, Holy Spirit, Come



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Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God

Scottish Psalter, 1650 Henry T. Burleigh, 1939



Public Domain

Articles

Atheism's Empty Soul

Written by Alan Shlemon

Atheists don't have a livable worldview. I don't say that to gloat. Several atheists who have been candid with me have told me life is ultimately empty and devoid of meaning. That doesn't mean they can't feel happy, follow a set of morals, or believe their life is significant in some way. But their denial of God has serious repercussions.

If you don't believe in a cosmic Creator, you tend to deny the existence of anything supernatural. There are no angels, demons, or souls. This worldview, called naturalism, posits that the natural world described by physics and chemistry is all that exists.

A belief in naturalism is neither a neutral nor an insignificant commitment. Perhaps the most egregious consequence of naturalism is nihilism (from the Latin word *nihil*, which means "nothing").

Worldview expert James Sire defines nihilism as a denial of the possibility of knowledge, a denial that anything is valuable.... [It] is the negation of everything—knowledge, ethics, beauty, reality. In nihilism no statement has validity; nothing has meaning. Everything is gratuitous, de trop—that is, just there.

Nihilism is a depressing state, but it flows logically from naturalism for three reasons.

First, naturalism leads to nihilism because humans don't have free will. The atheist's worldview denies the existence of spiritual or non-physical entities. If only physical things exist in the universe, then everything is subject to a cause and effect system that operates according to the laws of physics and chemistry.

Since human beings are also merely physical machines, they are subject to the same forces of cause and effect. It's impossible to make a decision that is unencumbered by the laws of physics and chemistry on our brain. We do what we are determined to do. We are cogs in a cosmic machine. French philosopher Pierre Jean Georges Cabanis bluntly puts it: "The brain secretes thought as the liver secretes bile." We're just meat machines without the capacity for free will.

Freedom, however, is a key component to a meaningful life. If we can't act freely, we can't make our lives what we will. There's no "I" to decide and determine our own destiny. Our "decisions" are not significant because they are not ours. Rather, our future is determined by blind physical forces. We're just along for the ride.

Second, naturalism leads to nihilism because knowledge is unattaina-

ble. Knowledge is *justified* true belief. Suppose you believe the Liberty Bell is three feet tall, and it's also true that it's that tall. You hold a true belief. Suppose, though, that you came to believe it's three feet tall because you rolled a pair of dice and the sum was three. You would not have a *justified* true belief because a chance dice roll isn't proper justification. Therefore, though you have a true belief, you would not have knowledge.

The problem for the atheist arises from the fact that their worldview of naturalism views the brain as a wholly material object, subject to the environmental forces of physics and chemistry. Such forces, however, have no interest in producing reliable cognitive faculties. Physical forces on a physical object like the brain won't necessarily produce a trustworthy system of independent thought, reason, and logical deduction. Since we can't be confident in our ability to attain justified true beliefs, we can't have knowledge.

Naturalist J.B.S Haldane concedes, "If my mental processes are determined wholly by the motions of atoms in my brain, I have no reason for supposing that my beliefs are

true. They may be sound chemically, but that does not make them sound logically."

Our brains are subject entirely to environmental forces, thereby calling into question whether our cognitive faculties are reliable. Without confidence of justified true beliefs, we're left with a life devoid of knowledge and bereft of meaning. That's nihilism.

Third, naturalism leads to nihilism because morality doesn't exist. The world, according to naturalism, is just there. Students cheat in school, lions eat zebras, and men rape women. Life just happens. There's no way the world is supposed to be because there's no "supposer." God doesn't exist as our objective moral standard, so there's no fixed set of morals that exists outside of ourselves. Each person acts however they like.

Without morality, there's no possibility to do what is "good" or "noble." There's no virtue or vice. You can't better yourself since there's no ideal to pursue. Life is a trek with no moral compass and no destination.

But it's worse. Despite the absence of morality, there's no shortage of guilt. People have an intuitive sense that they do wrong. **But in a world without God, there's no forgiveness.** We're left in a state of guilt without any hope of redemption. That's ethical nihilism.

The atheist's worldview of naturalism leads to a world devoid of free will, knowledge, and morality. It leads to nihilism. The Christian worldview, by contrast, can justify free will, explain knowledge, and define right and wrong. More importantly, it provides a solution to our moral crimes and frees us from our guilt. Christianity makes the best sense of reality. �

"That's just your interpretation"

By Kevin DeYoung

Fifteen years ago when people were still talking about the Emergent Church, I participated in a panel discussion about the pros and cons of the movement. After a riveting panel in front of 50 people, in a cavernous hall that had room for more than 500, a visibly upset man accosted me, frustrated with how I used Scripture to critique the Emergent Church.

He didn't try to argue with any particular comment I made, including my references to the Bible. Instead, he argued with me that everything I said was only my interpretation of the Bible. I tried to show him that Jesus taught as if there was a discernible meaning in Scripture that could be known, agreed upon, and meaningfully communicated. He replied that this was only my interpretation. I tried to belabor the point that the men in the Bible didn't speak or write as if they only had an interpretation of the Bible. He said this line of reasoning was also just my interpretation.

Needless to say, we both walked away from our exchange more frustrated than enlightened.

The debate about interpretation is an old one. During the Reformation, Protestants and Catholics weren't (then) divided over the total trustworthiness of Scripture. They were divided over the *clarity* and authority of Scripture. The doctrine of perspicuity—which, for a word meaning "clarity" isn't all that clear—is sometimes maligned as a magical assertion that everything in the Bible is easy to understand. But the doctrine is more sophisticated than that.

The Westminster Confession of Faith gives a classic definition when it admits that "all things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all," yet the things that are necessary for salvation "are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture" that even the unlearned—"in a due use of the ordinary means"—can gain a sufficient understanding of them (WCF 1.7).

In our day, that debate is not a technical theological controversy about popes, councils, and the magisterium. But the question is just as important because <u>an implicit denial of the clarity of Scripture goes hand in hand with the diminishment of the study of Scripture</u>.

When someone says "That's just your interpretation," or when critics slander conservative Christians as believing not just in the infallibility of the Bible but in the infallibility of their interpretation of the Bible, the next step is almost never to strive for a supposedly better interpretation. The critics don't mean to dive deeper into the text so as to determine what the Bible teaches. The charge of "just your interpretation" has the opposite effect; it short-circuits the interpretative process altogether.

This is a rhetorical strategy that marginalizes traditional and orthodox doctrine, not by proving that the doctrine is wrong but by making the rather mundane observation (masquerading as profundity) that some people don't agree with the doctrine. Why go to the hard exegetical, historical, and theological work of debating women's ordination or gay (so-called) marriage if you can sidestep the debate by labeling the church's longheld position as "just your interpretation"?

Besides being intellectually lazy, the charge of "just your interpretation" is also self defeating, because, of course, the critics believe they have arrived at a very good interpretation of how to understand conservative Christians. More than that, at some point, everyone thinks the Bible is clear about *some* things. I've read theologians argue strenuously against the clarity of Scripture, only for those same theologians to later assert that *obviously* the Bible is clear about the message of the kingdom, or about God's preference for the poor, or about God's heart of love for the outcast. Perspicuity for me, not for thee?

The reality is that "interpretations" are what we have in every area of intellectual inquiry. The problem of pervasive interpretation pluralism is not an evangelical problem. It is a human problem. Do we really think historians, economists, sociologists, and scientists don't disagree on how to interpret matters in their field? And do we think they aren't confident that their conclusions are much more sure than mere "interpretations"? If we are going to give up on reading texts and reaching firm conclusions, we won't just marginalize the Bible; we will render the entire exercise of human reason fruitless and irrelevant.

The Bible has always been subject to different interpretations. Peter acknowledged that some things Paul wrote were "hard to understand" and that "the ignorant and unstable twist them to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures" (2 Peter 3:16). The task of preachers, theologians, and ordinary Christians "in due use of the ordinary means" has been to determine the true meaning of the text.

As Augustine put it, "What difficulty is it for me when these words can be interpreted in various ways, provided only that the interpretations are true?" The prophets and the apostles, the early Fathers and the Reformers all assumed that the Bible could be correctly understood and applied. We dare to affirm the same.

One of the great challenges for biblical inerrantists in our day is not only to show that what we believe is right, but to defend the very right to be right. ❖

Home Fellowships

Glen & Donna Martin

1 Jaymee Lane

Gary & Patricia Beatty
Nick & Rachel Beatty

John Earl & Carolyn Blanton

Moonyeen Blanton

Sharon Boaen Eleanor Bowden

Pat Briley

George Brown Reggie & Leasa Brown

Mark & Scarlett Cartwright

Jim & Rita Campbell Shawn Champion Sonja Clements

Jimmy & Janice Donaldson

Rudy & Kayla Duero
Marc & Melinda Dunant
Danny & Janet Edwards
Howard & Lynn Ernst

Rebecca Ernst

Lance & Julie Ficek

Ralph & Deborah Focht

Carlos Hernandez Maritsa Hernandez

Ari Hidalgo

Robert & Jill Holland Glynn & Natalie Horton Wan & Myri Hymon Samp & Beth Lewis Sarah Mastison Daniel Muller

Joseph Snow

June Erlandson

1310 Beckman Avenue

Pam Anderson Svlvia Blue

Larry & Donna Cowart

Sue Crews Mike Edwards David Grimes

Ray & Jeanie Groover Eric & Amy Horton

Lily Horton

Charles & Betty Hurndon

Tom & Amy Keller Rebecca Keller

Logan & Stacey Kelly

Todd Klann

Wally & Karen Law Mike & Ashley Leoni

Richard Mills

Billy & Julie Morris, Jr. Billy & Suzan Morris

Barbara Nix Vern Nix

Marie Portenga Howard Reinhold Clyde & Ceci Sheffield

Elaine Spica Kay Stanford

Everett & Mary Ann Tarver

Jerry Turner

Anna Wedincamp

Dean & Patricia Wedincamp

Daniel Wedincamp
Teena Wheless

Gordon & Debra Denney
102 Stonewall Drive

Jamie Anchors Bill & Sona Bailey

John & Saundra Bridges

Jan Deloach

Bob & Cindy Dimmitt

Jessica Dimmitt Joyce English Kim Eriksen

Ron & Mary Ann Fowler

Tony Gadsby Brittany Hall

Genevieve Hassan

Jerramie & Rebekah Helmick

Darrell & Becky Hendricks

Geri Hendrix

Wendell & Melissa Hill Jimmy & Tammy Kicklighter

Don & Angela King
John & Pam Humphrey
Steve & Lesia Jackson
Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter
Napoleon & Savannah Martin

Barbara Mason Dean McCraw

Jared McCraw Joseph McCraw Melvin Myers

Steve & Linnea Posner

Kevin Zeigler Noah Zittrouer

Ric & Kelly Zittrouer

Sam Zittrouer

Michael & Karrie Walker
54 Amanda Drive

Joe & Belinda Crumbley Bobby & Avalon Deloach lack & Connie Moore

Dennis Morgan

Alex & Nicole Morris

Cole Morris

Joe & Patricia Morris
Mike & Elinor Morris

Wayne Noha Aileen Pinckney Brittany Pinckney Barbara Rahn

Danny & Kamee Roberson

Addisyn Rowe Jay & Lisa Rowe Kaitlyn Rowe Lauren Rowe

Mike & Gena Russell
Jim & Heather Schraeder
Jack & Ronna Sherrod
Jay & Tamera Smith
Kelly & Dawn Stanford
Kelvin & Janice Stanford

Claude & Susan Su Jay & Andrea Turner

Linda Walker Lindsey Walker

Billy & Brenda Waters
John & Diana Watkins

Emily Wise

Charles & Cindy Wise

If you are a regular attender, but do not see your name on any of these lists, please let Dawn know to add you.

Missionary of the Week

Carlos & Sandy Rios TEAM - Guadalajara, Mexico

Carlos and Sandy Ríos minister in Guadalajara, Mexico, at Living Waters Community Bible church. We just received their latest prayer email this week and here is the summary they compiled for prayer!

TEAM Heart Joys and Concerns Guadalajara, México May 2023

- ◆ The joys of Bible study with Raymundo and Keila. On March 6th, Ray accepted Christ as his Savior! PRAY for his spiritual growth as there are many hurdles to overcome and as they are moving towards getting married.
- ◆ 3 couples in our church Brenda and Angel, Raymundo and Keila, Nestor and Jazmin are moving ahead with plans to be married. We will be doing the Alpha Course for engaged couples with them. Then they will



continue with Norm Wright's Marriage Preparation course with a mentoring couple. PRAY that God will use these sessions for each couple to be well-prepared to move into marriage.

- ♥ We had wonderful and significant Children's Day and Mother's Day celebrations in the church. We will be having an overnight getaway for the mothers May 19-20 (Friday Saturday). PRAY for a time of intimate fellowship with the Lord as mothers. PRAY that everyone comes away refreshed and encouraged to continue in their roles as mothers with their strength renewed in the Lord. PRAY for the "30 -Day Challenge to Encourage Husbands" that the wives will begin in May.
- ◆ 10 women from our church had the privilege of attending the "True Woman Conference" (Revive our Hearts Nancy DeMoss Wolgemoth), joining 8,000 other women from 35 different countries here in Guadalajara. How special to meet up at the conference with 35 women from the church we started in Cabo! The messages were inspiring as well as challenging.
- ♥ Praise the Lord for a new man, Hugo, who is coming to the church. He is returning to the Lord and loves our church fellowship. PRAY for the salvation of his wife and children.
- ▶ PRAY for our discipleship times with Brenda and her sister, Gris; with Ángel, with Miguel and Janet, with Raymundo and Keila and with Carlos' sisters in Aruba. PRAY that each person will grow closer to the Lord and become more like Him.

- ♥ Our Biblical meditation of a-verse-a-week as an entire church family has brought growth to the believers and unity. PRAY that as we continue to meditate on God's Word throughout the year that we will see changes in the spiritual lives of everyone, becoming more like Jesus.
- ◆ Alex and Liz Pantoja, a Mexican couple who were formerly missionaries in Turkey, have begun attending our church. If they are the couple who are to take our place, PRAY that it will be confirmed by everyone in the church family. If not, continue to PRAY for a mature couple to take our place.
- ◆ We just finished the 8-week "Emotionally Healthy Spirituality" course. (Pete Scazzero) PRAY that we will discern how to adapt some of the principles and apply them to our church family.
- ◆ Our TEAM Regional Conference with 100 missionaries (40 are children!!!) from Mexico and Guatemala will be held in Mexico City from May 25-29. We will be going a few days early with some others for sightseeing. PRAY that it will be a time of refreshment, building unity and strengthening our God-dependence.
- ◆ PRAY for the Lord to guide us through the summer months in the ways He has for our church to continue to grow and glorify Him. PRAY for a trip to visit our daughter and family in July in Texas and Carlos' mother in Colombia and sisters in Aruba in October. We haven't seen them for 5 years!
- ◆ PRAY for Sandy who has pain in the groin caused by her hip cartilage wearing out and lower vertebrae arthritis. PRAY for wisdom for the doctors and for the pain to go away as it is debilitating and causing her to limp and limits her physical activities.

Nursery May 21 Babies:

Eleanor Bowden, Mary Fowler, Kay Stanford

Toddlers:

Deborah Focht, Tricia Morris **Preschoolers:**

Ashley Leoni, Elinor Morris

Nursery May 28 Babies:

Jay & Lisa Rowe, Lauren Rowe **Toddlers:**

Sona Bailey, Debra Denney **Preschoolers:**

Jimmy & Tammy Kicklighter

Right Now Media

If you would like a free subscription to Right Now Media use this link:

https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/fabchurchga or scan this QR code:



If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service,

drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

This Week at FABC				
Today				
Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.			
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.			
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.			
Tuesday				
Joy Class	9:00 a.m.			
Men's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.			
Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.			
Wednesday				
Supper: Pizza	5:30 p.m.			
Adventure Club Closing Program	6:45 p.m.			
Youth (in Fellowship Hall)	6:30 p.m.			
Thursday				
Senior Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.			
Women's Bible Study	6:15 p.m.			
Young Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.			



Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for May: Michael Walker, Ric Zittrouer

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

Babies

"Systematic Theology" Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt "Young Marrieds" Gym Overhang: Tom Keller Piano Overflow: Steve Jackson "John" "Gratitude" (Women) Organ Overflow: Tamera Smith

Children and Students

Room 3: Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges Toddlers Room 24: Susan Su, Deborah Focht Pre-K Room 25: Emily Wise, Kamee Roberson/ Michael and Ruth Kleinpeter K, 1st and 2nd Grade Room 28: John and Pam Humphrey 3rd-6th Grade Boys Room 202: Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills 3rd-6th Grade Girls Room 204: Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton Youth Guvs Room 206: Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion Youth Girls Room 206: Jessica Dimmitt, Avalon DeLoach