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The Apostle Paul by Fredrick Elliott Hart (1943-1999), West Façade entrance, National Cathedral, Washington D.C.

Psalms 8:4— What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

While in no way considering himself a polymath (somebody with knowledge of many subjects) what the author has learned is that he has an interest in many subjects. While obtaining a B.A. degree in U.S. History in 1982 from the University of San Diego in California, the author, interested in the form and function of machinery and their workings, acquired a diploma in mechanical drafting. Included with this drafting diploma was some abbreviated time utilizing early C.A.D. software (1984). Mr. Wickliffe has also enjoyed landscape drawing, as well as receiving horticultural certifications as a Nursery Professional and Advanced Nursery Professional from the State of California. While his study of the Bible and interest in things spiritual has captivated the author throughout his Christian walk, the Bible in its capacity to address many academic fields has naturally led Paul in the same direction. Some of those fields are:

- ❖ Agriculture (its relevance to New Testament parables and life in general)
- ❖ Anthropology (specifically man's origins, development)
- ❖ Astronomy
- ❖ Atomic theory (repulsive force)
- ❖ Bible, The (history, angelology, prophecy, eschatology, theology, soteriology, ecclesiology, inerrancy, preservation, its completion)

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- ❖ Biology
- ❖ Botany and animal husbandry (Some of Jesus' most profound teachings are against the backdrop of Jewish agrarian life)
- ❖ Cosmology (the origin of the universe)
- ❖ Creation/evolution/intelligent design
- ❖ Economics (jubilant economics and godly stewardship)
- ❖ Genetics (man's phenotypic and genotypic differences)
- ❖ Geology (volcanology, plate tectonics, uniformitarianism)
- ❖ Geophysics (the nether world, hell, internal structure of earth)
- ❖ Government (human government and Old Testament law)
- ❖ Human development (in vitro development, man's soul, Jesus' virgin birth)
- ❖ Language and linguistics
- ❖ Paleontology (specifically, radiometric dating)
- ❖ Politics
- ❖ Psychiatry (feelings and the internal speculations of man vs. reality)
- ❖ Psychology (how a group of people are influenced by their senses vs. transcendent, immutable truths)
- ❖ Time (eternity, sin and the curse's role in determining time)
- ❖ Tongues Movement, The (experience vs. the New Testament teaching and the redemptive paradigm of Jesus Christ)
- ❖ U.F.O.'s (demonology in particular)
- ❖ Writing (its purpose)

As someone elected from before the foundations of the world, the author came out of spiritual darkness and received his sight from the Great Physician in November of 1976. Mr. Wickliffe has grown in his understanding and application of the inerrant Bible to his life. The author has also learned how to study the Bible: leaving words in their biblical context, avoiding the interjection of personal bias into scriptural interpretation and comparing the Bible with the Bible (spiritual with spiritual).

Mr. Wickliffe has had many challenges in his personal faith. None of these challenges to the author's core beliefs have reaped life's rewards more than the previous sixteen



years. During this time Paul's journey was not without turbulence, testing and serious tribulation. Contentment was relinquished for adversity, security exchanged for personal loss, while devastation and self-reliance were substituted for brokenness and surrender.

It was in the furnace of trial and testing Mr. Wickliffe discovered what true lordship and submission to Jesus Christ was all about. It was from the Bible's promise that Christ would never leave him nor forsake him, coupled with the conviction that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God (as in the KJV), that God's promises were put into relevant perspective. It is to these unforeseen challenges in the author's life Christ's Holy Spirit has produced a need to know—in his personal future as well as the biblical fate that awaits mankind. Drawn from the crucible of personal turmoil and lack of direction, the author has been drawn to God's prophetic promises regarding man, history and the consummation of all things.

Scattered throughout the book are the author's beliefs. These beliefs have been, and continue to be, shaped by the Bible and the Holy Spirit. Although not exhaustive in their scope, these points nonetheless provide the reader a glimpse into the mind of the author and those points that help define his Christian faith. He will continue his spiritual journey through life because of Jesus' words and the indwelling Holy Spirit. The author's beliefs are highlighted here for ease of reference.

Author's Beliefs Highlighted

1. GRACE NOT WORKS—I am a Christian to distinguish myself from being Catholic. While understanding the first Protestants came from the same root of Roman Catholicism, I choose to make my distinction apparent. This is necessary so a clear understanding of motives, direction and purpose can be seen as coming from the inerrant word of God and not the traditions and commandments of men. While tradition implies a degree of trust in the forms, functions and beliefs of the past, from Jesus' perspective it poses a hindrance and threat to the action of the Holy Spirit while producing a close-mindedness to the truth. This prevents the Holy Spirit, and therefore tradition's followers, from apprehending the person and purpose of Jesus Christ. The commandments of men are always meant to control and confuse. They contribute in their prevention of men from understanding the truth. Man's commandments also produce the elevation of one man above another, the dead orthodoxy of man's religion, the denial of man's sin nature, the exaltation of man and the advocacy of self. The acceptance of these errors leads to the destruction of man's soul in the afterlife. On the other hand, the Holy Spirit's baptism and indwelling are to free man's spirit from the curse and struggle of keeping the law by the effort of the flesh (The letter of the law vs. the spirit of the law, specifically Romans 7 vs. Romans 8).
2. THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN—This means no hypocrisy between thoughts and conduct (Prov. 16:3—Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall

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be established.) This springs from a basic biblical understanding of my depravity before his holiness and the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a marred piece of clay. His sanctification means that in spite of who and what I am, he will accomplish his perfect will in spite of what he has to work with—He makes all things beautiful in his time.

3. NOT OF THE WORLD, BUT IN THE WORLD—I believe man's wisdom is foolishness to God. I desire to avoid the pitfalls of 'pop-culture Christianity' and the institutional church. My understanding and my direction must come from the inerrant word of God, since God has chosen me. My purpose in living can only come from the Holy Spirit's will in my life—for 'without Christ I can do nothing.' This means the spiritual discernment necessary for the believer's survival can come only from the Spirit's indwelling along with life's manual—the Holy Bible. I understand truth is not what I think. I cannot apprehend it apart from the Holy Spirit's work that leads, draws, reveals, illuminates, saves, indwells, fills and sanctifies.
4. ABSOLUTE TRUTH VS. MORAL RELATIVISM—I reject Socratic, Hegelian, Darwinian and Marxist[A] thought that believes 'truth' can be achieved by combining two opposites (thesis and antithesis) into a unified whole (synthesis). In biblical terms this is called compromise or entertaining the flesh and the devil. This compromise of the truth springs from the belief that universal right and wrong, truth and error do not exist. For the humanist, 'truth' lay mysteriously dormant within man—self-realization. Absolutes do not exist in a philosophical framework where truth and error can be mixed. Any more than oil and water can be mixed—'For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?' While academic, theological, scientific and political liberals have many names for this prostitution of the truth, they avoid telling you they are openly assaulting the truth, and when you are not looking, impose their will upon the unsuspecting. Their purpose is to deceive. God calls this behavior lying, deception and spiritual fornication! God does not deceive. The ultimate result of rejecting eternal truth is damnation in hell.
5. THE LETTER OF THE LAW EXCHANGED FOR THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW—The crucifixion of Jesus Christ was the death knell (threatening signal) to a past priestly system within Judaism. This system grew powerful and abusive because of man's sinful disobedience toward the word of God. This has been complicated by a misunderstanding and a purposeful obfuscation (confusing) of the Holy Spirit's ministry and his distinguishing work as differentiated in the two testaments (Old Testament and New Testament). Biblical legalism involves the active, willful, "prevenient grace" of men in keeping the law thereby denying the Spirit of Christ. Legalism is the attempt in one's life to establish righteousness through the efforts of the flesh and using that standard as a means of elevating one man above the other. This abuse can only occur in a man-centered redemptive paradigm. In this cooperative effort existing between men and God, the law is not viewed as placing all men on an equal playing field, even though the Bible states all men to be concluded in sin. Rather all men by "prevenient grace," can be saved if they choose. This is the prevailing view held in Protestant circles today. Reinforced by the multitude of godless 'bibles' masquerading as the word of God, and allowing the pretentious 'Christian' to pick and choose a



multitude of 'authorities' over the supreme authority of God's inerrant word, the antichristian teaching of ecumenism (all religions having an equal claim on the truth) is exploding.

6. JESUS DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION DEMONSTRATED FOUR POWERFUL TRUTHS— **1. CHRIST'S BLOOD**—Faith in Christ's blood to forgive the sinner, once and for all, was paramount in the proclamation of the Gospel. This is contrasted to the legalistic mindset that one could justify themselves before God by keeping the law. This is precisely what Jesus meant when he pointed out the supremacy of living by faith and grace. Faith and grace are products of the Holy Spirit. Man's effort produces legalism. Walking by grace and truth was profoundly evident in the lives of the apostles after the giving of the Holy Spirit in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles in chapter two. **2. INSUFFICIENCY OF ANIMAL SACRIFICE AND FAITH'S SUPREMECY**—Animal sacrifice was not sufficient to atone for man's sin. This is why the Old Testament is filled with God's Messianic promises. The mysterious avenue of how sinful men could be reconciled to a holy God through the intangible essence of faith, again a product of the Holy Spirit, was the profound link that separated the lost from the elect saints. **3. LIFE IN THE SPIRIT AND HIS EXCLUSIVE CLAIM ON MAN'S CONSCIENCE**—The truth of the Holy Spirit's indwelling was the seal of God's ownership and the evidence that Providence had secured man's salvation, not the convoluted teaching that salvation, with man's help, was somehow the New Testament's formula for eternal redemption. Life in the Spirit was at the heart of Jesus' words when he stated his kingdom was not of this world—it is an intangible, non-temporal kingdom where his faithful followers execute Christ's will by the regenerated heart. **4. LIBERTY AND FREEDOM**—There can be no discussion of these virtuous intangibles until men understand the origin of these words and their impact on man's eternal destiny. Liberty and freedom are eternal and spiritual concepts tied to one's relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ. They first appear in the sacred Hebrew scriptures of the Old Testament while reaching their full flower in the New Testament through the blood of Jesus Christ. They imply and picture an individual not controlled by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, nor the pride of life. A man beholden and controlled by sin is simply not 'free' to do anything but sin (John 8:34—Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin). How can men talk about the 'equitable' and 'just' governance of others when they themselves ignore or repudiate the Bible's supreme authority in their own lives? How can one speak of governing others when the individual refuses to subject themselves to God's laws? The founding documents of this country cannot be discussed in a vacuum—apart from the Bible. Any attempt to govern men without an absolute moral anchor is sheer lunacy. This is why the Bible is to be the moral companion of our founding documents. A return to America's founding documents alone cannot be considered without bringing the Holy Bible back into the public square. A discussion of government, freedom, liberty and independence without the Bible is just not possible. Since all men are totally depraved (biologically—genetically, innately—mentally and spiritually—eternally)

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man's reality and his ultimate separation from the biblical God is assured. This truth is absolutely essential for the non-believer to understand so that they might be reconciled to God. How can any discussion of freedom and liberty be entertained, until man's depraved condition is supernaturally transformed? The Bible's message is clear. Man cannot freely choose God, nor does man pursue God. If this were the case, Jesus' crucifixion and the Holy Spirit's indwelling would not be necessary!

7. THE BIBLE'S AUTHORITY VERSUS THE CHURCH'S AUTHORITY—I believe the Bible is the authority in a believer's life and that it is inspired and therefore inerrant (The Authorized KJV). When the Apostolic Church Age ended all of Christ's authority was transferred from the agency of men to the Word of God—the system of priestly dominion, authority and direction disappeared. Although I Timothy 3:15 says the church is “the pillar and ground of the truth” this scripture applied to a past dispensation when the New Testament was in the process of being completed. The Bible is a Christian's only and final authority, not the visible, institutional church! To teach otherwise is to exalt the church above the word of God. Remember, the defining difference between Jesus' words and those of the religious leaders of his day are that Christ spoke with authority and not as the scribes!
8. ELECTION NOT 'FREE WILL'—I did not save myself. The precious blood of Christ atoned for my sin imputing to me Jesus' righteousness. The Father's unchanging counsel determined my election before the foundation of the world. The Holy Spirit's baptism and regeneration accomplished what only Christ could do for the believer in spite of who and what they are—a sinner transformed to a saint.
9. THE REALITY OF HEAVEN AND HELL—I believe in a literal heaven and hell, and the reality of the spirit world in which Christ is the Victor and Satan is the vanquished. Like all doctrines of the Bible, a literal heaven and hell are truths taught in the inerrant Bible, the King James Version. Hell, while revealing the eternal punishment of God against man's pride and Lucifer's sinful rebellion, God also reveals hell in stark contrast to his divine holiness. The reality of an eternal place of torment where the fire is not quenched and the worm dieth not is a powerful reminder to those on this side of eternity there are such eternal truths as right and wrong, light and darkness, the just and the unjust, the righteous and the wicked AND hell instead of purgatory, hades, sheol or gehenna. For those embracing the modern, corrupt and counterfeit 'bibles' the rejection of a singular holy Bible as the only source and hope for mankind IS tantamount to rejecting Christ himself, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." (John 12:48)
10. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH—I believe in the virgin birth of Christ which guarantees his worthiness (without sin) as the Lamb of God which takes away my sin. It is Jesus' blood that secures a new position before the Father. It is Jesus' blood that pardons from all sin. It is the precious blood of the Lamb that is the garment of righteousness the saint wears in heaven. It is the baptism by the Holy Spirit, once and for all and in a specific moment of time, which seals



these promises in the believer's life and makes their fulfillment and blessing possible.

11. **BIBLICAL DISPENSATIONALISM AND ITS NECESSITY**—I do not believe the 'sign gifts' are for the church today! The speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, miraculous healing (as it was performed by the apostles) and the transference of apostolic power to others within the church through the laying on of hands, is not happening today. I also believe the offices of priest, prophet, pastor and teacher are Apostolic Church functions NOW housed in the Holy Spirit. They were necessary then as Christ entrusted his power in the agency of the apostolic leadership. They are positions of the past because of the relationship of Christ's Holy Spirit to the believer AND the completion of Scripture as the ONLY authority in a believer's life. What we have seen since the completion of the holy Bible is an eternal struggle for power, authority and position as Jesus' matchless words contend against man's power (the visible, institutional church), man's authority (denominationalism), and man's position (the exaltation of man and the removal of Christ from the public square). This delusion is blinding those who hold the truth in unrighteousness. To believe the church today is just like that of the Apostolic Church of the past, possessing the same gifts and having THE same authority in a saint's life, is to make the church, and not the word of God, our authority.
12. **MULTICULTURALISM—ECUMENISM—MORAL RELATIVISM—INCLUSIVISM—GLOBALISM—HUMANISM—EVOLUTION—RELIGION— "HIGHER CRITICISM"**— I repudiate the spirit of inclusivism that is stripping Christ of his exclusive title as King of kings and Lord of lords.
13. **THE BIBLE'S SUPREMACY**—I believe the ecclesiastical agency of prophet is an office that disappeared at the end of the Apostolic Church Age. Buried within this point is also the conviction that the Bible, since its completion, is the final and sole authority (temporal and spiritual) in all that it declares regarding man and his relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Unlike Paul who did not see the completion of the New Testament, the contemporary believer can reply, 'Since that which is perfect has come, that which is in part has been done away.' A careful examination of I Corinthians 13:8-10 not only reveals the supremacy of self-sacrifice, because of the death and crucifixion of the old man resulting from the indwelling Christ, but another comparison also emerges. This comparison is one that emerges from "failed" prophecies (unfulfilled-unmentioned, specific, complete prophecies that would round out God's story to man as found in The Book of Revelation), tongues that shall cease (no need for them once scripture was completed), and knowledge that shall vanish away (knowledge that is dependent upon and bound up in knowledge not yet complete or revealed). While those things that were in part true and complete, up to that point, the completion of scripture, with The Book of Revelation was to make the canon of scripture "perfect."

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14. ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MEN—The Bible's promises are sufficient! The office of priest, of course, was obliterated when Christ, hanging on the cross for my sins declared, "It is finished." The office of priesthood believer was consummated in Acts 2 when Jesus' Holy Spirit indwelt and empowered his followers. Jesus Christ is the believer's ONLY high priest and mediator. I Timothy 2:5, 6—For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6. Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.
15. "WHEN ANYONE HEARETH THE WORD OF THE KINGDOM, AND UNDERSTANDETH IT NOT" — (Matt. 13:19)—As the original propagator of the man centered redemptive paradigm, man has successfully infiltrated and marketed his model of personal salvation to the masses within 'pop-culture Christianity' and the institutional church.
16. ". . . AND ANON WITH JOY RECEIVETH IT."—(Matt. 13:20)—The believer's authority does not come from subjective personal experience but from the objective truth of God's Word. Placing an emphasis on signs, wonders and miracles, this group of 'Christians' refuse to see that God has allowed Satan to counterfeit these demonstrations of supernaturalism. These people are those who reject scriptural inerrancy—transmission—preservation, biblical dispensationalism, Holy Spirit baptism and indwelling, and the Bible's ultimate authority over any clerical pronouncements. These pretenders/hypocrites have their true colors revealed when tribulation or persecution arises because of the Bible. Beware of those currently in the denominations comprising the Holiness Movement and those 'conservative' undercurrents emphasizing an emotional response (openness and/or propagation of psychological integrationism) toward one's Christian faith and the person of Jesus Christ!
17. "HE ALSO THAT RECEIVED SEED AMONG THE THORNS"— (Matt. 13:22)—These individuals are preoccupied with the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches. Appearing Christian, and believing they are good, they substitute Arminian theology for New Testament doctrine. In the Protestant realm they are the churches who are primarily advocating Kingdom Now Theology. They believe the current woes among the kingdoms of this world can be rectified by the application of Old Testament law, albeit the best example of human interaction among men and his Creator. The Kingdom Now Theology crowd has no regard for the spiritual regeneration of man's soul. They have failed to see the connection between ecumenical/evangelical liberalism within the seminaries and pulpits of America and the moral and political decline in this country. These are they who have removed Reformation/New Testament doctrine in exchange for Arminian practices, beliefs and theology.
18. THOSE WHO HOLD THE TRUTH IN UNRIGHTEOUSNESS—I do not believe we are witnessing a worldwide pouring out of Christ's Spirit in these latter days. A massive delusion has occurred whereby the church has become apostate.¹ The

¹ Apostasy results when men reject the truth. Apostasy within Protestantism has resulted because those calling themselves Christian have rejected Jesus' words—the Bible. By rejecting Jesus' words, they have made themselves prey to the lie of a man-centered redemptive view. This view rejects Jesus Christ as Savior and the Holy Spirit as the one who: imputes, convicts, enlightens, sustains, illuminates, instructs, overcomes, disciplines, indwells and fills.



worldly venue of the Christian political re-constructionist is creating a climate which will enable the “son of perdition” to take his rightful place in the prophetic history of God's sovereign plan.²

19. NOT MY WILL BUT THINE BE DONE—I believe that my sanctification is not through the effort of my will but Christ's Holy Spirit. When I stand before him, I cannot boast of anything I did.
20. GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION—I believe the Bible says God has chosen me unconditionally—not because of anything within me, but because of his good pleasure.
21. BEFORE THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE WORLD—Jesus' promises are extended to those whom he has chosen, not to all mankind.³ The fact of his choosing

Also evident in this falling away from the truth has been a prideful attitude that is evident through the epidemic of unforgiveness in the church. This has resulted in a self-centered perspective instead of a Christ-centered world view. Psycho-heresy can be credited for that. Turning one's focus to within, on self, instead of outward to Christ, and others, has produced this attitude. The acceptance of competing 'authorities' (other counterfeit 'bibles') and therefore the Bible's repudiation as the sole authority in a believer's life, has undermined the true rule of law (Scripture's authority) within the church. This pride has been revealed in the multitude of 'authority's' pastors cite from the pulpit. This pride can trace its roots to corrupt seminary training (Jesuitical infiltration). This pride has resulted in an unteachable spirit producing a liberal approach regarding Bible doctrine. The feminism of the religious and political liberal has leavened the church and is evident through 'Christian' psychology, the experience oriented paradigm, inclusivism and the "intuitive path" to one's faith. Feminism has also contributed to a lack of discipline within the church. The ordination of homosexuals, lesbians and women to positions of church leadership has also resulted from the antichristian, feminist influence. Hostile, unbiblical, rebellious and blasphemous, The Feminist Movement has also contributed to the confusion of gender roles within the clearly defined parameters of the Bible and within society. It has also taught that a woman's purpose and fulfillment is through her job, her children (instead of through the covenantal dynamic of marriage) or some other unbiblical precept that has been subliminally advanced to the detriment of her gender. The front groups posing as 'Christian,' while undermining Christ's authority and promoting an antichristian unity and appearing few in number are broad in their influence nonetheless. Some of them are: The Higher Critical Movement, The Tongues and Charismatic Movement, The National and World Council of Churches, the 'Christian' psychology Movement, the Neo-Evangelical Movement, The Name-It-And-Claim-It Movement, The Vineyard Movement, The Counterfeit 'bible' Movement, etc.

² II Thess. 2:3, 4—Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4. Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

³ Isaiah 53:11—He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

I John 2:1, 2—My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

In John's proclamation that Christ not only died for the saints but for the sins of the whole world (I John 2:1, 2), the Gospel writer was assuring the reading audience that only those whom Jesus Christ draws, verse 1, will have their sins forgiven. Verses 1 and 2 are tied together by a colon, at the end of verse 1, signaling an amplification of what is

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excludes the inclusion of all in the equation of eternal life. My worth as an individual is a result of his choosing.⁴ I believe in God's irresistible grace because it is from God and that his grace is always perfect. I do not believe man is mightier than God.

22. THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER—I believe in the dispensational, pre-millennial Second Coming of Christ, Jesus Christ's absolute, literal, spiritual/political reign, the judgment against Gog and Magog. I believe the Beast, the False Prophet and Satan's demise will eventually be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone. A new heaven, new earth, and the New Jerusalem are part of God's master plan for the saints.
23. TO GOD BE THE GLORY—Finally, I believe in God's perseverance toward the saints. This is not the superficial faith contrived by "prevenient grace" and the Arminian camp. Those whom he did foreknow, those he did predestinate. A believer cannot lose their salvation!

to follow. Verse 2 says that believers, in verse 1, will have their sins forgiven while the atoning power of Christ's blood is offered before all who are unredeemed. Therefore, the key to understanding these verses is wrapped up in the truth that while Jesus' atonement is not hindered by anything men may do, the conciliation by Christ's blood lay in the mystery of those whom God has chosen. While the few are drawn out of the whole, the few are still part of that whole. This misunderstanding lay in the dynamics of belief, election and the mysterious operation of the Holy Spirit, hence Jesus' remark, "So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen." (Matt. 19:30; Matt. 22:15-16; Mark 10:31) By the way, if your pastor says he has been called to preach, ask him to clarify, biblically, what he means by that remark? If he does not believe the Bible is without error and supreme in its authority (even above himself and the church's leadership), WATCH OUT!

⁴ Romans 8:29—For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

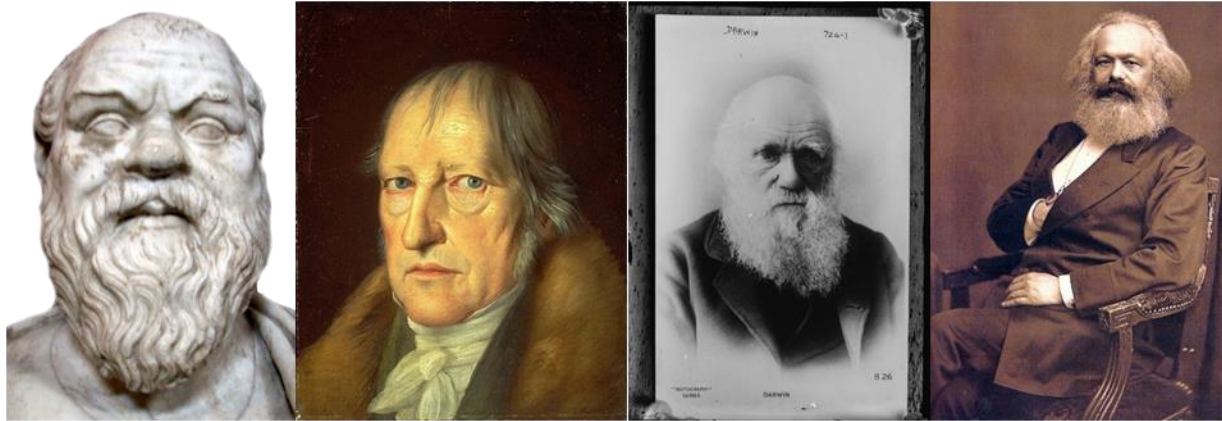
While Arminians will argue this verse says God knows those who will choose Christ, a careful examination of the verse reveals otherwise. The emphasis of this verse is on God, namely his foreknowledge and the election of his own. This verse does not mention MAN or HIS CHOOSING. While man has the evidence of creation all around him, much like a jury who must weigh the preponderance of the evidence "beyond a reasonable doubt," man in his sinfulness, is incapable of rendering an objective verdict thereby delivering himself from his eternal sentence of damnation. This is why it can say in I John 2:2 that Christ is the propitiation (appeasement) for the sins of the whole world. While Christ has made the ultimate sacrifice available to all, the problem still remains that man, in his complete wretchedness, knows not how to appropriate that eternal pardon ("But how to perform that which is good I find not." Rom. 7:18). For with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.



The subject matter for *"The Death of Socrates,"* by Jacques-Louis David has two other renowned Greek philosophers present in this picture. The man at the foot of Socrates' bed is Plato; while the man whose hand is steadfastly gripping Socrates' left leg is Aristotle. While Socrates highlighted the injustices of Athenian society, the movers and shakers within Athenian culture saw Socrates' teaching as a threat to their established order, position and influence. The poison cup of [hemlock](#) the Athenian adept is about to partake, and the range of human emotion spawned from his impending death, have been masterfully captured by an artist who was himself a keen student of human nature with its mental complexities, emotional nuances and individual idiosyncrasies. Like all men, whether consciously aware of it or not, Socrates' sense of justice was unequivocally influenced by his understanding of the God of the Hebrews, as well as the Holy Spirit's influence. Certainly having heard of Daniel's influence on numerous kings and empires, as well as the prophet's predictive utterances, Socrates was aware of Daniel's prophecies regarding the great Macedonian general Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.), long before Alexander the Great was conceived. Until the age of 16, Alexander the Great was tutored by Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), student of Socrates and contemporary of Plato.



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left to right—Socrates 469-399 B.C. Father of Western Philosophy and inventor of the dialectic⁵ method of induction

Georg Hegel 1770-1881 Ever elusive “absolute idealism”

Charles Darwin 1809-1882 *On the Origin of Species* and natural selection

Karl Marx 1818-1883 Proponent of class warfare, the ‘divide and conquer’ method of Cultural Revolution and author of *The Communist Manifesto*. Note, Marx’s hidden hand masonic gesture. It has been suggested that Communism’s founder was a 32nd degree Grand Orient Freemason?

Georg Hegel

Georg Hegel, 1770-1881, is the individual generally credited with the concept of thesis+antithesis=synthesis. In some references, however, others have attributed Johann Gottlieb Fichte as the originator of this proposition. Regardless, Hegel, like Kant, rejected supernaturalism. This supernaturalism for Hegel was not the unseen dimension existing outside the physical, but the conceptual abstractionism of man’s ‘reason.’ Hegel’s ‘supernatural’ source therefore found its roots from within man and therefore rejected the premise of a belief in the supernatural as well as truth existing outside and beyond men.



Johann Gottlieb Fichte (1762-1814), German philosopher and educator, proponent of an idealist theory of reality and moral action⁶

⁵ Socrates' dialectic is nothing more than the war that goes on in the mind of the natural man. This conflict, debate or dialectic, exists because of God's moral law and what a man knows how he ought to behave (the outward appearance). The game changer for the Christian is Christ's Holy Spirit that dwells within the individual. When Christ is on the throne of the believer's life, there is peace and harmony—self is dead to sin and the flesh, and the old man understands what it means to be crucified. The conflict man has within (Prov. 20:27; Rom. 7:18) has been eternally reconciled because of Christ's death, burial and resurrection, as well as the Holy Spirit's indwelling. It is the Holy Spirit that accomplishes God's will in spite of who and what I am. Christ in me, the hope of glory!

⁶ "Fichte, Johann Gottlieb," Microsoft® Encarta® Encyclopedia 99. © 1993-1998 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.



Georg Hegel, a protégé of Socrates, advocated the Socratic dialectic for contemporary history through his absolute idealism. Absolute idealism is not really absolute. It changes. It is dynamic and fluid. It is what the liberals would term progressive—ever changing (II Timothy 3:7—Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.)

It is also grounded in evolution and the progression of being. This evolution of being is also reflected in a progression of consciousness. Hegel's contradictions of nature and freedom, as well as immanence and transcendence result from the philosopher's flawed view of himself. Hegel's view of himself, and others, can be contrasted (juxtaposed) to the Bible's view of man; his nature, purpose and destiny.

Another point of comparison between Hegel and the Bible can be found in God's temporal, physical creation and its distinction from the eternal and spiritual. While the whole creation has been tainted by man's sin and disobedience, we understand there is no evidence of freedom as long as sin, decay, and death are the laws presently observed in nature.

With regards to immanence and transcendence, while God is intimately involved with his creation and can operate outside its confines, God in no way is subject or limited by his natural laws. God is NOT in the wind or the water or the rocks and clouds. As inanimate objects, these objects neither think, nor do they possess a soul as animism teaches.

Neither is the God of the Bible pantheistic or indistinguishable from his material world. Believing in many gods, or polytheistic, Hegelian philosophy is not. Building upon Emmanuel Kant's phenomenology of the spirit, this concept contained Kant's "principles of sensibility," or relating to one's world through the senses. Hegel, like Kant, rejected supernaturalism. This supernaturalism for Hegel was not the unseen dimension existing outside the physical, but the conceptual abstractionism of man's 'reason.' Hegel's 'supernatural' source therefore found its roots from within man and therefore rejected the premise of a belief in the supernatural.

This humanistic approach also found its way into a re-definition and 'synthesis' of the terms right and wrong. This philosophical doctrine of devils became highly influential and instrumental in producing a radically unbiblical interpretive approach toward scripture. The German Higher Critical Movement, and its approach to scripture, would replace God's established standard, which was to compare scripture with scripture, as well as replace this eternal and inspired paradigm with the temporal and transient opinions of man's subjective interpretation of the Bible. (II Peter 1:20, 21). God's formula for understanding truth is by the Holy Spirit, comparing scripture with scripture, examining the context carefully and understanding the Bible to be independent of man, the observations of science, and man's subjective opinions.

Biblical truth, an alien concept existing outside the spiritual dimension of man and therefore independent of man, is indeed foreign to Socratic philosophy and humanist thinking. The Bible's unchanging, transcendent truths were exchanged for man's shifting wisdom. Out of this dialectic emerged a new way of scriptural translation and interpretation. Biblical literalism was exchanged for the dynamic equivalency of the liberals in which the translator, not the Holy Spirit, would tell the reader what the translator believed the inspired writers were saying.

About the Author

Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin, 1809-1882, authored the quintessential book on humanism and a reaffirmation of atheism. Darwin's piece on evolution in his work entitled, *On the Origin of Species*, shifted the biblical model for man's origins from divine, to man's origin being left to chance.

This work, as well as his voyage on the H.M.S. Beagle, also directed Darwin down the dark corridor of natural selection. This belief by Darwin says that as an organism interacts with its environment, differing biological traits will become evident. These biological traits are ultimately influenced by the inherent, or genomic, disposition of the organism. An ebb and flow, give and take interaction between the organism and its environment will affect the individual, while conversely the individual can impact, and even alter their surroundings to make survival possible. Those organisms which adapt to their habitat will see their offspring increase, while those unable to adapt will die out. Over time, only those who survive will be perceived as the fittest—this "survival of the fittest," a term coined by English sociologist Herbert Spencer, was the basis for adaptive evolution as well as the belief in racial superiority.

Natural selection completely ignores the Bible's emphasis on man's relationship with his Creator, or lack thereof. Natural selection also fails to see that America's present condition does not rest on a biological, 'scientific' principle known as adaptive evolution, but on a moral crises precipitated by godless education/academia, the federalization of our school system, a man-centered redemptive paradigm, "separation of church and state," and a plethora of counterfeit 'bibles.' The Bible declares that the ancient peoples of the past disappeared not because of their failure to adapt to their environment, but because of their moral rebellion to the Almighty.

Darwin was a naturalist which meant he believed the universe came into being by chance, not because of an all knowing, powerful, ever-present, orderly, deliberate, and loving Creator, Jesus Christ. His atheistic notions are evident in his authored work, *On the Origin of Species*. The British scientist did not believe man was made in God's image. Darwin believed man's origins could be traced to common ancestors with their 'missing links': from amoeba, to fish, to apes, to man.

In his notions regarding natural selection, or adaptive evolution, Darwin argued man was affected by his surroundings and upbringing to the point man could not be held totally responsible for his actions. This is in direct opposition to the Bible's teaching that man is "without excuse" (Rom. 1:21) before his Creator.

Darwin's disavowing man from his actions added more fire to the psychological belief that man is a victim of his circumstances instead of the active, responsible agent in his destiny. While God may direct man's steps, and election assures salvation to those God has chosen, man's imaginations and thoughts condemn man nonetheless.

Karl Marx

Karl Marx, 1818-1883, was an atheist/materialist/utopian/progressive as well as social engineer and proponent of the politically divisive "divide and conquer" and "class warfare" method of Cultural Revolution. Although heavily influenced and coached by



the Jesuits, Marx is the individual generally credited as the primary author of *The Communist Manifesto*. His comrade in arms (confiscated firearms that is) was Friedrich Engels.

Karl Marx's graduated income tax, the establishment of a central banking system (i.e. the Federal Reserve with its debauched currency, its creation of artificial booms and busts, its worthless paper substitutes known as Federal Reserve Notes, 'sandwich coins,' corrupt monetary policy, etc.), federalization of the educational system (national brainwashing) and the like, are all intended to incrementally shift and strip power from independent civilized entities to a massive, centralized rule by a godless elite.

In Marx's utopian view he will be on top and everyone else will be on the bottom with no middle class having any opportunity of upward, social mobility. Marx and his disciples will stay in power by removing any physical opposition to rule (gun control). As they make their ascent to power, Marxist propaganda will engage in lies, deception, twisting the facts and using class, race and gender as a means of pitting those groups against each other while Marxists, by stealth, come in and take over (the divide and conquer technique). Modern protégés of Marxist ideology are many within the democratically controlled Senate, President Barack Obama as well as many of the president's cabinet appointees. While the Occupy Wall Street Movement is leftist in its demands for social justice, its real political identity can be more accurately described as anarchist, and to a lesser degree, Libertarian.⁷

The Common Belief that Binds Them All

The common belief these men held was that 'truth' could be discovered by self-reflection and self-examination. This subjective view of men placed it in direct opposition to God's view. From God's view man was sinful, rebellious and in need of reconciliation. From man's view he was evolving, changing, perfectible, and could become God. God, in the person of Jesus Christ was the only one that could resolve this indissoluble impasse. It was this dialectic (conflict), between man and God, that drove men to seek for life's deepest philosophical answers from within, instead of objectively, unselfishly, acknowledge the truth outwardly. From Socratic Philosophy man defined the terms of just and unjust, good and evil, truth and error, holy and profane from the standard of the individual. This erroneous belief system was humanistic, denied man's radical corruption before a holy God, and advocated man could be molded into God's image

⁷ Libertarianism, as defined from the biblical perspective, is a belief that the individual is completely free from any responsibility before God and from those institutions God has ordained, namely, the marriage covenant, the family, state or nations, etc. Libertarianism advocates the complete primacy of the individual in all matters of conscience, including the individual's free choice as to whether eternal redemption is necessary, and if so, men must choose whether to be saved or not. Libertarianism, seen through the black and white lenses of scripture, is nothing more than man elevating himself above God, "doing that which is right in his own eyes." This belief that man needs no accountability before God, or others, was evident during the time of the judges. It has become quite apparent today. During the Bible's time of the judges, national Israel revealed no continuity of faith whether it was to a prophet, priest, king, or Jehovah.

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apart from the Holy Spirit's influence and indwelling. Greek thought and philosophy stand in stark contrast to the Bible's teaching that truth resides in a knowable person, the Godhead, and most clearly expounded in the inerrant word of God, the Holy Bible. The person of Jesus Christ and his mission to die for man's sin is a sore sticking point with all humanists who argue for man's perfectibility and the belief man, through evolution, can ultimately become God.

By Paul J. Wickliffe
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