

Sunday, May 24, 2009
Living Hope EFC

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The Seen World reveals our Unseen Creator: Rom.1: 19-23
Man has deliberately suppressed Truth about the Creator.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the *birthplace* of Memorial Day.

Memorial Day was **officially proclaimed** on **5 May 1868** by General John Logan, national commander of *the Grand Army of the Republic*, and was first observed on **30 May 1868**, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington Nat Cemetery

In 1915, inspired by the poem "[In Flanders Fields](#)," Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.

She then conceived of an idea to wear **red poppies** on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation.

Traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years. Many Americans have forgotten its meaning & even look negatively upon those who continue to defend our nation.

It puts a people at risk, when they forget the history of their freedom!

How much more so when a people forget their God? **Isaiah 51:12-13**

In Romans 1, Paul address men who deliberately forget the Memory of God, their Creator, Who has clearly revealed Himself to them. - **Rom.1:19-23**

- It is important for us to put these verses in the **context** of our day.
- **Q:** Are we guilty of forgetting & purposeful denying God in our country?
- **Q:** Can we clearly see the fingerprint of God in creation today?

1 - How have we exhibited such a forgetful & purposeful denial of God? (A look at history in America since the Declaration of Indep.)

Declaration of Independence: July 4, 1776

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are **created** equal, that they are endowed by their **Creator** with certain unalienable **rights**, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

FOUR KEY TRUTHS: Creator, Creation, Supernatural, Moral absolutes.

Darwin (1809-1882): *The Descent of Man*, 1871

100 years later... "Belief in God & religion: There is no evidence that man was aboriginally endowed with the ennobling belief in the existence of an omnipotent God," 301.

Darwin believed that all species of life evolved over time from common ancestors, through the process he called natural selection.

1831 Graduated from the University of Cambridge with a degree in theology. When he died he claimed to be an agnostic.

1831-1836 Sailed around the world as a naturalist aboard the HMS *Beagle*

1839 Published notebooks containing meticulous observations of animal and plant species and geology made during the voyage

1858 Published a paper introducing his ideas on natural selection; the paper was presented to the Linnaean Society, a scientific organization in London, concurrently with a similar paper by British naturalist Alfred Russell Wallace

1859 Published *On the Origin of Species*, his complete theory of natural selection (evolution)

1871 Published *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*, which explicitly stated that humans are descended from apes

(INFO From Internet Sites)

- By implying humans had evolved just like other species, Darwin directly **contradicted orthodox theological opinion**.
- His theory of natural selection came to be accepted as the **primary explanation of the process of evolution in the 1930s** and now **forms the basis of modern evolutionary theory**.

Prior to the publication of Darwin's ideas, most people believed that species were eternally unchanging.

Up to Darwin's time- science believed **creation** as a fact of nature

Isaac Newton (1643-1727)

An English physicist, mathematician, astronomer, natural philosopher, alchemist, and theologian and **one of the most influential men in human history**, said: (–

Wikipedia.com)

"It is not to be conceived that mere mechanical causes could give birth to so many regular motions...this most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel & dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being." – *General Scholium*

Best-known for his discoveries of the *laws of motion and gravity* Newton warned against using them to view the Universe as a mere machine, as if akin to a great clock.

He said, "Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but it cannot explain who set the planets in motion. God governs all things & knows all that is or can be done." - *Isaac Newton: Inventor, Scientist & Teacher*

Newton's stature among scientists remains at the very top rank, as demonstrated by a **2005 survey of scientists** in Britain's Royal Society asking who had the greater effect on the history of science, Newton or Albert Einstein. Newton was deemed the more influential.

HISTORY OF EVOLUTIONARY THOUGHT IN OUR CULTURE

The *Origin of Species* was translated into **many languages**, becoming a staple scientific text attracting thoughtful attention from all walks of life, including the “working men” who flocked to Thomas Huxley’s lectures. **Man was taught to be the descendent of Apes.** (Wikipedia)

1899 Ernest Haeckel, *The Riddle of the Universe*

Eminent German biologist, naturalist, philosopher, physician, professor

popularized Charles Darwin’s work in Germany, wrote:

“The cell consists of matter called protoplasm, composed chiefly of carbon with an admixture of hydrogen, nitrogen, and sulphur. The component parts properly united produce the soul & body of the animated world, and suitably nursed became man. With this single argument the mystery of the universe is explained. The deity annulled, and a new era of infinite knowledge ushered in.”

1933 Humanist Manifest 1 = Humanism became a religion!

Preface -

The time has come for widespread recognition of the radical changes in religious beliefs throughout the modern world... **Science and economic change have disrupted the old beliefs.** Religions the world over are under the necessity of coming to terms with new conditions created by a vastly increased knowledge and experience. In every field of human activity, the vital movement is now in the direction of a candid and explicit *humanism*. In order that *religious humanism* may be better understood we, the undersigned, desire to make certain affirmations which we believe the facts of our contemporary life demonstrate...

To establish such a religion is a major necessity of the present. It is a responsibility which rests upon this generation. We therefore affirm the following: (*15 of the original signers were Unitarians*)

FIRST: Religious humanists regard the universe as **self-existing** and not created. > Isaiah 40:28 = God is the self-existing One!

SECOND: Humanism believes that **man is a part of nature** and that he has emerged as a **result of a continuous process.** > Gen. 1=God created.

THIRD: Holding an organic view of life, humanists find that the traditional dualism of **mind and body** must be rejected. = **(A machine)**

FIFTH: Humanism asserts that the nature of the universe depicted by modern **science makes unacceptable any supernatural** or cosmic guarantees of human values...Religion must formulate its hopes and plans in the light of the scientific spirit and method. **(What hopes?)**

SIXTH: We are convinced that **the time has passed for theism**, deism, modernism, and the several varieties of "new thought". > **Rom.1:21**

EIGHTH: Religious Humanism considers the complete **realization of human personality** to be **the end of man's life** and seeks its development and fulfillment in the here and now. This is the explanation of the humanist's social passion. > **Man is god! 1:22-23**

NINTH: In the place of the **old attitudes involved in worship and prayer** the humanist finds his religious emotions expressed in a heightened sense of personal life and in a cooperative effort to promote social well-being. > God is dead. Let's focus on MAN/ social needs.

THIRTEENTH: Religious humanism maintains that all associations and institutions **exist for the fulfillment of human life**. The intelligent evaluation, transformation, control, and direction of such associations and institutions with a view to the enhancement of human life is the purpose and program of humanism. Certainly religious institutions, their ritualistic forms, ecclesiastical methods, and communal activities **must be reconstituted** as rapidly as experience allows, in order to function effectively in the modern world. > The church = a social institution!

FOURTEENTH: The humanists are firmly convinced that the **existing... profit-motivated society has shown itself to be inadequate** and that a radical change in methods, controls, and motives must be instituted. A **socialized and cooperative economic order** must be established to the end that the **equitable distribution of the means** of life be possible... Humanists *demand* a shared life in a shared world.

Hitler, Mein Kampe, 1932 (***Evolution applied to government.***)

"If nature does not wish that weaker individuals should mate with the stronger, she wishes even less that a superior race should intermingle with an inferior one; because in such a case all her efforts, throughout hundreds of thousands of years, to establish an evolutionary higher state of being, may thus be rendered futile.

In order to preserve a certain culture, the type of manhood that creates such a culture must be preserved. But such a preservation goes hand-in-hand with the inexorable law that is the strongest and the best who must triumph and that they have the right to endure.", 239-40,42

Humanist Manifest 2. 1973

Preface

It is forty years since Humanist Manifesto I (1933) appeared. Events since then make that earlier statement seem far too optimistic. Nazism has shown the depths of brutality of which humanity is capable. Other totalitarian regimes have suppressed human rights without ending poverty. Science has sometimes brought evil as well as good. Recent decades have shown that inhuman wars can be made in the name of peace. The beginnings of police states, even in democratic societies, widespread government espionage, and other abuses of power by military, political, and industrial elites, and the continuance of unyielding racism, all present a different and difficult social outlook.

As in 1933, humanists still believe that traditional theism, especially faith in the prayer-hearing God, assumed to live and care for persons, to hear and understand their prayers, and to be able to do something about them, **is an unproved and outmoded faith**. Salvationism, based on mere affirmation, still appears as harmful, diverting people with false hopes of heaven

hereafter. Reasonable minds look to other means for survival. > John 14:1-3 “Believe in God, in Me...”

The next century can be and should be the humanistic century...Using technology wisely, we can control our environment, conquer poverty, markedly reduce disease, extend our life-span, significantly *modify our behavior*, alter the course of human evolution and cultural development, unlock vast new powers, and provide humankind with ***unparalleled opportunity for achieving an abundant and meaningful life.*** > (Where can we get abundant life? John 10:10)

FIRST We believe, however, that traditional dogmatic or authoritarian religions that place revelation, God, ritual, or creed above human needs and experience do a disservice to the human species... We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of survival and fulfillment of the human race. ***As nontheists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity...No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.*** > Romans 1:19-23

SECOND: Promises of immortal salvation or fear of eternal damnation are both illusory and harmful. They distract humans from present concerns, from self-actualization, and from rectifying social injustices...Rather, science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces...There is no credible evidence that life survives the death of the body. > Empty Grave?

THIRD: We affirm that **moral values** derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational needing no theological or ideological sanction. Ethics stems from human need and interest. > Ethics is what the elite says it is.

FOURTH: Reason and intelligence are the most effective instruments that humankind possesses. > Rom.1: Claiming to be wise – fools!

SIXTH: In the area of sexuality, we believe that intolerant attitudes, often cultivated by orthodox religions and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct. The right to birth control, abortion, and divorce should be recognized...neither do we wish to prohibit, by law or social sanction, sexual behavior between consenting adults. **The many varieties of sexual exploration should not in themselves be considered "evil."** ...Short of harming others or compelling them to do likewise, individuals should be permitted to express their sexual proclivities and pursue their lifestyles as they desire... Moral education for children and adults is an important way of developing awareness and sexual maturity. > Rom. 1:24 “God gave them over to sinful desires”

SEVENTH: To enhance **freedom and dignity** the individual must experience a full range of civil liberties in all societies...It also includes a recognition of an individual's right to die with dignity, euthanasia, and the right to suicide.

NINTH: The separation of church and state and the separation of ideology and state are imperatives.

TWELFTH: We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. We have reached a turning point in human history where the best option is to **transcend the limits of national sovereignty** and to move toward the **building of a world community**... We thus reaffirm a commitment to the building of world community,

ARE THEY SERIOUS ABOUT ADVANCING THEIR AGENDA?

John Dunphy, *The Humanist*, Jan-Feb, 1983, 22

"I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith: **A religion of humanity** that recognizes and respects the spark of what theologians call divinity in every human being.

These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers. For they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit **to convey humanist values in whatever subject they teach**, regardless of the educational level- preschool, day care, or large state university."

"The Bible is not merely another book, an outmoded and archaic book, or even an extremely influential book; it has been and remains **an incredibly dangerous book**. It and the various Christian churches which are parasitic upon it have been directly responsible for most of the wars, persecutions, and outrages which humankind has perpetrated upon itself over the past 2,000 years," 25.

U.S. COURT DECISIONS SINCE HUMANISM BEGAN

1961 Secular Humanism Recognized as a Religion

1962 Class Prayers banned from public schools.

1963 Class Bible reading forbidden in schools

1968 Laws against teaching evolution declared unconstitutional

1973 (Roe VS Wade) Unborn are declared non-human

1980 Posting the Ten Commandments in classrooms is unconstitutional

1982 Law mandating the teaching of creation (with evolution) banned in Arkansas (Judges Decision: You can't teach creationism because that is Scripture.)

2009 Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Main, Vermont
legalize gay marriage

1- We are taxed to support schools that are systematically destroying our most cherished beliefs. = Taxation without representation.

2- Do we wonder why **70% of teens** leave the church when they graduate from high school? Find church, the Bible, religion unacceptable?

CONCLUSION WHY AM I TELLING YOU THESE THINGS?

As Memorial Day is to the remembrance of those who have purchased our freedom with their blood, so **THE CHURCH is - a reminder to every community of the One Who purchased Eternal Life by His blood!**

The Church is vitally important to America.

In Europe many formerly vibrant churches have become graveyards, which people visit on special holidays!

There are those In America who would turn our churches into the same kind of graveyard!

WE (every church in America) are vitally important in keeping the memory of our Savior alive, helping people to remember their Creator, escaping the eternal wrath of God, spending eternity in heaven!

It is not education – that is most important to America. IT IS THE CHURCH – Every Sunday, every interaction during your week when we live for the glory of our God, **we are a MEMORIAL of the One who died for our freedom!**

Let the church be involved in social needs, and let us pray for our schools and teachers. But the main focus of the church must always be worship of our Creator and God.