

Good News

From Getwell

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The Spiritual Sword Lectureship

Radio Program

The Truth in Love

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The Getwell congregation sends monthly support to the following:

Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, TN
 West Tennessee Children's Home, Pinson, TN
 Potter Children's Home, Bowling Green, KY
 Children's Homes, Paragould, AR

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
 Worship.....10:20 a.m.
 Worship.....5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

Ron Wallace

Throughout the month of September, we will be taking pictures for our hallway picture board. Let me encourage you if your picture is not on the board to have your picture made. Or if your picture on the board needs updating please take advantage of this opportunity. This board serves as a useful tool in drawing us closer together as a family here at Getwell.

This past September 1st we had promotion Sunday. We don't have a great many kids but this date every year serves as an opportunity to bring a young one to services and learn about Jesus. If you missed that opportunity this past September 1st, you don't have to wait until next year, invite a young one to our next service. We have some excellent teachers who love Jesus and love to teach.

We are currently engaged in a food and commodity drive for West Tennessee Children's Home. There are lists of needs available in our foyers, along with baskets to collect the items. They are also asking a \$15.00 cash contribution to apply toward perishables. West Tennessee Children's Home is one of four homes Getwell supports. The four homes do a splendid job in providing a stable environment for young people. The staff of these homes are to be commended for all their hard work and their love for these kids. Be sure to add these items to your grocery list and fill our baskets.

Our 2019 Spiritual Sword Lectureship at this writing is less than 50 days away. The lectureship is a team effort and takes us all to make it a success. A special treat this year is that on Sunday, October 20th we will have four of Getwell's past surviving preachers speaking. The preachers speaking that day are Gary Colley, Alan Highers, Jim Laws, and Gary McDade. The entire lectureship promises to be a great event, but that Sunday will be a very special day. The dates of the lectureship are October 20-23 and the theme is "Opening The Windows Of Heaven". Mark the dates on your calendar.

Running the Christian Race (Pt. 1).

Bradley Smith

Hebrews 12:1 says that we must, "...run with patience the race that is set before us." Just as with a race which one may enter, there are a few requirements in running the Christian race. Over the next two weeks, we will examine this topic of running the Christian race.

You Must Enter Correctly

If you have ever ran in a race, you know that you cannot just walk up to the starting line and begin running. There are forms which must be filled out, dues which must be paid, etc. There are requirements for entering this race. Such is the case with the Christian race; you do not accidentally start running it. How does one enter the Christian race? You do not have to sign forms or pay dues, but here is what is required: you must hear the Gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-4), you must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 8:24), you must repent of your sins (Acts 17:30), you must confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37), and you must be baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Without these things, you cannot enter the Christian race.

You Must Have the Proper Diet

If you were about to run a race, what would you eat? Would you eat a hamburger and French fries and drink a milkshake? Or would you opt for a better option, such as a salad or another nutritional choice? We understand in a physical race, you must have the proper fuel. This is also true with the Christian race. How do I have the "right diet" for the Christian race? I must eat of the bread of life (John 8:35), and drink the living water (John 4:14). When I have the proper diet of Scripture, not mixed with doctrines of men (2 Tim. 3:16-17), I have the right diet.

You Must Be Disciplined

When you are training for a physical race, how long do you prepare for it? Depending on the race, you may train for months in advance so that your body can be disciplined for the race. In the Christian race, we must make sure that we are well-versed in the Word of God so we can stay strong on this race (Psa. 119:11, Mat. 4:1-11). The Bible tells us how we can overcome our adversary (1 Pet. 5:8), and reach our goal in this race.

Lord willing, we will continue with Part Two of this study next week.

RON'S REMINDERS



The Despair of Atheism Part 3

Philosopher and self-professed atheist, Thomas Nagel, teaches and writes extensively on atheism's implication of meaninglessness. In his brief book *What Does it All Mean? A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy*, he stated: "If you think about the whole thing, there seems to be no point to it at all. Looking at it from the outside, it wouldn't matter if you had never existed. And after you have gone out of existence, it won't matter that you did exist."⁵ Eminent atheistic author, debater, and spokesperson Richard Dawkins boldly said: "The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, **nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.**"⁶ Edward O. Wilson quipped that "no species, ours included, possesses a purpose beyond the imperatives created by its genetic history."⁷

The late William Provine, atheistic professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the distinguished Cornell University, stated: "Naturalistic evolution has clear consequences that Charles Darwin understood perfectly. 1) No gods worth having exist; 2) no life after death exists; 3) no ultimate foundation for ethics exists; 4) **no ultimate meaning in life exists**; and 5) human free will is nonexistent."⁸

The existential philosopher Albert Camus, winner of the Nobel Prize in literature, struggled greatly with atheism's lack of meaning and purpose. So great was his contemplation of it, he declared, "I therefore conclude that the meaning of life is the most urgent of questions."⁹ Camus then championed the idea of the "absurd" man. He used a very specific meaning for the word "absurd." In his writing, the concept of the absurd is the recognition and acceptance that life has no meaning, rhyme, or reason. He says of the absurd man: "He feels within him his longing for happiness and for reason. The absurd is born of this confrontation between the human need and the unreasonable silence of the world."¹⁰ His whole book begins with the premise that atheism denies any meaning to the world, and proceeds to flesh out how a person can keep from committing suicide once he arrives at universal meaninglessness. Thus, he begins the book, saying: "There is but one truly serious

philosophical problem, and that is suicide. Judging whether life is or is not worth living amounts to answering the fundamental question of philosophy."¹¹ And later in the book he concludes, about his entire book, discussion, and life: "Let me repeat. None of all this has any real meaning."¹²

CREATING OUR OWN MEANING?

If there is no God, then the implication that life ultimately has no real meaning cannot be denied. Knowing, however, that humans have an innate sense that their lives have meaning and need to have a purpose, atheism is burdened with the unenviable task of manufacturing meaning with no raw materials, whipping it into existence out of thin air. How does this work? One approach put forward by leading unbelievers is that we simply create our own, individual meaning in our lives. When asked about the meaning of life, Alom Shaha, author of *The Young Atheist's Handbook*, stated: Yes, of course I know that life is ultimately without meaning or purpose, but the trick is not to wake up every morning and feel that way. Cognitive dissonance? Embrace it. **Create a sense of meaning and purpose** by doing something useful with your life (I teach), being mean that in creative—I don't a poncey hipster way, I mean make a curry, build some bookshelves, write a poem. And most importantly, find people you like and love and spend lots of time with them. I regularly have people over for dinner, throw parties for no other reason than I just want to spend time surrounded by the people I love. And if you're really stuck, eat rice and dal. Physically filling yourself with the food you love really does fill the emptiness you may feel inside.¹³

Biology professor, author, and lecturer Jerry Coyne states: "What people cannot abide is the conviction that the Universe and life are pointless. **Which is what really, science is telling us.** Pointless in the sense that there is no externally imposed purpose or point in the Universe. As atheists, this is something that is manifestly true to us. **We make our own meaning and purpose.**"¹⁴