



Random Thoughts, Vol. 9

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If this “Random Thoughts” column is new to you, then here is a quick introduction. Below is a collection of my own observations, thoughts, and insights which may or may not prove to be a blessing to others. Each of these is not long enough to warrant an entire article on its own, but begged to be written down nonetheless.

Reflections on a Vacation

August 25, 2014

I had the blessing of taking a long-awaited and long-planned family trip in June, 2014. We crossed the United States through the north, stopping at Mt. Rushmore, the Creation Museum in Kentucky, and Philadelphia. We dropped down to Gettysburg, then Washington, D.C., and then came across the south through Nashville and Arkansas, cutting up through Wyoming to return home. The trip took three weeks.

After the Creation Museum (Answersingenesis.org), Philadelphia was my favorite place. We visited Independence Hall and stood in the room where the Declaration of Independence was written and signed. We stood in the room where the Constitution was written and signed. We also stood in the building where the first Congress met and walked through the building where the first Supreme Court convened. We saw the house where Thomas Jefferson stayed in June of 1776 while he penned the Declaration. We visited the graves of Benjamin Franklin and a number of other founders.

All of these sites were in the center of downtown Philadelphia. The city of Philadelphia is an odd duck of sorts. The historic buildings have been preserved, but it appears as if it has been done very reluctantly.

Standing in front of Independence Hall **almost** makes you feel as if you have stepped back in time 225 years. I say **almost** because it has to be one of the noisiest locations in all of Philadelphia. You can hear jackhammers, trucks,

construction, and extremely heavy traffic going constantly, all day long. If you glance to your left you will see sky scrapers and parking garages. If you glance to your right, more skyscrapers, traffic lights and a busy four-lane downtown street, all less than a block away. If you look down at your feet, you will see cobblestones laid down during the lifetime of Benjamin Franklin.

We visited one building that was built by Franklin and rented to business owners. It, along with its courtyard, had been preserved from the encroachment of time and progress, but barely. Right next door was a tall, glass-faced skyscraper that was home to the FOX 29 television station. I could stand in one spot and place my left hand on bricks handled by Benjamin Franklin and my right hand on a glass skyscraper. That is bizarre!

The home rented by Thomas Jefferson was much the same. A little three-story brick building on the corner of a very busy intersection, surrounded by modernity. Not more than 20 feet wide and 40 feet long, this little brick box looked as if it could be swallowed up by the progress of commerce if someone gave it the green light.

Standing on the corner of the intersection were businessmen in suits with briefcases in hand, waiting for the light to change. They appeared oblivious to the significance of the building less than 15 feet behind them.

As we left the downtown area, I had to pull into an auto shop to have my brakes replaced. (It was a pressing emergency - another story for another time.) The shop was less than two miles from Independence Hall. I was chatting with the mechanic as he did the work on my brakes.

“So you folks are from Idaho. That’s a long way from here.”

“Yeah, it is. We came over here to see the historic sites of Philadelphia. We were just downtown at Independence Hall and spent the day there, seeing the sites. Since you are

so close, you must get down there all the time.”

“No. I've never been down there. I drove past it one time. I think it was at night. It was a long time ago, and I think I saw the Liberty Bell through the window.”

I didn't even know what to say to that.

Gettysburg was a different story. When we drove into the city of Gettysburg, much of the town had been preserved. One local house still had the original front door with a bullet hole through it from the battle. That bullet was fired during the Union retreat through the city and caused the only civilian casualty from that battle. Much of the town retains its 1860s feel, and many of the homes that stood then are still standing.

In Gettysburg you feel as if the features of modern life like supermarkets and gas stations are an unwelcome but necessary evil. Unlike in Philadelphia, where you feel as if the history, the monuments, and the markers are unwelcome and annoying roadblocks to progress, those who live in Gettysburg seem to understand the significance of history. Those in Philadelphia seem to be itching to forget history. Gettysburg is history resisting the advance of modernity. Philadelphia is modernity threatening to erase history.

What a contrast!

One last place to mention: Washington, D.C. I managed to escape with my principles, ethics, and morals intact. That is probably because I was only there for a day and did not come into close contact with anyone who had the RCV (Ruling Class Virus).

The grandeur of the buildings in D.C. is stunning on a level that surpasses words. For instance, the Supreme Court Building is simply amazing. I have seen pictures in magazines, movies, and online. They do not do it justice (pun intended). Not even close! The building is twenty times what I imagined.

After visiting the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, and the Capitol Building, I came to realize why our elected officials in Washington think the way they do.

I have a theory. They are surrounded constantly by structures and buildings which are some of the greatest in our nation. I can see how, before long, they would start to feel pretty important. They would start to think that they are as great, powerful, and monumental as the buildings in which they sit. After a few months, they would forget what places like Sandpoint, Duluth, and Wichita look like. They might actually begin to think that America is great because they are there, doing what they are doing. That is the first symptom of RCV.

Fallen people do not need much encouragement to think the world revolves around them. Surround them with greatness and they will inevitably begin to feel that they are

either part of that greatness or the cause of it.

Fools without Excuse

12/23/2014

The National Geographic Channel has a program called *Brain Games*.¹ The show delves into the mysteries of how the human brain works. They use illusions, games, and competitions to show that your brain can be tricked into thinking it is seeing something that it does not see. They also try to explain why our brains process information the way they do.

Since it is produced by the National Geographic Channel, I don't expect the show to give any glory to God for the marvels of the human brain. They don't. In fact, they continually credit the theory of evolution for this amazing organ.

For instance, to explain why our brains have the ability to process the speed and distance of moving objects (depth perception), they will say something like this:

The human brain evolved this ability over the course of millions of years. Our ancestors needed the ability to hunt food to provide for their offspring. Surviving required that they could throw a spear and hit a moving target. They needed to be able to judge the distance and speed of their prey and anticipate their movement. The brain evolved that ability so that they could survive.

Uh, OK. Sure. Apparently millions and millions of generations of our species died of starvation before we evolved that capacity. So the order of events went something like this:

1. Feeling hungry so I guess I'll go find someone else who is feeling hungry and go kill something so we can eat and survive.
2. Spend several days throwing spears and rocks at animals and birds, wildly missing them because I can't figure out how far away they are or what direction they are traveling. I haven't evolved that ability yet.
3. Starve to death. I don't mean that metaphorically. I mean really die.
4. Have children so the next generation can starve to death before evolving depth perception.

¹ <http://braingames.nationalgeographic.com/episode/0/>

5. Repeat a few million times.

6. Shazam! Woke up one morning with the ability to hit a moving target!

Such is the miraculous, creative ability of evolution. How willfully blind and ignorant do you have to be to believe this nonsense?

When I see the abilities and functions of the human brain, I don't see the product of time and chance and natural processes. I see the all-powerful hand of an all-wise Creator Who designed it. I see the marvels of His wisdom and I am caught up in wonder and worship.

Scripture says that those who do not honor God actually know the truth about God but refuse to give Him honor.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

-Romans 1:18–23

Paul says that unrighteous men actually do know the truth about God. They know that God exists. They know that nothing creates nothing. They know that design requires a Designer. They know that information requires an information-giver. Moral law points to a moral law-giver. They know that if anything functions, it is because it is designed to function.

They can see in the creation that there is a Creator and that He is wise, powerful, artistic, imaginative, loving, caring, good, eternal, and communicative. God has made these things evident to them. The creation is the evidence.

But though they know that God exists, they suppress that truth in unrighteousness. God has made His existence obvious to them. In fact, it is so obvious that the Bible says

only the fool would deny that God exists (**Psalm 14:1**). It is so obvious that they are “without excuse” for denying what is plain to see.

Atheistic Evolutionists cannot possibly live in the world consistent with their professed beliefs. When plates are left on the table in the living room, they don't EVER assume that nothing caused it. They will demand that one of their children admit to it and clean up after themselves. When they hear a knock at the door, they NEVER assume that nothing caused it and that such an effect can simply happen randomly. When they see a car parked in their driveway, they don't assume that it appeared out of thin air without a cause. Each and every day, a thousand times a day, they act as if effects require a cause, design requires a designer, and function indicates a purpose.

Their actions betray them. They know the truth but they suppress it.

Their language betrays them as well. I hear this all the time on Brain Games. They use phrases like this:

“Your brain is hard-wired to ...”

“Your brain is designed to ...”

“Your brain naturally functions like ...”

Do you see the problem?

Who “hard-wired” the brain? My house is wired, my computer is wired, and my phone is wired. Who wired them? I don't know exactly who, but I do know there was a “who” that did it. Things don't hard-wire themselves! Yet they cannot explain the function of the brain without using such language, for only such language describes reality. Yet to describe the brain this way is to deny the very premise of evolution, namely, that *all design, purpose, and function in the universe is only an appearance of design, purpose, and function. It is all really random.* Would any of these evolutionists be willing to live in a house that was wired randomly and completely by chance? Nope!

Further, atheists and evolutionists have to live in a moral universe even while denying that such morality has any meaning or transcendent value. They will claim that the conscience is just the product of conditioning over millions of years. All the moral parameters that we acknowledge today have “survival benefit” only and have helped our species evolve, adapt and thrive. They deny that moral truths are actually absolute and reflect a moral law. However, they don't live in the universe the way they describe it.

Cut in line in front of them at the store, take their car stereo, or slap their children and you will soon learn that they actually do believe that moral truths exist and that they are not subjective! They will be angered, and rightly so. But why? If morality is only that which has some survival benefit, then they cannot object when I do something that benefits

my survival—no matter how much it might cost them.

They will object. Because they know the truth about God, that He is moral and that His laws are written on our hearts. They are without excuse.

They cannot escape what is obvious. In denying it, they prove themselves to be exactly what God says they are—fools without excuse.

“Your Kingdom Come”

12/23/2014

We associate the phrase “Your Kingdom Come” with what we call The Lord's Prayer. It is not actually a prayer that is prayed by Jesus, but a model of prayer for the disciples. Jesus could never pray, “Forgive us our debts as we forgive others,” or, “forgive us our sins” (Luke 11:4). He gave the disciples a model of prayer that was appropriate for them to pray. It was not intended to be something simply recited as if the uttering of those words would please God. However, the prayer does reflect God's priorities and types of things that, when prayed for, honor Him.

What are we to make of that one phrase, “Thy Kingdom Come”? I have heard unbelievers pray this prayer at a funeral, a wedding, or a graveside, and said to myself, “You have no idea what you are asking for!” Have you ever stopped to consider what the answer to that prayer would entail?

The arrival of the Kingdom of God will mean the violent overthrow and destruction of every other kingdom. To pray for the Kingdom of God to come onto this earth is to pray that all the kingdoms of the world be destroyed and subjugated to the authority and will of Jesus Christ. It is to pray for the overthrow of all rule and authority and the complete destruction of all of God's enemies.

Nebuchadnezzar's dream in **Daniel 2** foretells the establishment of that Kingdom. He saw that these kingdoms were **“crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth”** (Daniel 2:35).

Daniel interpreted the vision:

In the days of those kings the God of Heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made

known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.

-Daniel 2:45-46

The precursor to the establishment of this Kingdom will be the Second coming of Christ. **Revelation 19:11–21:**

And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, “Come, assemble for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.” And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

When Christ returns to establish His Kingdom, He will slay His enemies. He will punish all

disobedience. He will be revealed from Heaven in flaming fire, **“dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus” (2 Thess. 1:8).**

He will put an end to and punish everything that dishonors Him and His Father. He will destroy every false religion and every false religious system. He will punish all idolaters.

Everything in entertainment, culture, politics, religion, fashion, sports, media, business, and arts that does not glorify Him will be punished and destroyed. Every lie will receive swift and immediate punishment. Every falsehood exposed. Every lie revealed.

All that opposes Him and resists Him will be utterly vanquished and destroyed. He will rule the world with a rod of iron (**Psalm 2:9; Revelation 2:27; 12:5; 19:15**). He will do justice and righteousness, for these are the foundation of His throne (**Psalm 89:14; 97:2**).

This coming Day of the Lord, when He establishes His Kingdom, will be a day of darkness and not light to those who do not know Him and serve Him. It will be the utter ruin and eternal destruction of all His enemies.

So when you pray, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven,” remember that you are praying the ultimate imprecatory prayer. You are praying for the judgment and destruction of all God's enemies. Are you TRULY ready for that day? Do you really know what you are asking for?

Without Wax -

