

# *Insight...*

***Fret not yourself because of evildoers, and be not envious of the wicked, for the evil man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.***

***Proverbs 24:19-20***

⌋ **When Pastor Dan lived in Minneapolis...**he felt compassion for a poor pretzel vendor who worked the corner near his apartment. From time to time Dan would smile at the vendor, hand him 2 dollars, refuse the pretzel and wish him the Lord's blessings. One day the vendor returned his smile and said, "Mister..." But Dan cut him off and sensing an opportunity said, "I know, you want to know why I give you money without accepting anything in return." "Uh...no, not really. I just wanted you to know that I raised the price – the pretzels are now \$2.50."

⌋ **Extraordinary Claims** - A popular argument used by atheist is called the "extraordinary claim argument." It says that an extraordinary claim (like the resurrection of Christ) requires extraordinary evidence. It is a clever way of setting the bar so high that, no matter what kind of evidence the Christian presents, the atheist does not even have to deal with it.

The next time somebody tries this gambit on you, remember that it cuts both ways. The idea that this wonderful, intricately designed, and finely tuned universe randomly popped into existence out of nothing for no reason and then proceeded to organize itself through random, purposeless processes – is that not an extraordinary claim? The notion that Christ's disciples were transformed from clueless wimps and cowards into people who turned the world upside down by what they knew to be a lie – that not an extraordinary claim?

And the idea that atheists are the only ones who care about reason and evidence, while Christians are the ones who believe absurdities out of blind faith – that may be the most extraordinary claim of all!

[Donald T. Williams in Touchstone, Sept/Oct 2014]

⌋ **"Brother...Does the grass grow on your path?"** Early African converts to Christianity were earnest and regular in private devotions. Each one reportedly had a separate spot in the thicket where he would pour out his heart to God. Over time the paths to these places became well worn. As a result, if one of these believers began to neglect prayer, it was soon apparent to the others. They would kindly remind the negligent one, "*Brother, the grass grows on your path.*"

⌋ **Sticking with the Wife of Your Youth...**"*Sometimes when I'm talking to teens, I draw an analogy between the bonding capacity of the body and adhesive tape. Adhesive tape is not made for repetitive use. The strongest bond adhesive tape is capable of making is formed with the first surface to which it is applied. You can remove the tape and reapply it to other surfaces several times, and it will still adhere. However, with every application, some of the adhesiveness has been compromised. Finally, if you continue the practice long enough, there will not be enough adhesiveness left to make the tape stick to any surface. God intended that the bond between mates be the closest and strongest one they are capable of forming. That is why Paul makes it very clear that the body is not for fornication.*"

Dr. Richard Dobbins

- ⌋ **American Freedoms/American Faith...**John Adams famously said our government was not armed *“with power sufficient to contend with human passions unbridled by morality and religion . . . Our Constitution,”* he said, *“was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”*
- ⌋ **Trivia Question:** In 2007 there was 98 billion dollars outstanding college loans in the U. S. How has that number changed in the last 7 years?
- A. Decreased to 72 billion                      C. Increased to 220 billion  
B. Decreased to 22 billion                      D. Increased to 708 billion

**For Prayer...**

- ...Brent is scheduled for surgery on his neck on Monday (12/5) at Mayo Clinic.  
 ...Please pray for Roxannet. She is a believer and a good friend of a number of folks at Walnut Hill. She is scheduled for brain surgery this Wednesday to remove what is believed to be a benign tumor.  
 ...Bryan (and wife Morgan)(in CA) is in the midst of follow-up chemo treatments that are unpleasant and wearing. Pray for this family’s emotional, physical and relational strength.  
 ...Dave and Sue – in the area for daughter’s IN wedding, are on their way home to the mission field.  
 ...Dave (Ginger) – new heart valve leaking. EF rate @ 40. Hoping for an effective repair.  
 ...Nathan – praying for an accurate and telling diagnosis and full healing.  
 ...Bobbie – my sister is very near to death. Please pray for this family.  
 ...Elaina Moriarty’s mother’s illness – digestive track. Lots of pain. Hospitalized.  
 ...Joan (Wayne) – continued prayer and thanksgiving for a good recovery from her stroke.  
 ...Space Planning & Church growth...clarity of leading.  
 ...Please pray for the sale of Homes of a number of folks in our church.  
 ...Couples who are fighting serious physical illness together.
- |               |                |                |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Jeff & Laurie | Daryl & LaVern | Christy (Mike) |
| Norm & Peg r  | Lloyd (Karen)  | Cheryl (Deane) |
| Renee (Dick)  |                |                |
- ...Sarah and Nathan rejoice at the birth of John Peter.  
 ...Katie and Brian welcome Matthew Erin, born 12/29/14. 8pm, 20", 8 3/4 pounds.  
 ...Our Expectant Mothers
- |                 |                  |                |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Anna (Nathan)   | Sarah (Kelly)    | Terra (Ronnie) |
| Christine (Ben) | Sarah (Beaner) B | Paige (Matt)   |
| Daisy (Aaron)   |                  |                |

**Note Your Prayers:**

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**Pain Insists...**

We can rest contentedly in our sins and in our stupidities, and everyone who has watched gluttons shoveling down the most exquisite foods as if they did not know what they were eating, will admit that we can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.

C.S. Lewis

**Trivia answer:** D. It has increased to 708 billion.