

Insight

I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

Psalm 119:15-16

- ⊗ **The cost of ignorance** - Pastor Dan ran into an old acquaintance going through the estate of an older relative who had recently passed away. *"Too bad you weren't here yesterday. I threw away some old books collecting dust in the basement...one of them was a Bible - Guten something or other had it printed."* "Not Gutenberg?" gasped Pastor Dan. "Yes, that was it!" With a sick feeling welling up in his gut he lamented, *"You may have thrown away one of the first books ever printed. A copy recently sold at auction for over a half million dollars!"* "Oh, I don't think this book would have been worth anything close to that much," replied the executor. *"It was scribbled all over in the margins by some guy named Martin Luther."*
- ⊗ **The 2nd C...** *"Tithing was never meant to be a way to 'pay our debt to God.' It has always been a training exercise to cultivate a generous and God centered heart"* [Leadership Journal, Tithing: Law or a Grace? John Ortberg, Spring, 2013]
- ⊗ **And as to accountability**...No organization is more accountable to its supporters than the local church, where givers can not only collectively approve and track every dollar spent and distributed - but also live in community with those whom they support.
- ⊗ **"Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work."** Peter Drucker
- ⊗ **Denied a seat at the table**...Eric Metaxas wrote an article published in the Wall Street Journal in December of 2014 that got a lot of attention. Making an argument for the existence of a Creator, he quoted scientific data that claimed, *"Today there are more than 200 known parameters necessary for a planet to support life—every single one of which must be perfectly met,"* or our existence would be utterly impossible.

One scientist wrote to the Journal complaining about *"religious arguments for the existence of God thinly veiled as scientific arguments"* and *"allowing a Christian apologist to masquerade as a scientist."* This objection, which I'm told figured prominently in the comments section at the Journal, essentially amounts to saying that only scientists should be allowed to talk about the religious implications of scientific things. Some scientists, it seems, can dabble as metaphysicians, philosophers, and theologians, but not vice-versa.

This is the foregone conclusion even when the person of faith is merely citing scientific findings, as I (Metaxas) did. However, this objection is not rooted in science but in scientism, which holds that *"empirical science constitutes the most authoritative worldview or most valuable part of human learning to the exclusion of other viewpoints."* [Break Point Daily, Eric Metaxas Science, God, and the Improbability of Life 'Like' It or Not, January 8, 2015]

- ⊗ **Rolf and Deborah Shapiro spent 15 months together on the Antarctic Peninsula...nine of which were in total solitude...and they are still happily married. Their tips?**
 1. Give the other person mental elbow room. (" Love bears and endures all things." I Cor. 13*)
 2. Show tangible signs of caring and empathy. (I Peter 3:8...)
 3. Remain sensitive to each other's moods and concerns. (Proverbs 12:15, 15:31-32, 19:20...)
 4. Don't belittle each other. (*"Love is not arrogant or rude...nor does it insist on its own way.")

- ⊗ **Trivia Question:** In a 9/12 study of "Bible engagement," LifeWay Research surveyed more than 2,900 Protestant churchgoers and found that while 90 percent "*desire to please and honor Jesus in all I do,*" only [A. 19% B. 29% C. 39% D. 49%] personally read the Bible every day.

For Prayer...

- ...Gary – my family as my father nears the end of his earthly life and my cousin Debbie who is fighting myeloma cancer.
- ...Renee – has had 4 of her follow-up post-surgical cancer treatments. So far...so good.
- ...Daryl – has developed a heart problem that is affecting his breathing and ability to exercise. He is grateful for our prayers as they winter in AZ.
- ...Giving thanks. Brent's neck surgery went well on Monday. Continued prayer for a full recovery.
- ...Giving thanks for answered prayers from Roxanne. Her brain surgery seemed to go very well this past Wednesday. She is home and awaiting lab test to determine the nature of the tumor that was removed.
- ...Space Planning & Church growth meeting next Sunday evening...clarity of leading.
- ...The Mexico Missions team as they prepare for their trip: spiritually, financially, physically. The Taco fund raising supper has been moved to Sunday, January 25th.
- ...Pastor Norm is moving from Greenbriar to St. Clare's Healthy Living Center.
- ...Sale of Homes for a number of folks in our church family.
- ...Couples who are fighting serious physical illness together.

Jeff & Laurie	Daryl & LaVern	Christy (Mike)	Norm & Peg
Lloyd (Karen)	Cheryl (Deane)	Renee (Dick)	Brian (Morgan)
- ...Our Expectant Mothers

Anna (Nathan)	Sarah (Kelly)	Terra (Ronnie)	Daisy (Aaron)
Christine (Ben)	Sarah (Beaner)	Paige (Matt)	

Self-Deception?

*It is hard to have patience with people who say "There is no death" or "Death doesn't matter."
There is death. And whatever matters. And whatever happens has consequences, and it
and they are irrevocable and irreversible. You might as well say that birth doesn't matter.*

C. S. Lewis

Trivia answer: A. 19% (So let's do what we can to move that percentage up...)