

## American Education: A System Destroyed

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**A Newsletter for the People of God**  
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## Articles

### **American Education: A System Destroyed** (Copyright 2023) by Joseph B. Baity (Charlotte, North Carolina)



Once upon a time, before World War II, American schools, from elementary through university, were the world’s envy. Year after year, the American education system, including public and private institutions, topped most, if not all, global rankings. Little wonder the post-war American economy, fed by well-educated high school and college graduates, was also a world leader.

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However, with the massive buildup of the federal bureaucracy during WWII, Washington, DC, turned its sights toward the nation’s schools. Among its chief desires was to exert its influence and centralize an already successful system, then operated independently by each county and state. Gradually, through grants, favors, promises, and pressure, the post-war federal government increased its informal leverage over the individual state and local bodies tasked with controlling the nature and quality of their educational outlets. In time, a growing liberal mindset within the government led to more calls for even greater federal involvement.

As usual, increased central-government meddling led to increased bureaucracy, burdening teachers with increased administrative duties and dramatically cutting into their time and energies once devoted to students. Around the same time, Americans witnessed the number of single-parent families increase while many mothers in two-parent families joined the workforce. Participation in parent-teacher associations waned. With less parental involvement and oversight, standards and grades inevitably slipped, although slowly at first.

Then, in 1979, under the Carter Administration, the federal government created a new cabinet-level office—the federal Department of Education. Soon, new federally-mandated programs—and even more money—began flowing from Washington to each of the fifty states but with many “strings” attached. With all that money, an even more extensive and burdensome bureaucracy followed.

Gradually, programs and new directives promoting ideas and concepts like self-esteem and positive motivation competed with core educational ideas and concepts like testing, discipline, grading, and accountability—for both student and teacher. When grades and other easily measured achievement standards faltered, the answer was not increasing accountability but another federal program, more money, more strings, more paperwork, and even less accountability for all.

From the late 1970s, many of the most devoted teachers began to exit the system, discouraged by the changes in school culture (and a frightening lack of discipline). Teacher dissatisfaction rates continued to rise while colleges graduated fewer teaching candidates. Desperate for help, local school boards, under pressure and new guidelines from the Department of Education, altered their hiring standards, mediocrity ensued, and highly disruptive teacher strikes became commonplace.

Moreover, administrators lowered the qualifications for academic tenure, making it difficult to remove an underperforming teacher. According to [“What Is Teacher Tenure?”](#) an article by education.com:

Critics say that teacher tenure makes it virtually impossible to fire bad teachers. According to a recent study by [The New Teacher Project](#) (TNTP), even though 81 percent of administrators say there is a tenured teacher in their school who is performing poorly, at least half of the districts studied failed to dismiss any tenured teachers for poor performance in the two to five years the study took place. That’s because getting rid of teachers with tenure can involve years of review and bureaucratic hurdles and can cost tens of thousands of dollars per teacher.

The new century brought even more challenges to America’s education system. Today, federally mandated policies to promote social justice concepts in the classroom tax already overburdened teaching plans. Political agendas advocating diversity, equity, and inclusion crowd out the classroom time for core subjects like reading, science, and math. [Critical Race Theory](#) pits children of color against their white classmates while transgender affirmation for students as young as five, allowing for mixed-sex use of bathrooms and locker rooms, threatens to destroy what remains of the core mission of our public schools.

Adding insult to injury, the federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted a struggling system with draconian lockdown policies, eliminating in-person learning and replacing it with a disastrous effort to implement online classroom instruction nationwide. The result is an acceleration of sinking national test scores measuring proficiency in reading and math and an increase in mental health issues for both teachers and students.

From an article published by *The Epoch Times* in October 2022 entitled [“Decades of Student Progress Wiped Out; National Math and Reading Scores at Historic Lows: Report,”](#) we derived the following three quotes:

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Chair of the National Assessment Governing Board and former governor of North Carolina, Bev Perdue, asserts: “We are talking about a really serious erosion of children’s capacities to read and count in the next generation of the workforce. So, this becomes a global economic issue for America.”

Virginia governor Glenn Youngkin declares: “We must acknowledge the glaring reality that we face together: our nation’s children have experienced catastrophic learning loss. We also must clearly recognize that the underpinnings to this catastrophic performance were decisions that were made long before we had ever heard of COVID-19.”

Finally, Dr. Vicki Alger of the Heartland Institute cautions: “We should be careful not to make COVID school closures the whole story. School closures made an already bad situation worse. Alarming proportions of students are still not proficient in the core subjects of math and reading.”

Sadly, the American education system continues to fall from its once high perch, where it defined excellence and graduated great civic and industrial leaders, down into mediocrity. It appears increasingly evident that the government of man cannot heal the crippling damage it has wrought on the classroom and, by extension, the nation.

After considering all that has happened to our schools, perhaps a historic event from 1962 is even more telling. In June that year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against school-sanctioned prayer. Many religious observers concluded, then and now, that we effectively kicked God out of the classroom and replaced Him with the federal government. Perhaps it is time to consider the words of our great God from II Chronicles 7:14, “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

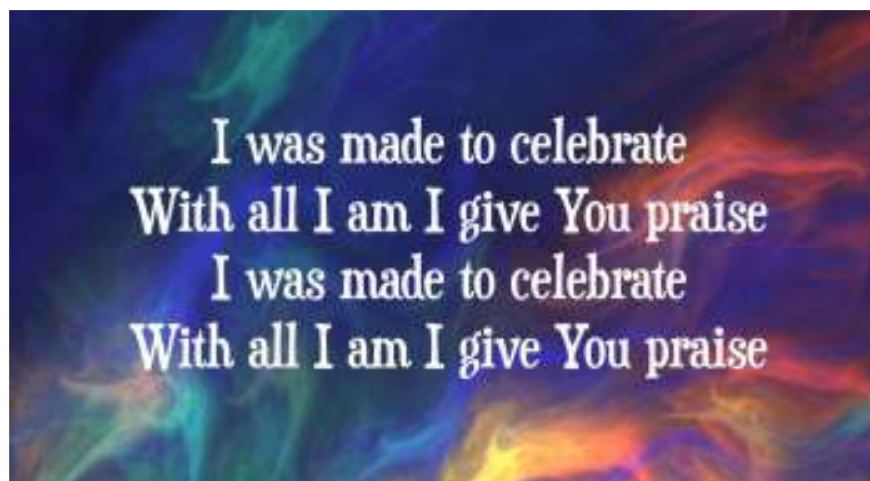
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## Celebrate!

(Copyright 2017) by Brenda Branson (Hanson, Kentucky)



It is no wonder that I love you, O God.  
You have granted me a security that I could never find among the things of this world.  
You have erased from my life the fear of death.

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**What follows the grave is not my fearful concern.**

**The traumatic experiences of this life cannot destroy me.  
You are never out of reach but are ever aware of my problems and conflicts.  
How great and all-powerful is my God!**

**This is the God who is concerned about me.  
He reaches into my distraught life to heal my wounds.  
He encompasses me with eternal love.  
He abides with me even in the midst of conflict or calamity.  
He shields me from the forces that are intent on my destruction.**

**It is thus that I celebrate God’s presence in my life and world.  
God is not dead; He lives!  
I rejoice in his concern and love for me.  
I will sing and shout and dance in the joy of knowing that you are my God!**

**Psalm 18 (selected verses) Psalms/Now**

In this Psalm, David is giving praise to God for all he has done for him, and for the very essence of who God is. Why do you think it is important to tell God how much you love him? He knows your heart, right? Of course, he does, but how would you feel if your spouse or parents or friends never told you “I love you,” and just assumed you knew they loved you.

God is your most important relationship. He may know the depths of your heart, but it is good to hear those words of love spoken out loud. If you’re not used to speaking to God in that way, give it a try. You’ll find it will change you just to say “I love you, Lord” every morning before you start your day.

God gave David a sense of security that he couldn’t find anywhere else. What makes you feel secure? Is it your bank account, your house and car, your health, your family? All those things could be lost in the blink of an eye, as we have seen in so many of the horrific tragedies in Syria and even in unexpected ways right here at home.

If everything you hold dear is lost, what do you have left? God is our only sure place of security, our greatest treasure, our only hope.

David claimed that God had erased the fear of death from his life. Is that true for you? Was David referring to his own death, or the death of someone he loves? Perhaps both. Notice that he did not say that God erased pain and suffering and grieving, but the fear of what lies beyond the grave.

David’s life was full of traumatic, painful experiences, but he believed he would not be destroyed by them because of God’s power in his life. In one of my most traumatic experiences, I told someone they could not destroy me. At the time I really believed it, but as the pain and suffering waged war with my body and spirit, it felt like I had been ripped apart piece by piece like a house in a tornado. I stayed buried in the rubble for a long time, grieving and depressed, but eventually I found that God was at work restoring all the broken pieces.

Why doesn’t someone have the power to destroy you? Not because you are such a strong person, but because you are his, and he has the final word in your life.

David lists some things about God that should encourage us through the good and bad times we face:

- \* He is never out of reach.
- \* He is always aware of my problems and conflicts.
- \* He is concerned about me.
- \* He reaches down into the rubble and heals my wounds.
- \* He surrounds me with love that will never quit.



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- \* He is right there with me in conflict and calamity.
- \* He shields me from those who want to destroy me.

Lest you think these are just nice thoughts, but they don't hold up in the trenches of real life, perhaps it will help to look at these things in light of eternity rather than in the physical realm. We simply should not demand for God to act in a certain way because we cannot always understand his plan. Instead, we can be confident of his presence and love, bold in our request for help, and trusting that his plan for us is best.

David faced attempts on his life, betrayal by someone he loved, death of loved ones, and other tragedies. His confidence in God was not naive but filled with child-like faith in God's goodness and sovereignty.

He expressed his love for God with words, celebration, rejoicing, singing, shouting, and dancing. I like that! When was the last time you danced with joy because of what God has done for you?

Choose one of those ways of expression that is out of your comfort zone and try it for a week. God inhabits the praise of his people (Psalm 22:3), so whether you say or sing words of praise, shout or dance, God is right in the middle of your celebration.

*“When Jesus was asked what the bottom line of life was all about, he said it was about being totally preoccupied, literally obsessed, with loving God, and loving others (spouses, children, neighbors, even enemies)—this is how we have our needs met, transcend our self-absorbed whining, and find salve for our self-inflicted wounds and even for those inflicted upon us by a world full of fellow sinners.*

*“It is in loving God and others that we are transformed and changed. It is in valuing God as most valuable, above all other competing goods and gods, that we are satisfied.” (Sam. R. Williams)*

We were made to celebrate! *“Shake your heart loose. Let your body lead the way.” (Jason Gray)*

AS YOU PRAY:

- \* Say, “I love you, Lord.”
- \* Thank God for one or two specific ways he has helped you.
- \* Ask God to fill your heart to overflowing with his joy.

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## **Coelacanth: The transitional fossil that wasn't**

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For close to a century, evolutionists taught that certain traits of coelacanths (figs. 1 and 2), then known only as fossils (fig. 3), meant they were the precursors of four-limbed animals (tetrapods) that walked on land. For example, coelacanths had lobed fins (fig. 4) instead of rayed fins (fig. 5), a trait shared only with lungfish. The lobed fins had a round fleshy base, resembling short stubby legs, with other smaller fins seemingly taking the place of feet.

Louis Agassiz first described the coelacanth group in 1839, and paleontologists have found dozens of fossil coelacanth species since then. But none have ever been found in rocks deemed younger than the Cretaceous, which supposedly ended 66 million years ago (mya). So, they were firmly regarded as extinct.

Found alive

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Figure 1. Preserved modern coelacanth with some of its anatomy on display in Makhanda, South Africa.

Wikimedia Commons



Figure 2. Live coelacanth off the South African coast in 2019.

In 1938, the discovery of a live coelacanth near Madagascar astounded evolutionists. It was like finding a live dinosaur! Once the discovery was confirmed, newspaper headlines all over the world proclaimed the amazing news.

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The shock was not only because these fish had disappeared from the fossil record allegedly vast ages ago, only now to be discovered alive, but also because it supposedly provided “a glimpse of the fish that first walked on land”.<sup>1</sup> The coelacanth “was generally thought to be the ‘missing link’ between aquatic and terrestrial vertebrates”.<sup>2</sup> This was critical to evolutionists because the vertebrate sea-to-land transition is one of the most important steps in their story.

The coelacanth was already badly deteriorated before being mounted by a local taxidermist. Nonetheless, when finally subjected to expert examination by South African ichthyologist J.L.B. Smith, he confirmed it to be a coelacanth, and published his findings in *Nature*.<sup>3</sup> Smith became obsessed with finding another one, but an extensive years-long search, not helped by the intervention of WWII, failed.

Following the war’s end in 1945, Smith distributed thousands of leaflets in three languages with pictures of the fish. These offered £1,000 sterling (c. US\$60,000 today) for information leading to new specimens.<sup>4</sup> After seven years, in December 1952, one was caught near the Comoro Islands, off the south-eastern coast of Africa. It now had to be preserved and transported to Smith’s lab hundreds of kilometers away before it rotted like the first one had. The French Prime Minister, an admirer of Smith’s book about African fishes, arranged for Smith to fly to the Comoro Islands carrying formalin preservative.

Coelacanths have unique traits that make it difficult for evolutionists to claim what creature they evolved from, and what creature they might have evolved into.

When he saw the fish, Smith was ecstatic; his 14-year search had finally paid off! Now the evolution of limbs could be proven. His success made headlines around the world.

By 1975, hundreds more live specimens had been caught, 85 of them described in the scientific literature. Coelacanths have now been found off the coasts of the Comoros, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, and Indonesia. The ones found off Indonesia in the late 1990s have been deemed a separate species.

Extant coelacanths are estimated to live as long as 60 years. They can grow to 2 m (6.5 ft) in length and weigh around 90 kg (200 lb).

**Unique traits**

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**Figure 3.** Coelacanth fossil from Jurassic limestone, c. 150m years ‘old’. Arrow shows epicaudal fin.



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**Figure 4.** The pectoral 'lobed' fin of a Coelacanth (*Latimeria chalumnae*) from the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle (Paris, France). The lobe contains muscle and bone.

Coelacanths have unique traits that make it difficult for evolutionists to claim what creature they evolved from, and what creature they might have evolved into. For example, most fish have smooth scales; however, coelacanth scales are smooth on the lower half of their bodies, and rough on the upper half. The steel-blue colour of their scales is also unique.

They have eight fins—two dorsal, two pectoral, two pelvic, one anal, and one caudal (tail) fin. The superficial resemblance of four of their fins to stumpy legs excited evolutionists into speculating they were forerunners to actual legs. The intense desire to find a 'missing link' likely made it difficult for researchers to consider alternative reasons why the fish had this design, except perhaps to 'walk' on the ocean floor. This is what Smith believed they did—until detailed observations of the living fish in its natural environment showed otherwise. The ability of its muscular fins to rotate 180 degrees gives the fish outstanding underwater manoeuvring and hovering ability.

The caudal (tail) fin has an 'extension' called an epicaudal fin [arrow fig. 3], unique to coelacanths. It moves independently and is thought to have sensory as well as locomotory function.<sup>5</sup>

The coelacanth's eyes are very large, while its mouth, though comparatively small, can open very wide. Coelacanth skulls are completely split in half by an 'intracranial joint'—a feature not found in any other living vertebrate—which greatly increases the mouth gape. Its main function was thought to be to allow sufficiently rapid mouth opening to create suction, pulling prey inwards. Recent modelling, however, has emphasized its role in increasing bite strength.<sup>6</sup>

Instead of a backbone, these vertebrates have a hollow cartilage structure called a notochord that is filled with oil. ('Coelacanth' means 'hollow spine', though the name is derived from its hollow fin spines.) In adult coelacanths, the brain, much of it dedicated to vision, occupies only 1.5% of the braincase; the rest is filled with fats and oils. But in young fish, the brain fills it entirely.<sup>7</sup> Unique among living animals, coelacanths have a large central jelly-filled cavity in their snout, called the rostral organ. Experiments suggest it is used to detect weak electrical impulses given off by prey.

The coelacanth's large eyes contain an unusually high number of rods, and a tapetum (reflective tissue behind the retina) like a cat's, providing excellent vision in its dark undersea world.<sup>8</sup> Its swim bladder, instead of being filled with gas as in most other fish, is filled with fat, allowing it to hover effortlessly at a consistent depth underwater. It has acute hearing,

achieved by a basilar papilla (sensory organ), similar to that of land-dwelling tetrapods but no other fish, including the lungfish.<sup>9</sup>

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**Figure 5.** A typical 'rayed' fin by comparison, on the side of a *Symphysodon aequifasciatus* at Germany's Karlsruhe Zoo.

It is clearly well-designed as a deep-water fish. In fact, coelacanths cannot survive long outside this very specific niche. Comoran fishermen caught 150 between 1952 and 1987. They attempted to save them, even placing them in aquarium tanks, but all died within a few hours.

### **The controversy**

Evolutionary paleontologists hypothesized that the missing link between fish and walking land animals was a lobe-finned fish that lived a supposed 300 mya. Their two chief candidates were the lungfish and the coelacanth, and scientists argued for decades over which of these might have been the ancestor of tetrapods. When the live coelacanth was discovered in 1938, some seized on the dramatic idea that the coelacanth was the missing link. However, despite Smith's decades of effort, this notion is no longer widely held. A related group, the lungfishes, which also exist today, are considered by many evolutionists to be such a link. However, many problems exist for all proposed evolutionary links from fish to land animal, including the famous *Tiktaalik*.<sup>10</sup>

No evidence exists for coelacanth evolution.

### **No coelacanth evolution**

No evidence exists for coelacanth evolution. Although dozens of coelacanth fossils have been found, as far as can be determined they are all anatomically near-identical to living examples. In the long-age geological system, they are supposed to have first lived c. 400 mya, over 100 million years before dinosaurs are said to have appeared. Judging by detailed external features, "it is difficult to separate the new living fish from some of the old genera which are represented by fossils."<sup>11</sup> Except for differences in size, coelacanths have, according to the evolutionary time scale, not changed in some 400 million years.

Because of their reappearance alive after supposedly disappearing from the fossil record c. 70 mya (in evolutionary time) they are known as a 'Lazarus taxon'. Such instances speak against the long-age timescale; for coelacanths, one would have to believe they lived through some 70 million years, yet not one of their fossils has ever been found within the layers supposedly representing that entire period!

### Summary and conclusion

An enormous amount of research has been done on the coelacanth. Dozens of scientists have written scores of articles trying to demonstrate that it is a 'missing link' between fish and land animals. The coelacanth story has been long and extensive, but in the end has supported the conclusions of creationists—coelacanths may have varied a little but have always been coelacanths.

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## **One Lamb in the Morning & One at Evening** (Copyright) by Nicholas Charcharos (United Kingdom)

At this time of the year the thoughts of the Christian are often on the death of our Lord Jesus and one attempts for some moments at least to reflect upon the hours on the cross, the pain and getting to the point of death. Mark, the first of the gospels to be written records (15:25) "it was the third hour, and they crucified him". This is a plain statement from someone who it seems likely lived around Jerusalem and watched the events in real time. From verse 33 of the same chapter its clear there was darkness from the sixth hour to the ninth hour and at the ninth hour Jesus cried out uttering the words "my God, why hast thou forsaken me" was given a sponge of vinegar to drink and shouted once more and expired.

This account provides the most detailed account of the time of the crucifixion and the time he died. Is there any parallel in the Old Testament?

Exodus 29:38-39 records when two lambs were to be sacrificed every day, it says "Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even."

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This pair of sacrifices are mentioned later on in the Bible such as in Num. 28:3-4. In the days of King David before Solomon's Temple the morning and evening sacrifices are recorded as taking place while Zadok the priest officiated where the ark of the covenant was (1 Chron.16 39-40). 2 Chron.13:11 establishes it was still being respected in the days of King Jeroboam and King Abijah. However, it was necessary for King Hezekiah to appoint priests for the morning and evening sacrifices which indicates that it was not respected all the days of the kings. (2 Chron.31:3) The destruction of Solomon's Temple and the 70 years of captivity would have removed this pair of sacrifices. This was not to last and Ezra (3:3) records the restoration of the altar and the burnt offerings of the morning and evening sacrifices.

What time of day were these made? In Biblical times in places much closer to the equator each day remains about the same length of daylight. The first hour then would have begun at 6 o'clock in the morning. Unlike time in Britain where sunrise in London can be as late as 8:06 a.m. (G.M.T.) in winter to 3:42 a.m. (G.M.T.) and sunset can be as late as 9:21 p.m. when the sun sinks slowly during British Summer or Daylight Saving Time.

Josephus says, it was about the ninth hour, or three o'clock in the afternoon, that the daily sacrifice was offered. Others record that the evening lamb was slain at about 2:30 p.m. and placed on the altar at 3 p.m. as Mark records. This matches the time that Jesus died on the cross. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

The paschal lamb according to Exodus 12:5-6 (RSV) was a lamb without blemish, a male a year old from the sheep or from the goats and it was kept until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel would kill their lambs in the evening. Josephus says they slew the Passover lamb from the ninth to the eleventh hour. The RSV footnote says that means in the Hebrew "*between the two evenings*". Gill states this as between when the sun begins to decline and when it sets. The sun begins to decline at noon and sets at 6 p.m. Therefore, this means at about 3 p.m.

But what time was the morning sacrifice? Adam Clarke in his notes in his Bible in 1832 states the morning sacrifice was at 9 o'clock in the morning. This corresponds with the time stated by Mark that Jesus was lifted up on the cross.

Therefore, this suggests a symmetry between the times the morning and evening sacrifice were placed on the altar with the time Jesus was placed on the cross and when he died on the cross as a sacrifice.

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**Only God can make America great now**  
**(and the jury is out on that)**  
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"Even Trump himself has tried to warn his worshippers that the only savior of anyone and any country is God and NOT him! He has come straight out and told people this truth!" – posted on Facebook by a friend.

FROM WHAT does this country most desperately need to be saved? I'm dipping into my Facebook scroll today. Here's one example:

**"Their minds belong to us and they'll learn what we want 'em to learn; forget the parents."** – a public school teacher.

More examples, regarding "wokeness":

**"People who cannot recognize a palpable absurdity are very much in the way of civilization."**  
- Agnes Reppler, "In Pursuit of Laughter" [How about men in women's sports?]

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**"Those who are serious in ridiculous matters will be ridiculous in serious matters."** – Cato, "Sayings of Kings"  
[men in girls' locker rooms]

We need to be saved from the envious:

**"I have noticed that when chickens quit quarrelling over their food, they often find that there is enough for all of them."** – Don Marquis

**"O! Beware, my lord, of jealousy; it is the green-eyed monster that mocks the meat it feeds on."** – Shakespeare

**"Every other sin hath some pleasure annexed to it or will admit of an excuse; envy alone lacks both."** – Robert Burton, "The Anatomy of Melancholy"

**"To jealousy, nothing is more frightful than laughter."** – Françoise Sagan

Yes, political correctness and "woke" go hand-in-hand with the super-serious about absurd matters, and the death of humor. And don't get me started on "higher" education!

**"Intellectuals are people who believe that ideas are more important than values. That is to say, *their* ideas and other people's values."** – Gerald Brenan

**"I have long since abandoned the notion that higher education is essential to either success or happiness. Hothouses of learning do not always grow anything edible."** – Robert Moses, 1971

Don't start with me on economics either. Do you prefer pie-in-the-sky or a growing pie? Wealth is not static; it's a "living" thing.

**"The revolution eats its own. Capitalism re-creates itself."** – Mordecai Richler

**"The first lesson of economics is scarcity; there is never enough... to fully satisfy all those who want it."** – Thomas Sowell

**"If you have always believed that everyone should play by the same rules and be judged by the same standards, that would have gotten you labeled a radical 60 years ago, a liberal 30 years ago, and a racist today."** – Thomas Sowell [black and brilliant]

I could go on and on with Sowell quotations, but brevity is the soul of explaining the dismal science, economics 101. We also need to be "saved" from the J-school grads. News dissemination is the only business where half of your customers are always wrong, and they are confused as to what constitutes NEWS (versus absurd opinions on the news pages).

WELL boys and girls, we don't have time to comment on pop culture. I can save that for another day, Lady Gaga.

**P.S. "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."** – Helen Keller

PPS: When a public school teacher says **"Their minds belong to us and they'll learn what we want 'em to learn," hopelessness is what they are teaching (in the name of Diversity and "inclusion"). Where does that leave the kids who disagree? EXCLUDED!**

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## Letters

### **Letter from Dixon Cartwright (April 22, 2023)**

Thanks, Laura. -- Dixon C.

### **Letter from Ray Daly (April 23, 2023)**

By the way. We have about 30-40 red wing blackbirds and Grackles eating on our feed table. And "one of them has a TOTALLY white tail". Pure white, with no hues of any kind. And, we have 30-40 robins. We kind of feel that the family we had last year in the nest on a ladder on our shed has returned. With the four young ones that survived. They take baths in our bird bath, and they do so, even if we are only a few feet away from them. Our pups can be within 3-4 feet, and they still use the bath.

Laura writes: Thank you for sharing. I wish we would get some of the red winged blackbirds here, but we are getting close. We have grackles which are blackbirds, and we have starlings which are not blackbirds but hang out with blackbirds. Then as I mentioned in the commentary for the April 22, 2023, newsletter we then had an unidentified bird which we have now identified as a brewer's blackbird. We never had these brewer's blackbirds before. The males are iridescent colors similar to a grackle's head but all over the body. The females are very similar to a sparrow in color but perhaps slightly bigger than a sparrow. Brewer's blackbirds are about half the size of most grackles and slightly plumper.

## Iron Sharpening Iron

(Agree or Disagree with Something Printed)

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

## In regard to: Biblical Teaching of Sabbath Keeping

Article by Richard Douglas Mauck and Sandra Faye Mauck (Pulaski County, Kentucky)

Comments by Richard Mauck (Pulaski County, Kentucky)

Your critique of my Sabbath Keeping teaching is not surprising.

You obviously do not understand the difference between the Hebrew calendar that was in use during crucifixion week, and the Rabbinic calendar. The Rabbinic calendar came to be created well after the time of crucifixion week. Then you make the predictable error of trying to take a modern calendar and back it up to the time of Christ. Round pegs do not fit square holes.

Your insistence that the moon cannot be calculated into history before it was created - you have swallowed the propaganda hook, line, and sinker. The teaching is all there, but you ignored it. I am being judged by your model of the universe, which is demonically inspired. Therefore, it is meaningless.

Another example of your confusion is that you make reference to a moon that revolves around the Earth as if it is a sphere. The moon is only a flat disk that circles over the flat Earth as any thinking person can easily determine. Why has no one ever seen the far side of the moon? Why is only one side of the moon ever seen? Same with the sun, it is a flat disk, we only see one side, because it does not have two sides.

You can only understand that which your mind has been trained to believe, no matter how monstrous the lies fed to you are. You need to come out of your delusional world and repent of your rebellion against Yahowah almighty, especially your Armstrongism. That is the gloriousness and beauty of the One and Only Awesome God. Repent, confess your sins, surrender to Christ and you can be redeemed by Yahoshua's shed Blood. The sacrifice has already been provided; it awaits you to appropriate it.

Post this if you wish in your Iron Sharpens Iron section, it makes no difference to me. You have no iron to sharpen.

## In regard to: Biblical Teaching of Sabbath Keeping

Article by Richard Douglas Mauck and Sandra Faye Mauck (Pulaski County, Kentucky)  
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

### Richard's Iron Sharpening Iron:

Your critique of my Sabbath Keeping teaching is not surprising.

You obviously do not understand the difference between the Hebrew calendar that was in use during crucifixion week, and the Rabbinic calendar. The Rabbinic calendar came to be created well after the time of crucifixion week. Then you make the predictable error of trying to take a modern calendar and back it up to the time of Christ. Round pegs do not fit square holes.

### Laura writes:

Apparently, you at one time were perhaps in the Worldwide Church of God or one of its off shoots and became an angry customer at some point along the way. Just speculation based on the phrase "Round pegs do not fit square holes," a phrase I am told Herbert Armstrong used a lot.

As far as the Hebrew Calendar and the Rabbinic Calendar go, they are the same calendar and if you believe they are not, please send your proof showing they were two different calendars.

### Richard's Iron Sharpening Iron:

Your insistence that the moon cannot be calculated into history before it was created - you have swallowed the propaganda hook, line, and sinker. The teaching is all there, but you ignored it. I am being judged by your model of the universe, which is demonically inspired. Therefore, it is meaningless.

### Laura writes:

I read this "Iron Sharpening Iron" and found the whole thing as well as your article to be meaningless. The entire thing is a fable which was made up in what I see now as a delusional mind that cannot at this point in time understand clear scripture as God had inspired it to be written in the Bible.

I am truly sorry for both you and your wife that you were perhaps hurt so deeply by some church group that you can no longer tolerate the real truth.

### Richard's Iron Sharpening Iron:

Another example of your confusion is that you make reference to a moon that revolves around the Earth as if it is a sphere. The moon is only a flat disk that circles over the flat Earth as any thinking person can easily determine. Why has no one ever seen the far side of the moon? Why is only one side of the moon ever seen? Same with the sun, it is a flat disk, we only see one side, because it does not have two sides.

### Laura writes:

It looks to me like you are the one who fell for the lying propaganda that the earth, sun, and moon are flat. A flat earth was disproved long ago.

[Isa 40:22](#) It is he that sitteth upon **the circle of the earth**, and the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

### Richard's Iron Sharpening Iron:

You can only understand that which your mind has been trained to believe, no matter how monstrous the lies fed to you are. You need to come out of your delusional world and repent of your rebellion against Yahowah almighty, especially your Armstrongism. That is the gloriousness and beauty of the One and Only Awesome God. Repent, confess your sins, surrender to Christ and you can be redeemed by Yahoshua's shed Blood. The sacrifice has already been provided; it awaits you to appropriate it.

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Post this if you wish in your Iron Sharpens Iron section, it makes no difference to me. You have no iron to sharpen.

**Laura writes:**

I believe that Satan has brainwashed you into believing many lies, some of which are whoppers. Your mind at this time is unable to receive sound doctrine, so there isn't a lot of point in trying to discuss scripture with you as you are unable to understand even the simplest of verses. We will pray for you.

**In regard to: Biblical Teaching of Sabbath Keeping**  
**Article by Richard Douglas Mauck and Sandra Faye Mauck (Pulaski County, Kentucky)**  
**Comments by Darwin Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)**

Flat earth people are truly delusional. If the earth were flat, then at some point on this “disk-round table” (earth), [the edge- end of disk-table], if I were to step beyond that, I would fall off this disk-table into endless space and into oblivion never to be seen again.

Also, the ocean's waters by now and (a long time ago) would have also drained off over the ends of this disk-table. Therefore, no more oceans for ships to sail on. And the airplanes, they too would fly over the edge into oblivion never to be seen again with all those people in them. Perhaps they would end up in another universe, you think?

What a travesty that human beings can become so dumbed down that they can't even see how foolish they are.

As a supposed religionist person, you accuse law abiding Christian Sabbath keepers of committing idolatry for keeping God's law. All the laws of God are for all mankind including Jews, the eleven other tribes of Israel and all gentiles, even men and women from Adam to father Abraham. Those laws are for past, present, and future.

Some, like the Sabbath, won't be needed any more when the eternal kingdom is fulfilled, for we will be living the sabbath rest for eternity. One of the purposes for the Sabbath was meant to picture that ultimate rest by entering God's rest weekly now showing our faith that He will bring us into His permanent rest. Rejecting to enter His weekly rest now and the commands that are attached to it will get you into the fiery death to come.

To ascribe Sabbath keeping as idolatry is sad indeed and tragic that you have gone so far off the “deep end”, (no pun intended).

Let everyone that reads this iron sharpens iron and your ignorance of the truth, pray mightily that perhaps you can yet be rehabilitated and brought back out of your stupor and be saved.

Do a little research and you will find out why you can't see the back side of the moon. But flat earth people won't accept scientific facts because they are delusional.

**Tidally locked**

Observers on Earth can't see the other side of the Moon because it is **tidally locked**. The Moon only shows one face to the Earth because its rotation period is the same as its orbital period.

NASA this week released photographs of the far side of the moon, providing a lunar perspective we rarely get to see. The images were snapped by the **Deep Space Climate Observatory satellite**, positioned between the sun and the moon with the Earth as its backdrop. But why is the dark side of the moon, as it's known, so elusive to the Earthbound?

First, the dark side isn't really any darker than the near side. Like Earth, it gets plenty of sunlight.

We don't see the far side because “the moon is tidally locked to the Earth,” said John Keller, deputy project scientist for NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter project. “The moon does rotate, but it rotates at the same speed that it rotates around the Earth.” The moon completes one full rotation on its axis in the time it takes to

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orbit the Earth. That means the same side is always turned toward us.

Much like a race car drifts when it turns on the curved portions of an oval racetrack, the moon does have a tendency to want to spin faster. Earth’s gravitational pull holds it in place.

The moon’s shape is key to keeping it in sync with the Earth. Long ago, scientists believe, the moon had its own spin. Over time, frictional forces, including gravity, helped mold the moon into the shape it is now — spherical, but not a perfect sphere.

Gravity exists as a gradient. If the moon were a perfect sphere, then the gravity felt on the far side and the near side (or Earth’s side), would cancel each other out.

But because it isn’t a perfect sphere, as it turns, a smaller portion of the moon moves in toward Earth and a larger portion moves away. This uneven distribution in gravity causes a torque, or a rotational force, making the moon spring back into place. The spring-like motion is referred to as lunar libration.

The first images of the far side of the moon were taken in 1959 by the Soviet Luna 3 Spacecraft. Since then, missions like the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter have been able to tell us much more about the side we never see – and the far side doesn’t look anything like the near side.

Scientists believe the moon was molten, or hot liquid when it first formed, and then it cooled. But the dark side cooled first, making it older with more craters, Keller said. Though they don’t know why, the near side also has more radiation than the far side, perhaps contributing to why the near side didn’t cool as fast.

“For one reason or another, one side was favored over the other,” Keller said.

**From:** <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/never-see-far-side-moon>

## **In regard to: A Person of Faith Explains “Dark Matter”**

**Article by Eddie Hyatt**

**Comments by Denver Braughler (Muncie, Indiana)**

“God in the gaps” is a popular false theology. Scientists prior to Benjamin Franklin couldn’t explain lightning and thunder. People believed that it was the anger of God or gods.

Latching onto gaps in scientific theories and even economic treatises (“Unseen Hand”) is no way to bolster faith. I knew someone who said that God would never let people go to the moon. Going up into the heavens was already tried by building a tower at Babel. Today, we have “skyscrapers”. People will eventually go to Mars. What do you do when science breaks a barrier? What if science figures out how to create new life forms and makes contact with alien civilizations? What will you do when science solves the mystery that you thought could be explained only by God? That is your real dilemma.

dilemma: (*noun*)

1. A situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two or more alternatives, especially equally undesirable ones.

The gravitational attraction in the Higgs field labeled as dark matter is weak. Other forces such as those that bind atoms into molecules and that bind atomic nuclei are immensely stronger.

All natural forces are sustained by the Creator. To Him belongs all the glory — not just what falls through gaps in current human understanding.

Faith is the evidence of things unseen. Making those as yet unseen things the evidence of faith is not faith at all. Faith

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should be propped up by wisdom not ignorance.

**Editor's Note:**

[Heb 11:1](#) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (KJV)

[Col 1:17](#) God's Son was before all else, and by him everything is held together. (CEV) Laura Lee

## Announcements

**Announcement from Craig White (April 25, 2023)**

Early members of the Radio/Worldwide Church of God

I am beginning to assemble information on the early members of the Radio/Worldwide Church of God.

Acknowledging them has been woefully overlooked and I hope that over time gaps in this history can be filled. The first steps at doing this can be found [here](#).

Should you have additional information on the early members, from whichever country they resided, please send my way.

**Announcement from Zac Poonen (April 26, 2023)**

**MESSAGES**

The Church Is a Three-storey Building (3 messages) (Zac Poonen)

<https://rlcf.church/media/series/the-church-is-a-three-storey-building>

RLCF Men's Conference

Men Equipped For Every Good Work (5 messages) (Zac Poonen)

<https://rlcf.church/media/series/men-equipped-for-every-good-work>

CFC Bangalore

<https://cfcindia.com>

## Other Items

(Poems, Jokes, Questions etc.)

## My Grandmother's Secret

(Copyright 2023) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

<https://www.wnd.com/2023/04/armenian-genocide-grandmothers-secret/>

May be the most powerful article I have ever read. It is long, yet captivating. And after reading about the Armenian genocide - and some others - you come down to about 3/4s of the way down and start reading a message of Love that will set you back in your seat!

## Holy Days 2023

Pentecost – May 26, 2023

Trumpets - September 16, 2023

Atonement – September 25, 2023

Tabernacles –September 30, 2023 to October 6, 2023

Last Great Day – October 7, 2023