



"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast" - Hebrews 6:19

Welcome! We're glad you are here!

Sunday - June 11, 2023

Liar, Lunatic, Legend, Lord

by Trevor Smoot

While not all so-called "Bible critics" have sinister motivations, some of the more vocal individuals try to undermine the most important aspect of Christianity – Jesus as both our God and risen Savior. If you can tear down Jesus, then you can tear down Christianity – a simultaneously true and sobering reality. Fortunately, when it comes to confidently defending Jesus and His Nature, defense of Who He was (and is!) comes in a variety of forms – with origins dating back to the first century.

One well-known classical defense of Jesus is the "Liar, Lunatic, Legend, or Lord" argument. In essence, it boils down all "potential origins" (*and I use that phrase VERY loosely*) of Christ. He was either:

1. Some clever deceiver whose 'ministry' had an underlying selfish motive
2. A literal loon who truly believed Himself the Son of God but was simply out of His mind
3. Some local folk hero whose existence and exploits were wildly embellished
4. Or He was, in fact, the Lord He claimed to be.

There are no other "reasonable options" (*again, loosely-used phrase*) for His nature. Incidentally – and I don't think coincidentally – this argument's origin can perhaps be traced to a man recorded in the Bible. It turns out a Pharisee, the well-known and highly esteemed Gamaliel, whether he knew it or not, may have been the very first to "discover" this defense of Christ.

In Acts 5, the apostles, freshly freed from prison, spoke in front of the temple as instructed (Acts 5:19-32). Doing so got the crowd present enraged enough to kill them (Acts 5:33). Gamaliel stepped in to halt them with a powerful statement which clearly gave the crowd pause. He opened his statements by referring to two known frauds whose stories fizzled out not long after they died. Listen to what he followed with. "So in the present case [referring to the apostles], I say to you, stay away from these men...for if this plan or action is of men, it will be overthrown; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; or else you may even be found fighting against God" (Acts 5:38f).

His confidence was not misplaced. The followers of these two false leaders quickly abandoned these causes upon the two deceivers' deaths (Acts 5:36). This addresses the "Liar" and "Lunatic" portions of the argument. If Christ's word was meaningless, for example, then He wouldn't have been worth following after His death. It would've been the useless word of a crazed man or a liar. (Not to mention, if He had been a liar, the likelihood He would've taken His lie to the point of death would be incredibly slim – nobody dies for a lie). Also note he acknowledged Christ's death, referring to Him as a known person. He compared two real events to another real event. That takes care of the 'legend' claim. Gamaliel recognized the futile word of a phony would pass and reiterated that, if what the apostles said was true, there is nothing that could be done to their word, as it would be God's.

Some 2000 years later, consider those words of Gamaliel and ask yourself: has the Gospel fizzled out into nothing? Have Christ's followers abandoned His cause? Has God's Word been overthrown? No way. Nobody has stopped God's Word, though many civilizations have certainly tried. Christ was not a liar, nor a lunatic, nor a mere legend. He is our Lord, and we can confidently stand behind Him, no matter what our civilization tries to do.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

2023 Camp Dates

Teen Week (6-12 grades):

June 11 – 16

Jr. Week (1-5 grades):

June 25 – 29

Register @

www.gulfcoastbiblecamp.com



YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. June 21

5 pm in the FH



It Starts Here

by Casey Bearden

We took our daughter to eat at one of her favorite places, for her birthday, a couple of weeks ago - Panda Express. Don't judge, everybody likes some good Chinese food every once in a while. As we were sitting there enjoying our food and time together, I noticed a sign on the wall that read, "Be kind to those who are near, and those who are far will come." - Ancient Chinese Proverb. I thought about how true that was, and then immediately thought about how Biblical it was as well.

A scripture we often quote at Margaret Street is John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." So many other passages could apply here as well, but the message has everything to do with love, and the attention and appeal it can bring. When it comes to Jesus and being followers of His, we can't be truly successful without loving each other and others around us. Paul speaks to that in 1st Corinthians 13: 1-3, with his message being that it doesn't matter what we do to promote Jesus if the right spirit doesn't accompany the action.

As it pertains to the Chinese Proverb, it would do us well to consider how we interact with our Christian brothers and sisters. We all want the church to grow, but the true growth begins with us and the relationships we have with one another.

People who are consider "far" (strangers, visitors, etc.) will come and join what we have, and God will allow that growth, when He, and they, witness and experience the love we show and share together. May we always be purposeful about loving and being kind to those who are near, so those who are far will come. Blessings!

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Recent/Urgent Requests

- Patricia Ann* - prayers, health (MZL)
- Mark Autrey - open heart surgery / recovery
- Mike Brown* - stroke, recovery (former mem)
- Janice Carter* - tests, waiting on results
- Maelean Danley family - passing of Maelean
- Hatcher family* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Arva Fisher/family* - loss of brother, George
- Stefanie Jennings* - surgery, recovery
- Terry Jennings* - medical complication
- Linda Loftin* and family - loss of Jim*
- Wendy Mauell* - broken foot, recovery
- Donald McGriff* - surgery/recovery
- Scott Shanahan - loss of father, Kevin
- Vonada family - loss of Troy*
- Gloria Vonada* - foot surgery / recovery
- Jan Whitney* - heart procedure, recovery
- Dixie Gorham - hospital - heart failure

2023 Recently Baptized / Restored / Identified

- Brittany Parker* - Baptized
- Dawson Hitchcock* - Baptized
- Olivia Gingerich* - Baptized
- Lanie Scott* - Baptized
- Sharon Parker* - Baptized
- Terry & Judy Jennings* - Identified
- Josh & Stephanie Jennings* - Identified
- Laura Oliver* - Identified
- Jeremy & Amber Dunaway* - Identified

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Sherryn Canniff - homebound
- Josie Coons - hospice (McReynolds*)
- Donna Dudley-Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia* - Fort Walton Beach
- Betty Lee - homebound (D. Lee's mom*)
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Ina Ruth Miller* - Grandview Retire Center
- Ruth Phillips* - Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Mary Salinas* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith (Jeanna's mom) - Shut In

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Sharon Ates - recovery (Gallagher*)
- Bob Black - health (Lipford*)
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Winston Burnham* - health
- Sherryn Canniff* - health, pain
- Robert Collins - foot problem (J.Pace cousin)
- Sherry Davis* - health
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Daphne Hamilton - surgeries, health
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues(Alonna's friend)
- Barbara Helms* - health
- Chris Hollis - (McGriff)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Marcia Jones - (Kenya's* friend)
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Martin family* - moving, prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Mary McGriff* - health, asthma
- Ron Miller - esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- August Smith - cleft palate (J.English*)
- Zylar Thompson - rescheduled surgery
- Julia Torpey* - health

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

Students in College

- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- Nick Webb
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

Cancer

- Kandi Armand - (Bostwick*)
- Justin Barnhart - former member
- Ron Bartanen* - cancer
- Darlene Baxley* - spread to her spine (Baxley*)
- Darrell Bozeman*
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher*)
- Pat Deforest*
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Megan Sanders - brain cancer (Blisse*)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley* - good news!
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)
- Donnie Turner - cancer (Helms*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Military

- Nick Bartell - Ft. Walton Beach
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Japan
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas

*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.
The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. ~ James 5:16*



SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

MORNING

Opening Prayer David English
 Song Director Casey Bearden
 Sermon Trevor Smoot
 " *God is Unconditional Love* "
 Scripture Reading Brody Crider
 John 1:1-13 & 29
 Closing Prayer Rick Bird

Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Jared LeeMatt McReynolds
 Gabriel Lee Luke McReynolds
 Jake Armstrong (Balcony)
 Comments Richard McCool

EVENING

Opening Prayer Josh Jennings
 Singing Rick Bird
 Scripture Seth Crider
 TBD
 Comments Richard McCool

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep Connie Bartell
 PowerPoint Connie Bartell
 Greeters: Jak Gallagher
 Secure Building Rick Bird

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director Brody Crider
 Opening Prayer Chris Davis

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 176
 AM Worship 215
 PM Worship 86
 Wed. Night Bible Class 136
 Contribution \$8,154

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship . 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming! You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

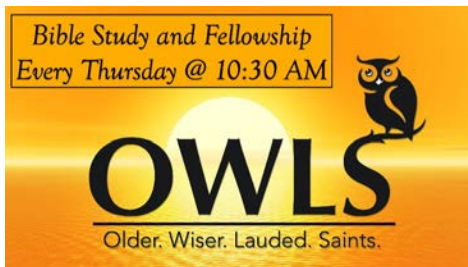
MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is **Thursday, by noon.**
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa for Bible studies, meetings, etc.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse. Feel free to take a look in cabinet near air-conditioner. Highly recommended for study.

EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!



WORSHIP

- Service Rosters are available on the Welcome Desk and Margaret Street website (listed under "Archives")
- "LISTEN" devices available in the foyer, located in the Armoire.

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for online giving

STAFF

Troy Spradlin Preacher / Minister
 cell: 850-910-2868
 spradlin.troy@gmail.com
Casey Bearden Family Minister
 cell: 706-889-3222
 caseybearden@live.com
Blisse Hatcher Church Secretary
 cell: 850-625-8911
 margarstcoc@gmail.com
Scott Shanahan Missionary
 cell: 865-443-9856
 scottshanahan@hotmail.com
Trevor Smoot Domestic Missionary
 cell: 937-417-4297
 smooterii@outlook.com

ELDERS

Rick Bird 994-3148
 bird1plus3@icloud.com
Phillip Webb 232-7431
 pw_webb@hotmail.com
Joe Wilson 206-8350
 jaw@wilsonharrell.com

CONTACT FOR JUNE:

Primary..... Rick Bird
 Secondary Joe Wilson

DEACONS* & MINISTRIES

Administration Troy Spradlin
 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell
 Building & Grounds Paul Lipford*
 Education Chris Davis*
 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation Bob Locklin
 Kingdom Kids Dane Harrington*
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden
 Worship Blake Hatcher*