

WALKING IN WISDOM (**Colossians 4:5**) Number #33

John T. Polk II, Editor

All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version

(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)

Email responses may be sent to: TychicusTruths@johnpolkll.com

Christian Evidence Textbook by John T. Polk II

The beginning of all rational thought is "God." "Fear of the LORD" is the beginning of: **Proverbs 1:7**-"knowledge," **Proverbs 3:7**-(morality) "depart from evil;" **Proverbs 9:10**-"wisdom;" **Proverbs 10:27**-(long life) "prolongs days;" **Ecclesiastes 12:13**-(purpose in life) "all."

Without "God" there would be no "love" (**1 John 4:16**). Without "God" there is(are) absolutely no absolute value(s) to life on earth (**Ecclesiastes 1:1-11**). It should be no surprise, then, that the Bible is the gradual unfolding of the revelation of God, and therefore His verbally-inspired "Christian Evidence Textbook."

*The Bible begins by proving that "God is" and the rest of the Bible proves that "He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (**Hebrews 11:6**).* This is a one-verse outline of the entire Bible. "God" is the only adequate explanation of the intelligent design and function of the entire world upon which we all live, and God's dealings with mankind is the only superior standard of moral conduct that should be the basis for human behavior!

If God made us, then His rules should surely be followed for our best interest and activity. The Bible is the "Manufacturer's Handbook" and should be carefully followed for the best use of the product (humans).

*Therefore the Bible begins in the very first verse showing that there is but one suitable explanation for the material world and human behavior: God (**Genesis 1:1**).* The Creation in a week of 24-hour days, and the weaknesses of humans are all simply set forth in **Genesis 1-3**.

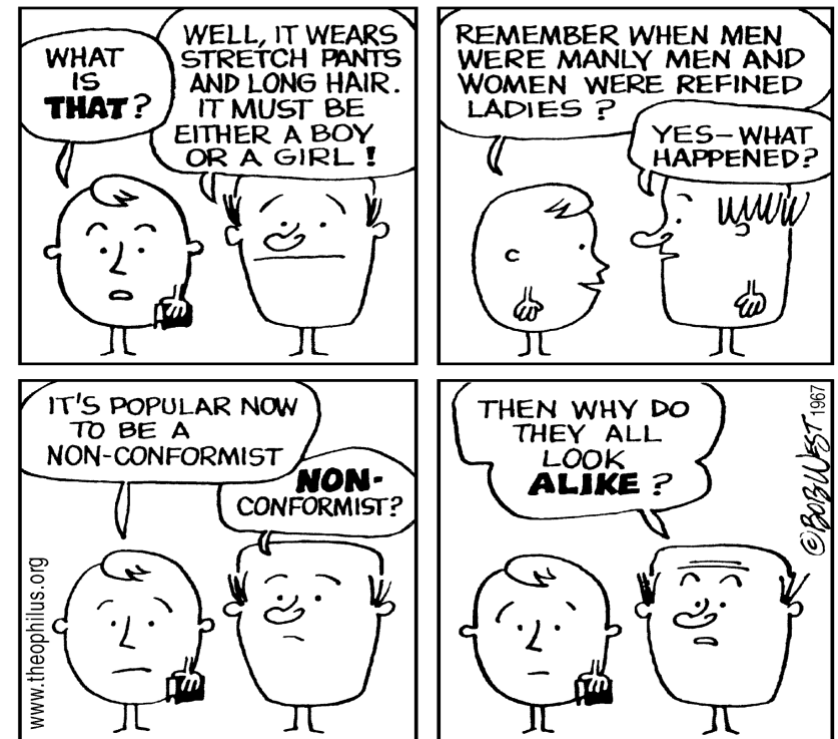
There is no other book in any religion, nor written by man (philosophical, logical, or psychological) that guides to good behavior and inward reflection like the Bible.

The Creation establishes that there is but one God; the Old Testament establishes God's superior plan for His faithful followers; and Jesus Christ (and the New Testament) establishes God's superior love for and value of every soul on earth. When Paul preached to those who had "no gods" he started with the Creation (**Acts 14:15-18**), but when preaching to those familiar with the Creation, he stressed God's plan to lead to Jesus Christ (**Acts 13:16-41**). God is at the "beginning" and Jesus Christ is at the end of the world (**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**).

The "Christian Evidence Textbook" will make "children of God" without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (**Philippians 2:15**). Jehovah is God, and Jesus Christ is His Prophet.

THEOPHILUS

What's the Difference?



Are You Living Up To Your Name?

Nestled in the little New Testament book of Philemon is a wonderful jewel of example and instruction.

First, let's look at a little background. A Christian in Colossae by the name of Philemon owned a slave that had run away from him. Ending up in Rome, the slave, Onesimus, had become converted to Christ by the great apostle Paul (v.10). Paul wrote his friend Philemon encouraging him to now take Onesimus back.

And now the jewel. Paul writes to Philemon of Onesimus that he was *"once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me"* (v.11). The jewel is learned when we understand what the name "Onesimus" means. In the Greek it literally means "profitable" or "useful." If I may paraphrase Paul, he was saying, "Onesimus is now living up to his name." Onesimus had become a Christian and was now useful to God and to the church.

Christian, are you living up to your name? The word "Christian" literally means "belongs to Christ." In everything that you do, every decision you make, every word that you speak, and every place that you are seen, are you living up to that holy name that bears the identity of Christ? Do you show the dark world the light of Christ in your conduct, character, and conversation? The reputation we gain calls attention to the name we profess. Do all know that you belong to Jesus Christ?

"A good name is to be chosen rather than riches" (Pro. 22:1)

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..." (Col. 3:17)

*"Yet if anyone suffers as a **Christian**, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter."* (1 Pet. 4:16)

*"Do they not blaspheme that **noble name** by which you are called?"* (Jas. 2:7)

- Edd Sterchi

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~ *"Instinct is a marvelous thing. It can neither be explained nor ignored."* ~AGATHA CHRISTIE

~ Not many people get tired eyes from searching for the truth.

~ *"Life is a great big canvas; throw all the paint you can at it."*

—Danny Kaye

DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.

— GENESIS 4:6-7 MSG

