### Battle Creek church of Christ

#### THE BATTLE CREEK BULLETIN

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<u>Time of</u> <u>Assembly</u>	
ן Every other Su	Inday:
	9:00 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.
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Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday:	

Bible Study

7:00 p. m.

## Famous Atheists' Last Words: Unbelievers and Death

Complied by David Tant slightly edited by David Pratte

- **CAESAR BORGIA** Italian nobleman, politician, and cardinal: "While I lived, I provided for everything but death; now I must die, and am unprepared to die."
- **THOMAS HOBBS** Political philosopher: "I say again, if I had the whole world at my disposal, I would give it to live one day. I am about to take a leap into the dark."
- **THOMAS PAYNE** Leading atheistic writer in American colonies: "Stay with me, for God's sake; I cannot bear to be left alone, O Lord, help me! O God, what have I done to suffer so much? What will become of me hereafter? I would give worlds if I had them, that The Age of Reason had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! No, don't leave; stay with me! Send even a child to stay with me; for I am on the edge of hell here alone. If ever the Devil had an agent, I have been that one."

**SIR THOMAS SCOTT** – Chancellor of England: "Until this moment I thought there was neither a God nor a hell. Now I know and feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty."

**VOLTAIRE** – Famous anti-Christian atheist: "...I am abandoned by God and man." He said to his physician, Dr. Fochin: "I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months of life." When he was told this was impossible, he said, "Then I shall die and go to hell!" His nurse said: "For all the money in Europe I wouldn't want to see another unbeliever die! All night long he cried for forgiveness."

**ROBERT INGERSOLL** – American writer and orator of the Golden Age of Free Thought: "O God, if there be a God, save my soul, if I have a soul!" Or some say: "Oh God, if there be

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a God, save my soul, if I have a soul, from hell, if there be a hell!"

**DAVID HUME** – Atheist philosopher famous for his religious skepticism ... He cried loud on his death bed "I am in flames!" It is said his desperation was a horrible scene.

**NAPOLEON BONAPARTE** – French emperor who ... brought death to millions to satisfy his ... selfish ambitions for world conquest. "I die before my time, and my body will be given back to the earth. Such is the fate of him who has been called the great Napoleon. What an abyss between my deep misery and the eternal kingdom of Christ!"

**SIR FRANCIS NEWPORT** – Head of an English Atheist club, to those gathered around his deathbed: "You need not tell me there is no God, for I know there is one, and that I am in his presence! You need not tell me there is no hell. I feel myself already slipping. Wretches, cease your idle talk about there being hope for me! I know I am lost forever! Oh, that fire! Oh, the insufferable pangs of hell! Oh, that I could lie for a thousand years upon the fire that is never quenched, to purchase the favor of God and be united to Him again. But it is a fruitless wish. Millions and millions of years will bring me no nearer the end of my torments than one poor hour. Oh, eternity, eternity forever and forever! Oh, the insufferable pangs of Hell!"

**CHARLES IX** – French king. Urged on by his mother, he gave the order for the massacre of the French Huguenots, in which 15,000 souls were slaughtered in Paris alone and 100,000 in other sections of France, for no other reason than that they loved Christ. ... He finally died, bathed in blood bursting from his veins. To his physicians, he said in his last hours: "Asleep or awake, I see the mangled forms of the Huguenots passing before me. They drop with blood. They point at their open wounds. Oh! That I had spared at least the little infants at the bosom! What blood! I know not where I am. How will all this end? What shall I do? I am lost forever! Oh, I have done wrong." ...

**DAVID STRAUSS** – Leading representative of German rationalism who spent a lifetime erasing belief in God ...: "My philosophy leaves me utterly forlorn! I feel like one caught in the merciless jaws of an automatic machine, not knowing at what time one of its great hammers may crush me!"

**JOSEF STALIN** – Soviet revolutionary and politician. In a Newsweek interview with Svetlana, his daughter, she told of his death: "My father died a difficult and terrible death ... God grants an easy death only to the just. At what seemed the very last moment, he suddenly opened his eyes and cast a glance over everyone in the room. It was a terrible glance, insane or perhaps angry. His left hand was raised, as though he were pointing to something above and bringing down a curse on us all. The gesture was full of menace...the next morning he was dead."

ANTON LEVEY - Satanic Bible author and high priest of the Satanic worship reli-

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gion. ... His dying words were: "Oh my, oh my, what have I done, there is something very wrong." – newzsteam. wordpress.com. December 19, 2017, by Brian Butler

Response from the word of God:

Psalm 14:1 – "The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God.""

**Hebrews 11:6** – "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

**Mark 16:16** – "*He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*"

### Pose Pretty

By Jefferson David Tant

What do you usually do when someone points a camera at you? If you are like most, you immediately "straighten up" a bit, don't you? Hair fixed, clothes in good order, and a nice smile on your face. Did you ever wonder why we are like that — why we go to all that trouble just to have a picture taken? It's because we know a picture is a lasting thing, and since it will be about for a long time, we want to be sure that by means of the snapshot, we will be "remembered well." So we "look our best." I remember being in the home of friends a while back. We were all getting dressed for church. Their 15-year-old daughter, a special friend of mine, came and asked me, "How do you like my dress?" I wore the longest one I had because I knew you would be here." She knew my conviction concerning God's teaching on modest apparel (<u>I Timothy</u> <u>2:9</u>; <u>Matthew 5:28</u>; etc.), and because she respected and admired me, she wanted to be on her "good behavior" so that I might think well of her. I appreciated her attitude to-

wards me, but how much better if she had the same respect for God. Do you see that she actually had more respect for them than for God? I'm sure that idea never crossed her mind but it's true, nonetheless. When in my presence, she wanted to "pose pretty." But he forgot she was always in God's presence.

God is always there, and we cannot escape his presence. David said in the 139th Psalm that he could not flee from God. "Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; If I make my bed in Sheol, ...thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me...If I say, Surely the darkness shall overwhelm me, ...Even the darkness hideth not from thee" (Psalms 139:7-12).

While God may not have "snapshots," he does have his "book of remembrance" (<u>Malachi 4:16</u>), and he has promised to "bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (<u>Ecclesiastes 12:14</u>).

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We may be able to hide our misbehavior from parents, teachers, or friends we respect, but we cannot hide it from God. And one day we will have to face it all and give an answer. How much easier it will be for us to conduct our lives in such a manner that God will have a "good remembrance" of us. It will save a lot of grief in this life as well as in the life to come. Think about it, and consider:

"Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things. So, remove grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting. Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no delight in them." (Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1).

"Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals" (I Corinthians 15:33).

### Memorials

#### By Dennis Abernathy

A memorial is "anything, as a monument, intended to preserve the memory of a person or event." There are many memorials, located in prominent places in many cities and towns. Countries have statues celebrating leaders and great men, and their various accomplishments. Memorials also take the form of special days, set aside to remember special events, like the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, etc., or special men, like Lincoln, Washington, or Christopher Columbus. But the greatest of all memorials is the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus at the Passover Feast, just prior to His crucifixion. Its greatness is seen in what it represents: the broken body and the shed blood of Jesus. Jesus said in Matt. 26: 28: "Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it the disciples and said, take eat, this is my body. Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, drink from it all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." The apostle Paul reiterated the same (1 Cor. 11: 23-26), showing its solemnity and purpose (vs. 27-33). Could there ever be a greater and more fitting memorial?

We can memorialize men, but we can never pay tribute to anyone who did more for mankind than did Jesus. We can pay tribute to many battles, but never one that had more significance than when Jesus overcame sin and death for fallen man. Each first day of the week, we are again reminded of His great sacrifice. Observing this great memorial helps us remember, until He comes again, what He has done for us. It is central to our faith and service to the One who died for us. What a great memorial, with great meaning, to be observed with great joy and reverence. Think on these things.

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### And Then I Prayed

By Forrest D. Moyer

I really thought there were material things in this life that were important. I saw people living in luxurious furnishings. I saw their fine cars and their exclusive clothing. That seemed important, for a moment at least. Then I saw something else. I saw that so many who had all these things were living empty lives. I saw them grasping for some measure of happiness. I saw them looking into the bottle to give them some relief from their worried business deals. I saw them involved in extramarital affairs to bring them to "completeness." I saw all of this in the lives of people who worked in the office where I worked. Then I looked at humble, dedicated Christians -- members of the congregation where I preached. I saw the genuine joy and rich fulfillment that was evident in that new convert. And then I prayed ... "O God, forgive me for my longings for the material things in life! Forgive me for my envy of the unrighteous and their possessions ... ! O God, help me to be like that newborn Christian in being totally happy in my relationship with You. Make me a simple servant of Yours."

I watched a child at play. He had no worries about what he would eat, what he would wear, or where he would live. He had a father and mother who he knew would care for him. He was so contented and happy. And then then I prayed ... "O God, make me like that little child. Help me always to remember that, I, too, have a father who will provide all I will ever need if I seek Him and His will first. Help me to be like that little child in contentment and peace of mind. Help me to always have the trust in my heavenly Father that he has in his father. O God, make me like that little child."

I sometimes wonder if my life should be a life of preaching. I thought maybe I should go some other way. But I looked about me and saw the crying need for the word to be taught to sinners mid saints alike. And then I prayed ... "O God, help me to see the fields that are white unto harvest. Help me to know that my lot in life is to preach and teach your word. Help me to do the work of an evangelist, to make full proof of my ministry. Help me to be content in whatever financial state I am in."

I believe in the power of prayer. God truly hears my petitions. I am content with my station in life. I have all and abound. I have no compulsion for what the world has to offer. I have the riches of His mercy. I have the forgiveness of sins. I have the hope of heaven. And I have sufficient for living in this world! I would not exchange the pulpit for a throne! I looked at all this ... And then I prayed ... "O God, don't let me become arrogant with these blessings. Please help me to be humble before you 'all the days of my life! Help me to realize that someday I can exchange my life for a heavenly crown. O Lord, I love you so. Help me to show it every day that I live."

Note: Brother Moyer submitted this article before he passed away. He's made his exchange.