

# Faith & WORSHIP

## A Smidgen is a Unit of Measure

By VAN YANDELL

Psalm 90: 4 "For a thousand years in thy sight are but yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night."

Anyone that considers themselves a southern gourmet cook knows what a smidgen is. It's like a "bit" or a "pinch" or a "tad."

At any rate, a smidgen is a legitimate unit of measure south of the Mason-Dixon Line. As of yet however, I haven't seen a spoon in a measuring set with such an amount. We simply have to guess or use our best judgement.

Measurements in time and materials control us. We are in bondage to watches, clocks and calendars. Flight schedules, work time clocks, even time settings for distance determine our every movement.

Some web sites and other publications are now adding "read time" to articles.

Many in today's world if asked a distance answer the question in minutes. How far is it to the next town? "Twenty minutes." "At what speed" would be a reasonable response.

Could a carpenter build a house without a tape measure? Could a cook bake a cake without measurements? Of course not!

We are physical beings. Our life span, the years of our marriage and the ages of our children are all stated in numbers. Doctors weigh us when we go for a checkup. The results of our blood tests are stated in numbers.

We "count heads" for attendance and count how many were saved (received Jesus as Lord and Savior) at a crusade or on a mission project. Numbers are important to us.

The number of believers is surely important to God. Second Corinthians 5:15 "And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."

Second Peter 3: 8 "But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day with the Lord is like a thousand years and a thousand years as one day." God is spirit, infinite and eternal.

So, why is time irrelevant to God? Because He is infinite and eternal! If we speak of eternity concerning God, we must not only look into the future but also into the past.

If God will always be, He must have always been. Many astronomers and other scientists want to assign numbers to the exist-

ence of the sun, earth, galaxy and the universe.

Many make a useless debate of how old the planet or universe is. The distance across the Milky Way galaxy is (we're told) 100,000 light years and the universe is 97 billion light years across.

Should we really be concerned with the distance to Mars or Proxima Centauri? Our individual curiosity factors want to know some things and for many those distances are intriguing but inconsequential in our everyday lives or our eternal destination.

But what is really important? The Bible teaches we have an eternal soul. No one has ever seen such a thing. No one has ever died and come back to report Heaven or Hell, except in order to write a book or movie script.

No one knows where the eternal soul resides; if it is asleep, concealed in a body cell or flows through ones veins or central nervous system.

The Bible tells us to believe through faith (Ephesians 2: 8). Faith is believing in something that cannot be proven or common sense tells us it cannot be true. Faith is a steadfast belief that something is true.

Can we understand in a world

of skepticism why so many are turning to non-belief?

A question asked was, "Why do you believe in God?" Can anyone give a logical or reasonable explanation for why we exist?

To believe something came from nothing (on its own/spontaneous generation) or that order came from chaos, takes more faith than believing in a Creator God.

Granted, religionists cannot prove God but the evidence is overwhelming. How much evidence does it take to make a fact? The answer to that is with the individual.

The non-believer must also ask the question "What if I'm wrong?" Whereas there is no (court of law) proof of God, there is no such proof of evolution.

The non-believer must think we, the planet, the atmosphere, the universe came from somewhere. Since there is no such thing as spontaneous generation of matter, where and how did all things begin?

What make sense to you? Why do you exist? Why do we think, have emotions or die?"

Our Creator (John 1: 3) was also subjected to numbers. He was born the person Jesus 2026 years ago, lived to thirty-three

years of age, was on the cross for six hours, in the grave three days and lived after His resurrection for forty days before ascending into Heaven.

Even Jesus can't get away from measurements and numbers. So, how long is eternity? The most reasonable answer is "It's a time that cannot be measured!" As a smidgen cannot be measured, neither can eternity.

Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding." Is our ability to think a curse or a blessing? Whichever it may be, we must not let it mislead us.

An old Cherokee proverb states: "There is a fight like two wolves going on inside you, one is evil; one is good." The question asked was, "Which one will win?" The answer: "The one you feed!"

The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

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## Comforting those who need an encouraging word

By DR. WILLIAM HOLLAND

For those who have visited a nursing home or a medical care facility, you know what I mean when I refer to these places as difficult and uncomfortable. The sights and sounds are difficult for our emotions to process, which explains why many would rather avoid them altogether. I've heard people say they dislike hospitals, nursing homes, or funerals, and this is usually because they prompt us to think more deeply about our own future. When we look around and witness how individuals are coping with aging and health problems, it's a normal response to live in denial as the old saying reminds us, "Out of sight - out of mind"; however, let us not avoid those who suffer, or live in fear about our own future because God reminds us for example in Psalm 27 that He will always be with us and help us. The Lord is filled with compassion and desires for us to have empathy toward others and to see the world as He sees it. "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" II Corinthians 1:3-4.

We are not here to just selfishly enjoy our blessings, but, as Matthew chapter seven mentions, we are to do unto others as we would like others to do unto us. Helen Keller is quoted as saying, "Once I knew only darkness and stillness... my life was without past or future, but a little word from the fingers of another fell into my hand that clutched at emptiness, and my heart leaped to the rapture of living." My friend Ian White, who is a highly intelligent and humorous newspaper editor, shared a story with me about his experiences with nursing homes. He said that many years ago, when he was still living in England, he was the chairman of his hometown's carnival association, which included an elaborate parade featuring the annual carnival queen and her court of two princesses. These beautiful young women, who had won beauty pageants the previous fall, were now ready to embark on a celebrity tour.

As a part of the carnival promotion, the association would take these girls to surrounding cities and have them participate in parades and public appearances. On each official outing, the girls wore stunning ballgown gowns and crystal crowns that projected the magic of fairy tale royalty. However, with all of the attention and star status, there was one stop on the tour that was not considered glamorous. They were required to visit a cancer hospital for children. Ian found himself trying to persuade these "rock stars" to spend some time on Christmas Day with these kids. It was Ian's duty to collect the girls and chauffeur them to the facility and, with absolutely no hint of his inner apprehension, convince them that this visit would forever change their perspective on life.

Each year, a new group of celebrities would enter the facility with trepidation, obviously intent on getting the ordeal over and done with. However, surprisingly, these young ladies remained at the children's bedside far longer than anyone would have expected, hugging and chatting with the youth who could hardly speak. The mask of pride and pomp quickly melted into a sobering realization that many innocent individuals live each day with misery and suffering that very few are aware of. As the young women hugged and listened to each child, Ian could sense the power of compassion that was creating waves of gratitude and humility in everyone present. The girls were sincerely grateful to everyone for allowing them the opportunity to meet these special individuals and to understand more clearly how important it is to sincerely share the feelings, thoughts, and experiences of others.

We do not need to be ordained clergy or a popular hero to brighten someone's day. We all have the capacity to listen and obey God and help those who desperately need to know that someone cares. "Then they also will answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you? Then he will answer them, saying, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." Dr. Holland is a minister, chaplain, author, and teacher. Read more about the Christian life at [billyhollandministries.com](http://billyhollandministries.com)

## He is still there working

By DANNY CARR

No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." Joshua 1:5

Sometimes I guess we all feel alone. We are having problems in our life, things are just really piling up and we really feel like we really are all alone.

Joshua had been with Moses for so long but now Moses was gone, and he honestly felt sort of all by himself. He had to stop and understand that God was there, had always been there, and was there first.

We need to understand that God is always there,

right here with us. He always has been. Even when things seem so bad, so mixed up, so completely upside down, God is there and He is working in our lives.

Problems, sickness, tragedies, hurt, worry, all these things weigh us down at times. But God never leaves us, He never forsakes us. He is the one constant in our lives that we can always count on, because He is God.

Whatever you may be dealing with today, God knows, and He cares. He is holding you, and will never let you go. I know things may be really tough, it may seem like you are searching for the answer that you just cannot find. God will show

you the way, because He loves you and He will provide. He will comfort you. God is right there with you always.

You can rest in the fact that there is a God that loves you and who will always be there with you, because He has always been there with you.

I pray today, if you are struggling with issues, problems in your life, if things are really overwhelming, that you will stop and pray for God's guidance and His comfort.

He will never leave you nor forsake you. He is God.

Love them like Jesus..... May God bless you with a great day.....

## The Wilderness Voice

By ROBERT MARTIN

There are many songs of faith that if a preacher decided to do so could preach a sermon based on a song. Not because it had a good melody but because of the message

found within the verses of that song. That pastor could point to the scripture that contained the story that the verse was based. When you read the following verses don't just read the "words" but

see/understand/feel the message that the author was trying to convey.

*The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;*

*it goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;*

*the guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;*

*His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.*

*Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made, were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade,*

*to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;*

*nor could the scroll contain the whole, tho' stretched from sky to sky.*

*O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!*

*It shall forevermore endure: the saints' and angels' song!*

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