



They should have read the Bible

By VAN YANDELL

In the early 1840's, a Hungarian doctor named Ignaz Semmelweis made a discovery. A doctor had performed an autopsy. Then he went directly to the delivery room and delivered a baby. Soon after the delivery, the mother died. Semmelweis determined the doctors hands were covered in a substance that caused the mother's death and insisted doctors wash their hands often and with a cleansing agent. He presented evidence their hands were transferring "cadaverous particles," which we now call bacteria to the mother and baby. As a result of his assertion and subsequent practice of extensive hand washing by physicians, the death rates of maternity clinics dropped significantly from eighteen percent down to one to two percent. In 1847 Semmelweis demanded doctors wash their hands in a chlorinated lime solution before being in physical contact with patients. Had they read the Bible, they would have known God knew, and published in Leviticus, the necessity of washing hands under running water. This simple action could have saved many; written over three-thousand years before their actions of ignorance killed the first mother and baby. Leviticus 15: 13 "And when he that hath an issue is cleansed of his issue; then he shall number to himself seven days for his cleansing, and wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in running water, and shall be clean."

Washing hands in running water is now a common practice in operating rooms around the world. Washing in a pot of still water only circulates and redistributes the germs. Microorganisms were first seen under hand-made microscopes in the 1670's. Connecting them to diseases did not occur until the 1860's when numerous experiments proved the connection. By surgeons knowing to thoroughly wash their hands, many lives were saved that may have otherwise died a horrible death. The Bible also teaches quarantine which is another disease preventing measure. Leviticus 13: 46 "All the days wherein the plague shall be in him he shall be defiled; he is unclean: he shall dwell alone; without the camp shall his habitation be." We saw quarantine practiced extensively during the covid years. By keeping those with infectious diseases away from the healthy, the spread appeared to be restrained. Perhaps people prior to the discovery of the Western Hemisphere should have also read the scriptures. People mostly believed before 500 years ago the earth was flat and was stationary in space. Job 26: 7 "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." Obviously, God knew and the writer of Job realized the earth is constantly spinning and in an orbital path around our star (the sun). Those movements keep us in orbit and keep us from falling into the sun.

Isaiah 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." Bible scholars mostly agree Isaiah was written between 800 and 600 BC. God, of course, has the advantage of observing our planet from anywhere including outer space. A circle can be a flat disc but from a few thousand miles above the earth, it can be observed rotating on an axis thus indicating a sphere. Prior to a few hundred years ago, many believed the earth was flat and stationary in space. In the third century BC however, Aristotle observed the earth's curved shadow on the moon and hypothesized the earth was round and moving. At the time, many saw him as a lunatic for even suggesting such an absurdity. Conventional wisdom is many times not wisdom at all. Generational handed-down information is also, at times, inaccurate. Always read the scriptures to know what God says. Prior to the placing of the space telescopes by NASA (Hubble 1990 and James Webb 2021), some astronomers claimed that someday, they would chart and name the stars. Jeremiah 33: 22a "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured." God and Jeremiah told us 2700 years ago there were so many stars they could not be counted; astronomers are now in agreement,

that is correct! With the space telescopes we are now told there are billions of galaxies, most of those having billions of stars. Counting the stars in the heavens would be like trying to count the grains of sand on all the world's beaches. When we come to the understanding that God knows more than we do, then we can come to grip with the truth of the scriptures. Several have been credited with the statement "If one knows a little about the Bible, he is an atheist; if he knows a lot about the Bible, he is a believer in God." God told us about the currents in the seas (Psalm 8: 8), proper nutrition (Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14), photosynthesis (Genesis 1: 1-3) and many other science related topics. Whereas we understand God gave us tremendous information thousands of years ago that no man could have known, perhaps we should listen when He tells us about His Christ being the Savior of the world! 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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Choose to keep your face toward the light

By DR. WILLIAM HOLLAND

Since before the world was made, God has known you and loved you. He has never taken His eyes away or ignored you. If you were to write down all the blessings and victories He's provided, they would prove He has called you, saved you, and has been guiding and helping you every day of your life. You might say, it doesn't seem like it, but remember, many times we made decisions that were not a part of His plan. It's common to be filled with a mixture of emotions. Worry, stress, sadness, and anxiety are everywhere, but just because there is a tornado of events going on around us does not mean we have to allow them to control us. Our minds are like sponges that absorb the constant sights and sounds of our chaotic world, but remember we are called to be guardians of what we think about. It's in

the quiet secret place of God's presence that fills us with His hope, peace, and contentment. Has disappointment in the past caused you to not be as confident or excited as you once were? Of course, we all have times in our lives when we are upset and wonder why things happen or didn't happen. Stop beating yourself up; you are perfectly normal. Life is a series of ups and downs, and no matter how charismatic a personality you may have, there will be seasons when we search deep within our soul to see if we are being attacked, or if maybe we are just not following God. Whatever the case, it's easy to wallow in our sorrows, but if we will turn our attention away from ourselves and focus on listening to the Lord, the dark clouds of confusion will begin lifting, and the joy and compassion of God's presence will fill us with hope. I want to share a word with

you from Psalm 42:5, and repeated again in verse 11: "Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God." It is said that David wrote these words, and if you study his relationship with God, you know he had his share of sorrows, but he also learned how to encourage himself. He wrote this when his son Absalom committed treason, but even with something as devastating as this, he expresses that faith in God can generate hope when everything seems hopeless. He examines his own heart and understands there are times we will not comprehend why we are going through trials, but we are to obey and glorify God while we are waiting for our answer. Instead of going to bed and covering our heads, let us look beyond our pity party and fo-

cus our eyes on the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Sometimes we are so absorbed with what we are going through, we just simply forget how much He cares about us. I had two situations a while back that could have been tragic, but God intervened in them both. I was driving on the bypass and was getting ready to change lanes when, at the last second, I saw a car beside me out of the corner of my eye. If I had made that mistake, it probably would have been my last. The second situation involved me being on a ladder on my front porch the same day. I thought I was on the bottom step, but I was actually on the step above and fell onto the concrete and into the storm door. I broke the door and have a few bruises, but miraculously I was not seriously injured. Throughout our lives, we've had some ups and downs, but all in all we have a lot to be

thankful for. I know it's easy at times to feel sorry for ourselves, but instead of feeling cast down, may we consider where we would be without God's grace. Hope is a small word like love and joy, but it's the power within the human soul to trust God and to know that His will CAN be fulfilled in our lives. Depression and discouragement come upon us when we are focused more on our emotions than our spiritual armor, so don't forget, optimism and pessimism are hourly choices we make within our conscience. Many times we are our own worst enemy. Keep your face toward the light – and the shadows will always be behind you. Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, public school teacher, and Christian author. To read more about LIVING ON PURPOSE, visit: billyhollandministries.com.

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