

valueFUL

letter to the Colossians

[Masterful](#)

Colossians 2:1-10

Wayne Braudrick

March 8, 2026

Life Change: We live like people who know the answer to the riddle

A kid tells me a riddle...

Jesus is the answer 1-5
He joins believers together in love 1-2

He is the repository for all wonders 3

Anything that diminishes Him is ridiculous 4

He is Lord of order and trust 5

Therefore, live like people who know the answer 6-10
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Don't be captivated by: fake philosophy 8

empty deceit

traditionalism

“moral” science

Evangelical unbelievers adamantly [claim] a liberal morality that applies to all human beings can be formulated without any mention of religion. Or so we are continually being told. The trouble is that it's hard to make any sense of the idea of a universal morality without invoking an understanding of what it is to be human that has been borrowed from theism. - John Gray, *“What Scares the New Atheists”*

Understand who the God-Man is 9-10

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valueFUL

letter to the Colossians

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



courtesy 30kidtestedjokes

**It's because he's at the
North Pole! That's why
every direction is south!**



¹ For I want you to know how greatly I am struggling for you, for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me in person. ² I want their hearts to be encouraged and joined together in love, so that they may have all the riches of complete understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery—Christ. ³ In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

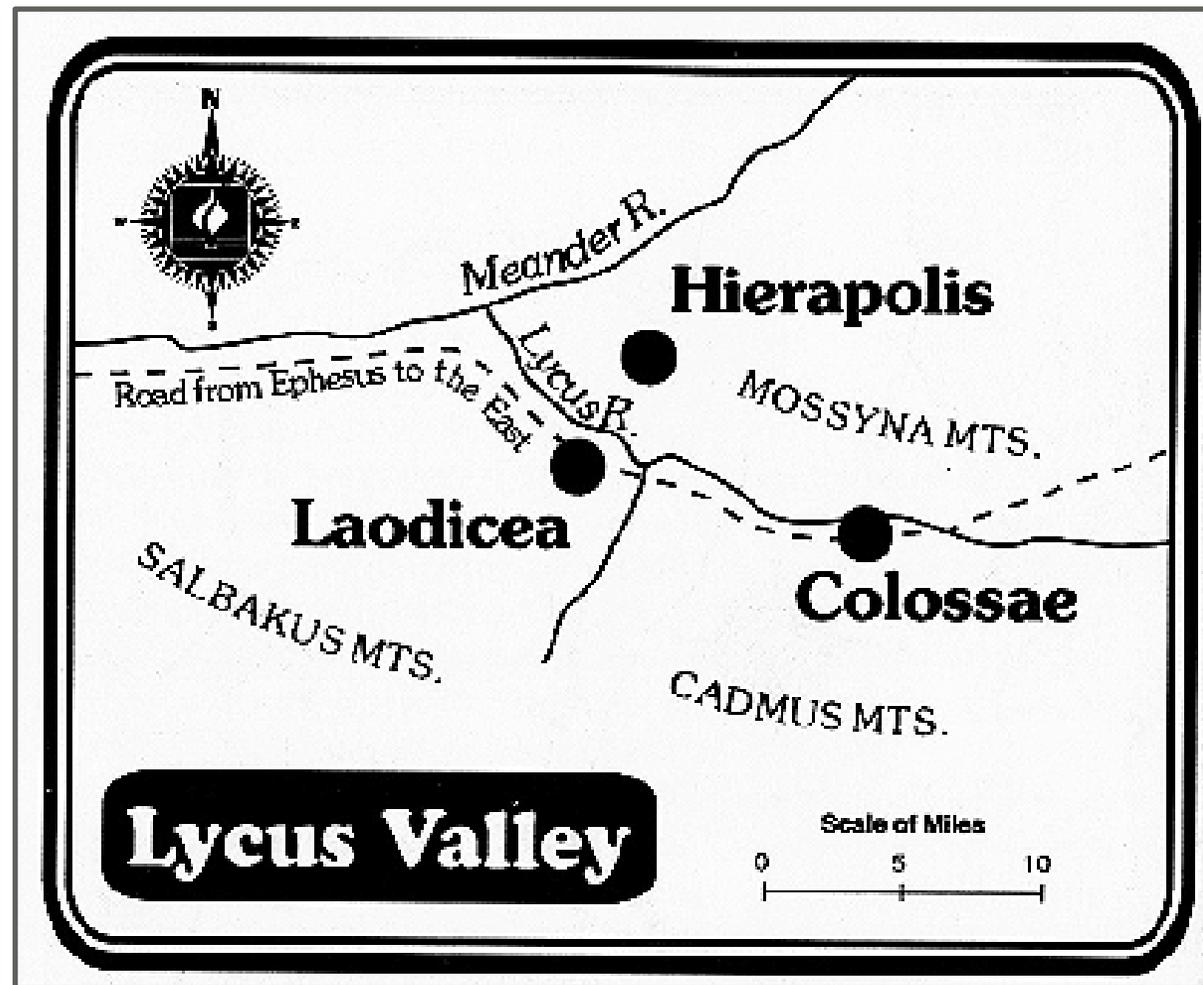
⁴ I am saying this so that no one will deceive you with arguments that sound reasonable. ⁵ For I may be absent in body, but I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see how well ordered you are and the strength of your faith in Christ.

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Colossians 2 CSB

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Colossians 2 CSB





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Paul knew the love of Christ to be the all-compelling power in life. Where love is the compelling power, there is no sense of strain or conflict or bondage in doing what is right: the man or woman who is compelled by Jesus' love and empowered by his Spirit does the will of God from the heart. – F.F. Bruce, *Paul, Apostle of the Heart Set Free*



**³ In him are hidden all the
treasures of wisdom and
knowledge.**

Colossians 2 CSB

³ In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

That means Jesus is:

- **The Fort Knox of knowledge**
- **The warehouse of wisdom**
- **The Taj Mahal of mystery**

That means Jesus is:

- **The depository of depth**
- **The Federal Reserve of rightness**
- **The stockpile of sagacity.**

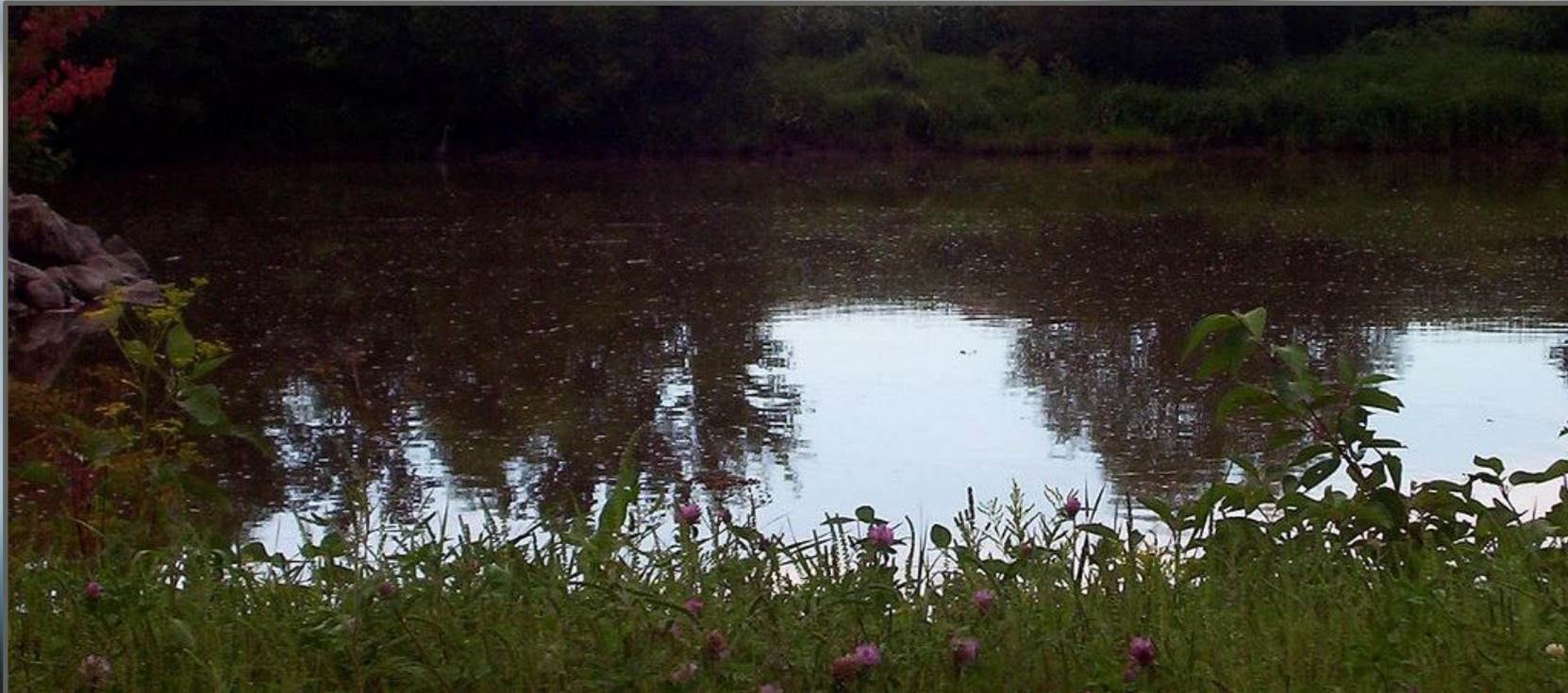
John Freeman

Subject: the living God

Date: Wed, 9 Aug

Today, I went on a two-mile hike in the woods to the Chattahoochee River. I wanted to get some exercise and spend time with God on the river. I didn't know what this particular river looked like, so I wasn't sure what I was looking for.

I found my way down to a dumpy, stagnant river, maybe ten feet wide and barely running. The Chattahoochee River, I thought to myself. Some river. I snapped a picture and prepared to leave...until I heard something in the distance and noticed an opening in the trees.





courtesy panoramio

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Colossians 2 CSB

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Greek: πιθανολογία pithanologia = a combination word whereby the great term for meaning – logos – was combined with peitho (confident pushiness based in fear)

College Encourages Lively Exchange of Idea

“We want to create an atmosphere where both students and faculty feel comfortable voicing a single, homogeneous opinion.”



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Pithanologia example:
Jesus alone isn't enough for a really wonderful life. You need some "spiritual" experience or extra special knowledge. If you are only trusting in Christ every day, you're not really living.

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Colossians 2 CSB



courtesy WRSP

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Colossians 2 CSB

The bedlam did what it always does: lead to a theological disorder that diminished Christ.

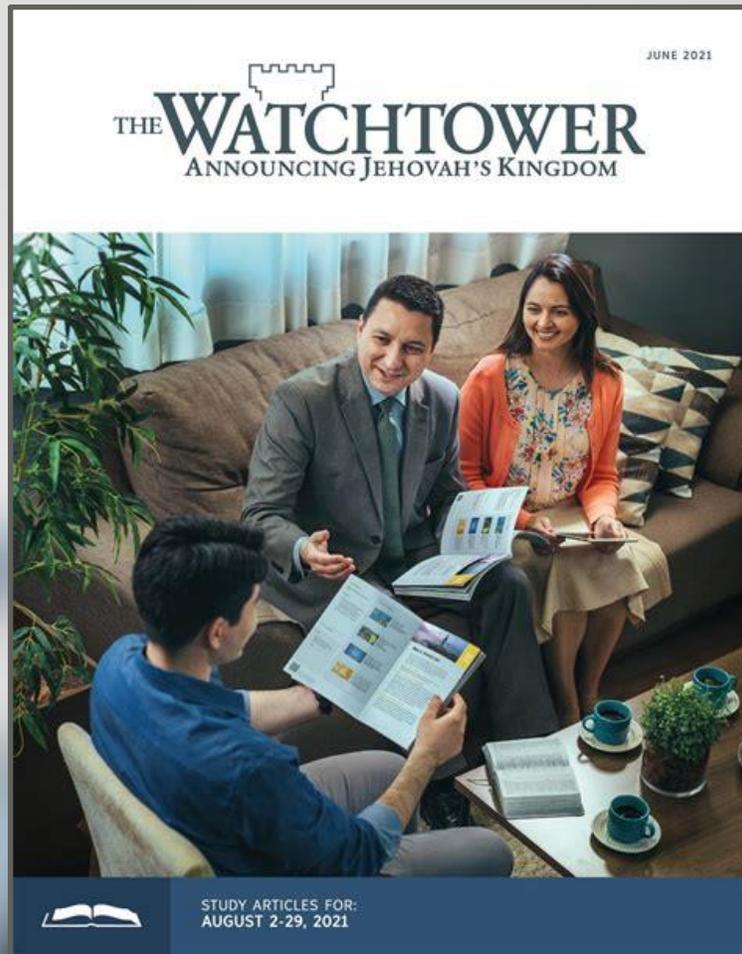
**33 God is not
a God of disorder
but of peace.**

1 Corinthians 14 CSB

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Colossians 2 CSB

The bedlam did what it always does: lead to a theological disorder that diminished Christ.



**Faith in Jesus + good works
might *possibly* gain one justification before God.**

⁵ For I may be absent in body, but I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see how well ordered you are and the strength of your faith in Christ.

Colossians 2 CSB

⁶ So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷ being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.

⁸ Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ.

⁹ For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ, ¹⁰ and you have been filled by him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

Colossians 2 CSB

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Colossians 2 CSB



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Colossians 2 CSB



a craftsman works on Notre Dame Cathedral

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Colossians 2 CSB

Greek: Βεβαιούμενοι bebaioumenoi = something proven, established; a word from business and law.

Contrasting Logos References

πιθανολογία pithanologia

loud, clever arguments
that use fear to restrict
everyone to a limited
version of reality

Βεβαιούμενοι bebaioumenoi
something proven, established;
almost always used together
with *logos* to mean “validated
in truth”



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Colossians 2 CSB

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Colossians 2 CSB

**Greek: Sylagogon συλαγωγῶν =
capture someone through clever manipulation**

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Colossians 2 CSB



courtesy Adobe



courtesy ibtimes

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Colossians 2 CSB

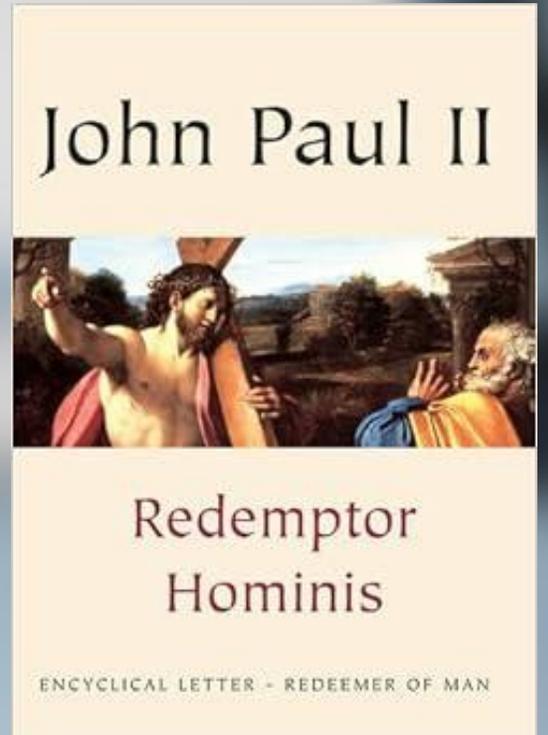
Karol Wojtyła, distinguished philosophy professor and experienced pastor before he became pope [John Paul II], knew all about the modern quest for “authenticity” and the modern passion for self-discovery. He also knew that the quest for the self could end up in the prison of narcissism. That is why, in *Redemptor Hominis*, he taught that a truly authentic “journey of self-discovery ends not in oneself, but in Christ.”

– George Weigel, “Redemptor Hominis 47 years on”



The Church's fundamental function in every age and particularly in ours is to direct man's gaze, to point the awareness and experience of the whole of humanity towards the mystery of God, to help all men to be familiar with the profundity of the Redemption taking place in Christ Jesus.

– John Paul II, *Redemptor Hominis*



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Greek: κενός kenos = empty; devoid of significance, merit, or benefit

Colossians 2 CSB

Nothingness is as hard for us to comprehend as infinity. Thus, our mind assumes something must be there – even if what we are investigating is *kenos* – vacuous.



courtesy BBC, which ironically is not immune to empty deceit

Wayne, my parents have been on a slow spiral since COVID, delving down every rabbit hole imaginable, taking their inherent Gen X distrust of government to levels I never thought I'd need to combat. I've been hesitant to engage them in rhetorical disputes over their beliefs, but it has gotten to the point that it is spilling over into their increasingly isolated spiritual lives. They say things like: seminaries are tainted because they were founded by the Rothschild Jews, all churches are brainwashed, and (ironically) to be a real Christian, one must keep Torah food laws. – Exasperated

Contrasting Logos References

πιθανολογία pithanologia

loud, clever arguments
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version of reality

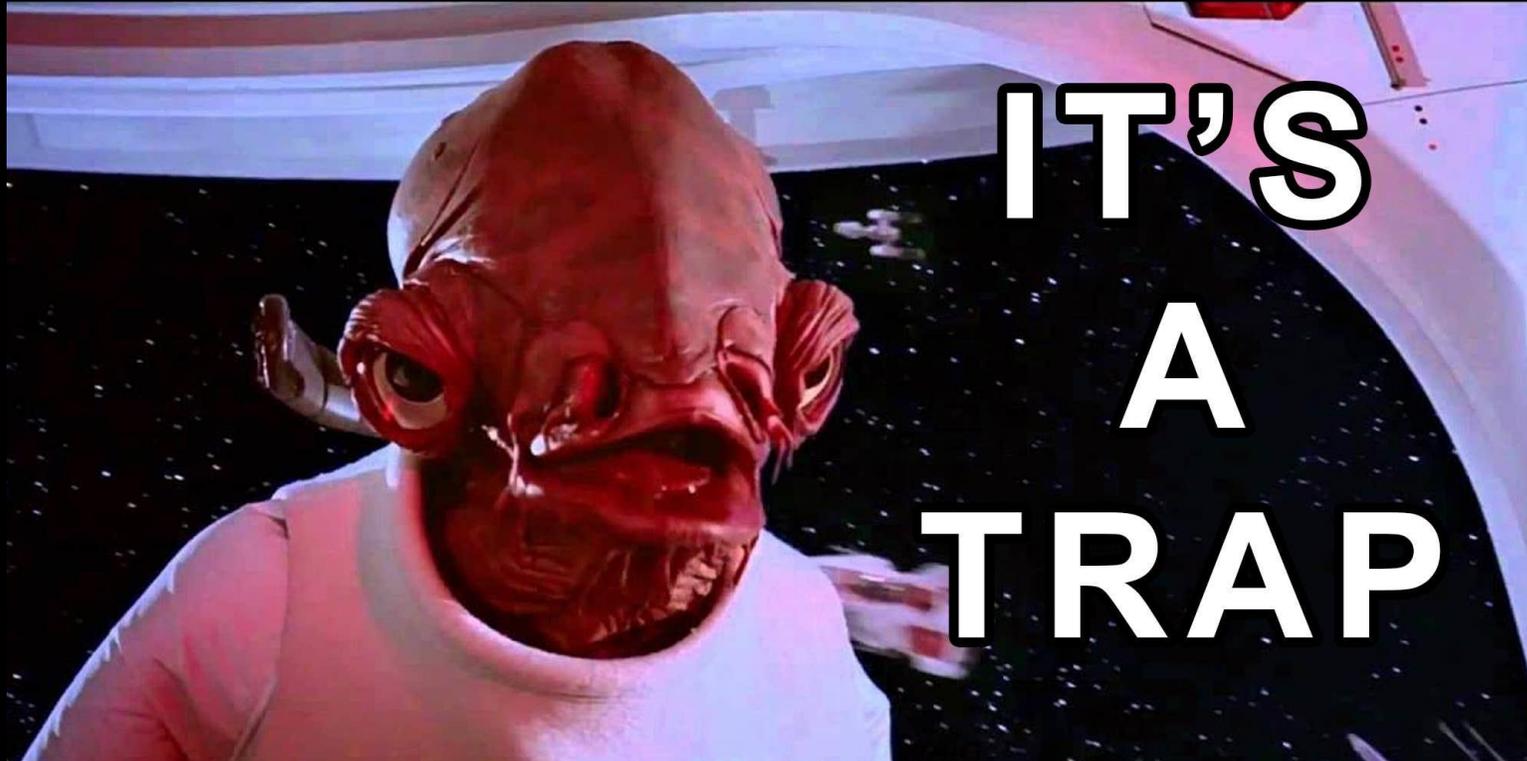
Βεβαιούμενοι bebaioumenoi

something proven, established;
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Colossians 2 CSB



Dear Exasperated,

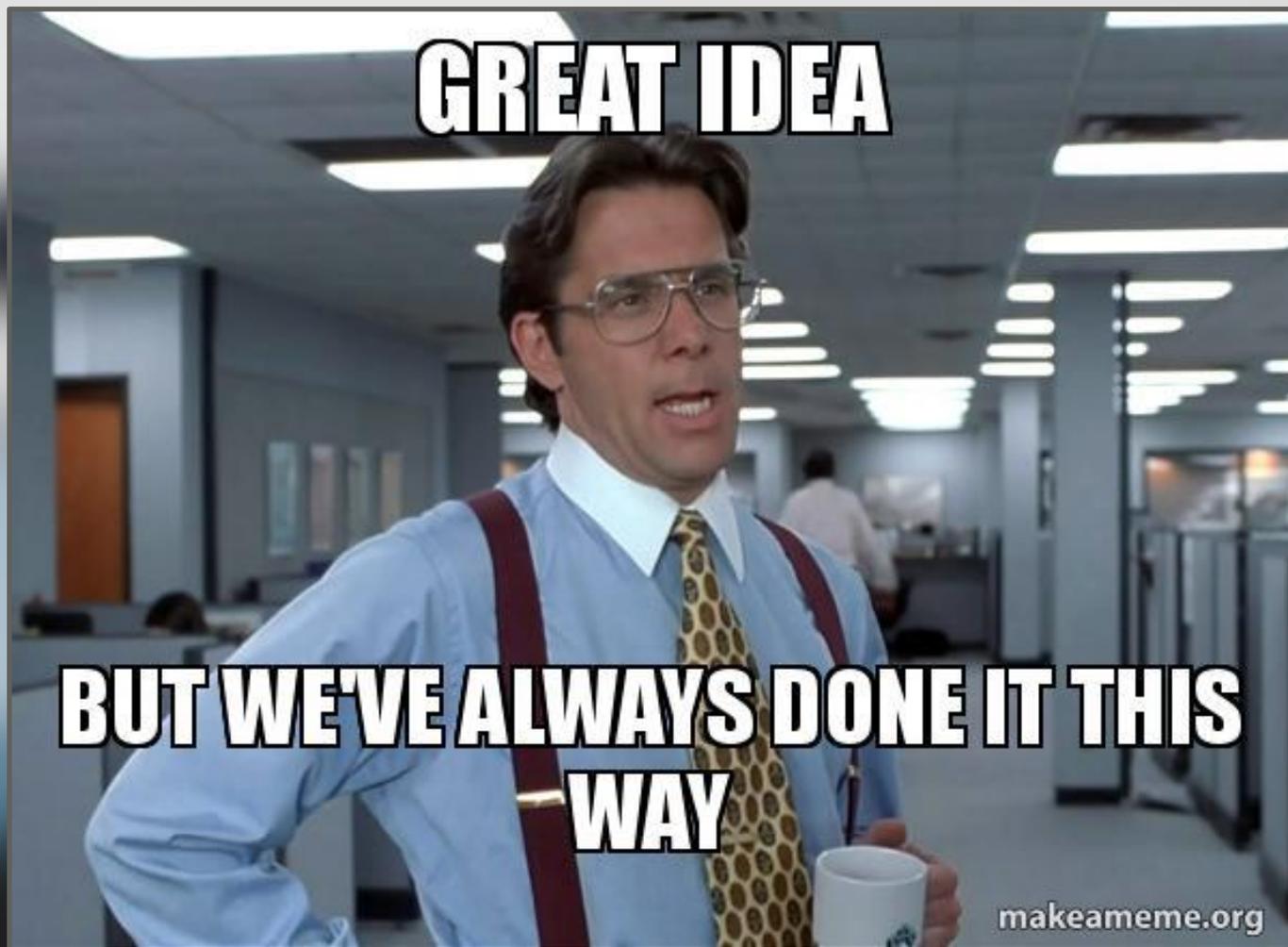
It is so sad. Isolation begat by fear is a slippery slope that ends in loneliness. Yet there is hope in this: empty deceit rarely lasts a lifetime. Hopefully, your parents will end up like the people whose antisemitic postures in 17th c. England caused them to separate from the Puritans. After a few years, their small house gatherings collapsed. Most ended up in Bible-teaching churches and became healthy members of their communities. – Wayne

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Colossians 2 CSB

Tradition is the living faith of the dead. Traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. – Jaroslav Pelikan, *The Emergence of the Catholic Tradition*

The classic picture of this kind of traditionalism is a stuffy old company that, because of success, confused practices with purpose.



Another form: whatever style is popular at the moment, whatever fad is “best practice,” must be followed without deviation.



courtesy pinterest

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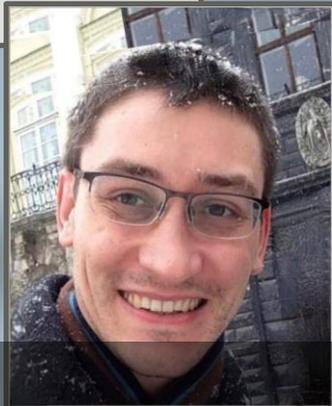
Colossians 2 CSB

A life based on what scripture declares will always exalt the headship of Jesus. A life based on human traditionalism – however old or popular the practices – will always exalt our ritual or institution over the Lord.

Many well-intending (and not-so-well-intending) people get wrapped up in the religious customs that have been handed down to them to the extent that clear, biblical teaching takes a back seat to [traditionalism]. Are you celebrating Megalesia to honor a false god? Probably not. But Christians are still being derailed by the traditions of men today.



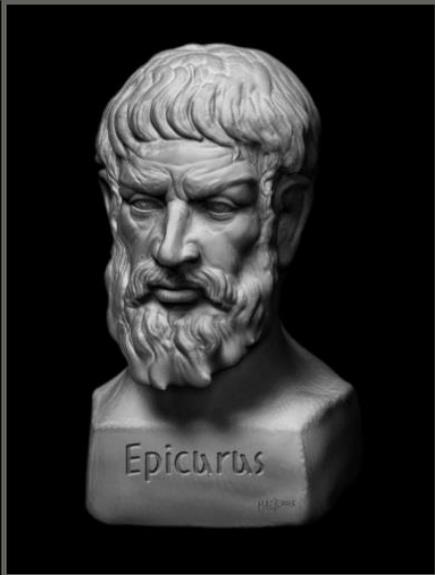
One way to test yourself to see if you are going along with the traditions of men rather than the word of God is to consider a belief that you have and ask yourself why you think that way. For example, consider homosexual marriage. Do you think that homosexual marriage is OK? Why or why not? If your answer starts with anything other than “The Bible says...” then you are already wrong. – Paul Miles, “Are You Being Held Hostage?”



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Colossians 2 CSB

Followers of Epicurus anticipated modern evolutionists in their belief of a closed universe emerging from the chance collision of atoms within a void. – *The Archeological Study Bible*



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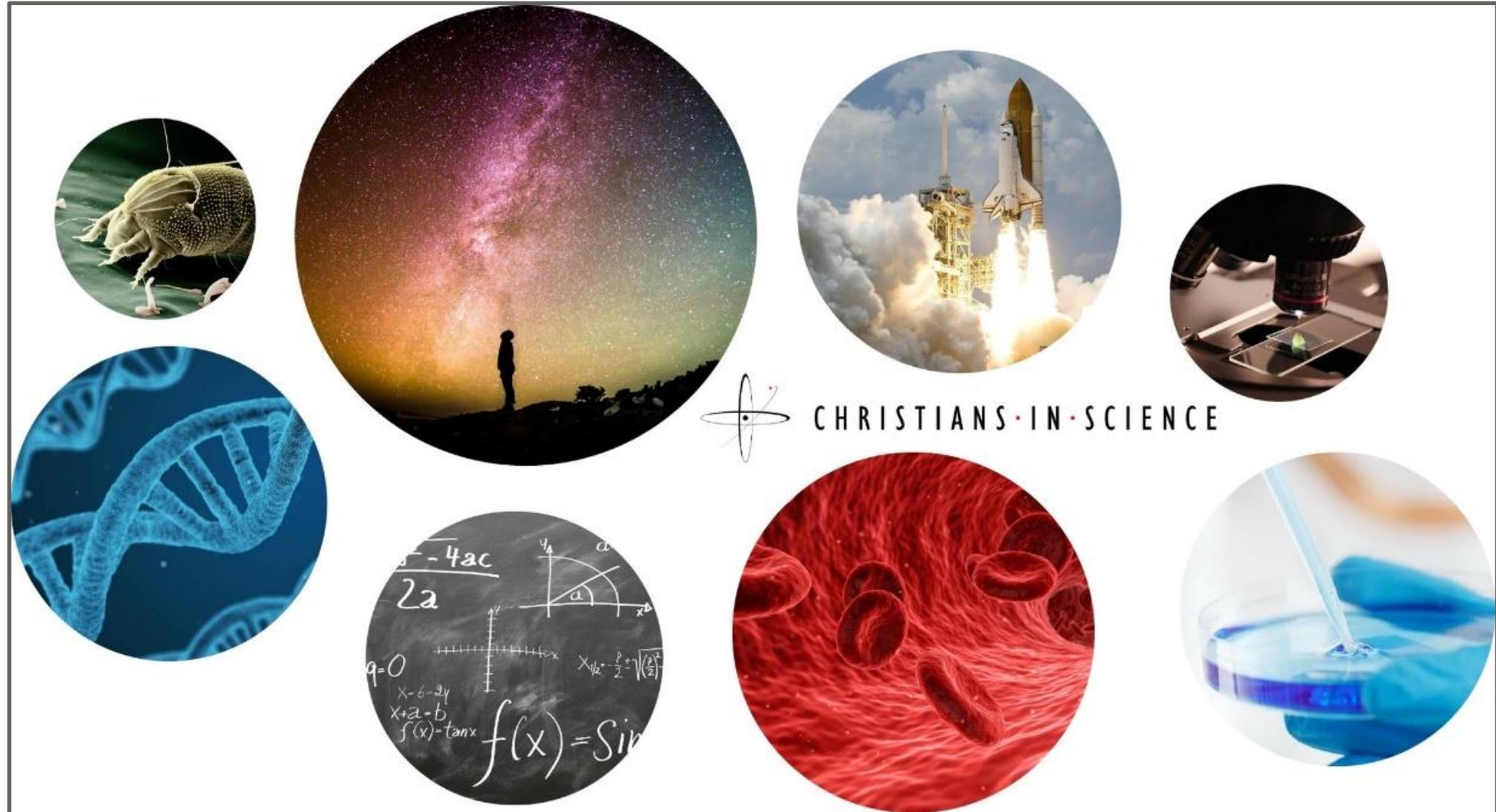
It's probably just as well that the current generation of atheists seems to know so little of the longer history of atheist movements. When they assert that science can bridge fact and value, they overlook the many incompatible value-systems that have been defended in this way. There is no more reason to think...materialist naturalism can determine human values today than there was at the time of Haeckel or Huxley [who argued for eugenics based on science].

Evangelical unbelievers adamantly [claim] a liberal morality that applies to all human beings can be formulated without any mention of religion. Or so we are continually being told. The



trouble is that it's hard to make any sense of the idea of a universal morality without invoking an understanding of what it is to be human that has been borrowed from theism. – John Gray, “What Scares the New Atheists” The Guardian 3 March 2015

Jesus leads His followers to become people who create value, including the greatest men and women in the history of science.



⁹ For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ, ¹⁰ and you have been filled by him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

Colossians 2 CSB

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Colossians 2 CSB

Christos Pantokrator
12th c.

FACTUS HOMO HOMINIS FACTIQUE REDEMPTOR

“The one made man and the redeemer of the man he made.”



Christos Pantokrator

12th c.

IUDICO CORPOREUS CORPORA CORDA DEUS
“I the embodied God judge bodies and hearts.”

**10 So you also are complete
through your union with Christ,
who is the head
over every ruler and authority.**

Colossians 2 NLT

**6 The Lord is for me;
I will not be afraid.
What can a mere mortal do to me?**

Psalms 118 CSB



In a confusing world of riddles, Jesus completes us. He enables us to act like who we are – people who can laugh because we know The Answer.

Faithful Truthful Powerful Wonderful Masterful Graceful Mindful Purposeful Delightful Joyful

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