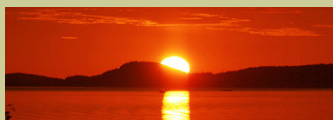


Ek, dia, eis; the 3 secrets of creation

You have heard me call Romans 11:36 the “law of circularity.” It is bigger than that. It is the key to grasping the substance, mode, and purpose of the universe:

“For out of Him, and through Him, and into Him is all.”

- The **SUBSTANCE** of creation; it's *out of Him*: *ek*
- The **MODE** of creation; it's *through Him*: *dia*
- The **PURPOSE** of creation; it's *into Him*: *eis*



The three tiny Greek prepositions answer everything you need to know about the universe. Some religions teach that God is *in* the universe, as if God and creation are separate entities. Not so! The universe is in God: it came out of Him, it exists because of Him, and it ends in Him. This verse is a huge comfort to me in the day of trial, which is to say: Mon.—Sun. ■

Fact!

The universe was not created out of nothing. Romans 11:36 tells us that all is OUT OF God. God is not nothing; He is spirit (Jn. 4:24). Thus, the universe came into being by *spirit*, which is the driving force behind everything.

Martin Zender's Clanging Gong News

“If I know all mysteries and all knowledge, but have no love, I am a clanging gong” --1 Cor. 13:1-2



Two out of three isn't bad.

God is the Savior of all mankind

We are in the habit of saying that all mankind shall be saved. True enough; all mankind *shall* be saved. I'm not against the saying as a saying. The verity of the saying is based, not on the wishful thinking of emotional scripture-hacks, but on the rightly translated Word itself. However, I move that we alter our presentation of this grand truth. My motion is based on the one verse that no enemy of the cross has been able to knock from the Bible or explain away: **1 Tim. 4:10—**

“For we rely on the living God, Who is the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers.”

Rather than emphasizing the fact that all mankind shall be saved, let us rather say that GOD is the Savior of all mankind. Mankind benefits from this action, true enough, but Who is doing the action? Whose reputation rides upon the action? Whose work is demeaned if the



action fails? Our emphasis, therefore, ought to be on the character of God rather than upon the beneficiaries *of* that character. And so? “Let me tell you about how great GOD is: HE is the Savior of all mankind.” Let our hearers conclude themselves, from this, that all mankind shall be saved. ■

Spirit, not light and love, is God's essence

- 1) God is light (1 Jn. 1:5)
- 2) God is love (1 Jn. 4:16)
- 3) God is spirit (Jn. 4:24)

Is God *literally* a star-like being Who shines in the universe (light)? No. Is He *literally* an abstract quality (love)? No. These first two statements about God are figures of speech. How do we know? Watch the Greek: in the first two verses, the verb “is” appears, indicating the figure known as metaphor. EXAMPLE: I show you a picture of my son and say, “This *is* my son.” It's a metaphor. Thus, God is so closely associated

with light and love that He is identified with these. When the Greek give you literal truth, however, it omits the verb “is;” this happens in Jn. 4:24, which literally reads: “GOD-SPIRIT.” Thus, God is *literally* spirit. He is *like* light and *like* love, but spirit is His essence. ■



We should not be in conflict with the rulers of this world

As awful as politics can get in this world, we are to recognize that “there is no authority except under God. Now those which are, have been set under God” (Rom. 13:2). God disciplines the world in many ways, including giving us lousy leaders. The lesson of the eons is to recognize man's inability and God's strength. Recognizing this rarely-grasped truth ought to make us peaceful and God-centered, no matter which political party is botching the job. ■

Did Jesus turn the water into grape juice?

Some hardcore church groups think that alcohol is evil, and that if you drink it, you will go to hell. These radical religionists even go so far as to say that, at Cana, Jesus turned the water into grape juice. Hm. Was the name of the wedding party, “The Welch’s”?

These religionists fail to understand that wine is typical of the spirit. Grape juice is corruptible; the fruit has not yet been broken down. Wine, on the other hand, has passed through the “death process” and become some-



thing better. Thus, it is a type of resurrection.

Jesus said in Mk. 14:25,

“No longer under any circumstances may I be drinking of the product of the grapevine till that day whenever I may be drinking it new in the kingdom of God.”

Life refined beyond the reach of corruption. This is the secret of wine—and of resurrection. It is sure not the secret of Welch’s grape juice. ■



Light before fruit.

In nature, the tree with the most light produces the most fruit. They used to tell me in church that if I behaved myself, God would grace me with revelation. Now I know that it’s the other way around: I can only behave myself when I have a true revelation of God. As in nature, *spiritual light precedes spiritual fruit.*

What’s with spaghetti straps?

THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF SEX IS NOT PROCREATION

Sex creates babies, yes, but it does something else first. First and foremost, the power between the sexes (woman drawing man) typifies the power of God to draw all mankind to Himself. We know that Christ came out of God; God desired fellowship and an object of affection. Adam was complete, yet lonely. From him came Eve, and the subsequent pull of sexual power. A husband then clings to his wife, and the world gets a living analogy of creation’s yearning for something greater than itself: Almightyness. ■

WHAT A REVELATION!

GOD IS NOT OUT TO GET US

I’ll never forget a highway sign I saw in downtown Buffalo, NY, one summer. It said,

“Keep using my name in vain, and I’ll make rush hour longer. —God.”

Remember those signs which “credited” God with all sorts of ridiculous sayings? These false “God said” billboards took space formerly used by cigarette advertisers. One guy told me, “Martin, it is better to have billboards with messages from even a bogus God than from tobacco companies.” I disagreed, naturally. “You’re better off smoking a pack of cigarettes a day,” I said, “than to imagine that God is so petty He would make your life miserable for one little misstep.”

Cigarettes are expensive, yes, but what is a person’s peace of mind worth? ■



I guess God is a petty, impetuous brat.

God’s name blasphemed by “friends”

How ironic that God’s named is blasphemed throughout the world, not by heathen, but by His so-called friends. Romans 2:24 contains one of Paul’s strongest remonstrations against Israel:

“For because of you the name of God is being blasphemed among the nations.”

Imagine. The very people who were supposed to put God in the best light, instead caused the rest of the world to laugh at Him. How did Israel manage this? They were a pack of hypocrites. They said they loved God and His law, but instead habitually broke His commandments. The other nations saw this and thought, *This God*

can’t even control His own people.

Today, it is not the Jews but rather the nominal Christians who inadvertently blaspheme God’s name. How? It’s the same old hypocrisy, except today it goes like this: *God loves you unconditionally, as long as you love Him. You are saved by total grace, as long as you act now and believe. God is the Savior of all mankind, but most of mankind will be tormented in hell forever.*

Non-believers hear this and think, *The Christian God promises, but He can’t deliver. Why would we want anything to do with Him?* ■

Q&A

Doesn’t John 1:1 prove that God and Christ are the same being? —Alice B., Sandpoint, Idaho

Dear Alice: No. “In the beginning was the word, and the word was toward God, and God was the word.” The key word is “toward.” Nothing can be toward itself. Even the KJV’s “with” denies the contention of the Trinity. John’s burden here is not to prove to the Jews that God and Christ are the same being, but that the God their forefathers knew was actually Christ (the word) serving as His perfect representative, that is, “the image of the invisible God” (2 Cor. 4:4).

Rants & Stuff

The Apostle Paul says we should not murmur (Philippians 2:14). Therefore, I shall rant.



That dumb Buffalo billboard made me cuss

I told you on the previous page about the Buffalo billboard that made me cuss. Well, I have not yet told you that the billboard made me cuss. I am about to do that now. If there are any children reading: *hello children*. I appreciate your interest in my newsletter. I am glad that you learn many wonderful things from me. And yet I do not want to offend you in any way, and so please get the hell out of here now, while you can.

The dumb Buffalo billboard read, **“Keep using my name in vain, and I’ll make rush hour longer. —God.”** This was Mosaic law come to modern Buffalo. Mosaic law said, “Do this or else.” This dumb billboard also said, “Do this or else.” Paul later revealed the hidden intention of law in Romans 5:20, “The law came so that the transgressions might increase.” He backs this up in Romans chapter seven, describing how the law that said, “Thou shalt not covet,” produced in him all manner of coveting (Rom. 7:7-8). In Buffalo, I lived out this truth. As soon as I saw the dumb billboard that warned me not to cuss, it produced all manner of cussing in me. I’m talking about “&*%\$” and “^#@!” and even “} *?<>~” In fact, I got so upset that I

cursed a curse I’ve never cursed before. Yes, I’m talking about “~!@#*er%&.” I never thought I would ever say that, and yet I did. I am sorry. The law made me do it.

If I were to put up a billboard in Buffalo purporting to quote God, mine would say, **“No matter how much you cuss today, I will never stop loving you.”**

I wonder what effect *that* would have? ■



“A gentle Quaker, hearing a strange noise in his house one night, got up and discovered a burglar busily at work. He went and got his gun, came back and stood quietly in the doorway. “Friend,” he said, “I would do thee no harm for the world, but thou standest where I am about to shoot.””

—James Hines



JUST BELIEVE THE OPPOSITE

by M. Zender



“God does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, ‘What hast Thou done?’”

Daniel 4:35