

UK BIBLE STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

End-November 2009

QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS

A Talk at the Monday Club

By Lee Bridges

‘Daddy, why is the sea blue?’

‘Well Sophie, could it be because it’s reflecting the blue sky?’

A thoughtful silence.

‘But why is the sky blue, Daddy?’

‘Well, there are no clouds today, are there? If the sky is grey the sea looks grey as well.’

Another pause for thought, and Daddy waits.

‘Daddy, what if the sky was yellow?’

Sitting for half an hour on a coastal train behind a patient Dad and his three-year-old daughter was a highly entertaining experience. We all know how children are constantly asking questions, sometimes awkward ones, but curiosity is natural in happy, healthy children. They want to know, and it’s often the granddads and grandmas like some of us that are in the firing line. And as we don’t always have all the answers, we find ourselves echoing the puzzled protest: ‘*but why?*’

Read on [>>>](#)

ON HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

By Harry Emerson Fosdick

No one can be wrong with man and right with God. In Coleridge’s “Ancient Mariner,” one of the most vivid pictures of sin’s consequences ever drawn, the effect of lovelessness on prayer is put into a rememberable verse:

*I looked to heaven and tried to pray,
But or ever a prayer had gush’*t*,
A wicked whisper came and made
My heart as dry as dust.*

Read on [>>>](#)

Miscellaneous Musings

‘It is a remarkable fact that for every problem there is a solution. But isn’t this what one ought to expect in a world deliberately designed? Whether in engineering, medicine, science, or in the numerous subdivisions

and specialties of all the branches of learning, every question begging an answer usually finds one, or probably will. Progress in technology in our century depends on – indeed, thrives upon – this assumption. No blind chance here. Mankind’s existence was anticipated and its needs will be met one way or another by a benevolent Creator acting upon the minds of inquisitive men and women.’ – *A. Prentice*

In the Rear-View Mirror

From The Present Truth magazine (U.S.A.), September 1, 1919, p. 164 –

‘Science has been experimenting with the ultra-violet rays for plant growth and for sterilizing water, and has found that they ripen fruits more rapidly, give them richer flavor and cause them to remain fresh longer than the fruits not so treated. Ultra-violet rays are one of the best germicides, and have been used on a large scale to sterilize water in France. . . .

‘Recently the U.S. Secretary of [the] Interior, Mr. F.L. Lane, propounded a plan for obtaining power from our waterways, for transmitting it to and for storing it in stations near our manufacturing and mining centers of the East. This plan is both practical and economical; and promises to be a conservational policy of the first rank. It will save an immense amount of labor and coal; will save power otherwise wasted, and will greatly reduce the price of manufacturing in our cities and of lighting and heating in our homes.

‘Farming in Spirals is another time and labor-saving device It is done by an automatic cultivator that runs in a spiral and steers itself. It will require planting everything in spirals. It revolves about a central drum, to which it is attached by a wire and about which the wire is slowly wound, as it at even distances goes around, ever drawing nearer the central drum. It needs no watching, even working while the farmer sleeps!

‘Air-craft seemed at first to be a plaything, later a useful war implement; but the first anniversary of the U.S. Government’s aerial mail service proves that the airship has its utilitarian aspects in commercial affairs. The recent feats of crossing the ocean in lighter and heavier than air machines suggests quick passenger service between Europe and America. We may expect utilitarian marvels from these inventions ere long. Britain, with characteristic foresight, is arranging for the commercial use of airships on a large scale, having already laid out air routes of travel, somewhat like railroad routes.’

Dragnet

Items of interest from the World Wide Web

Britain

Monsieur Poirot’s grey cells weigh in on the plight of Christianity in Britain

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/david.suchet.says.christianity.is.being.marginalised.in.britain/24722.htm>

Have a ‘happy [fill in the blank]’

<http://www.christiantoday.com/article/tory.backbenchers.disappointment.at.pc.christmas.cards/24724.htm>

Australia

Rogue camels make life miserable for townspeople

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/26/2753917.htm>

France

The 'Swiss-army knife' of warships attracts the interest of Russia

<http://www.france24.com/en/20091126-russia-france-purchase-warship-mistral-vyssotski-rondell-economic-ties>

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