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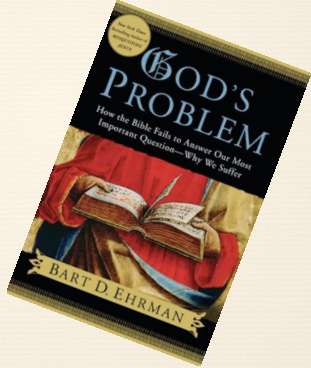
THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Ephesians 6:16
Lesson #50
Flaming Missiles
07/29/2018

"I just began to lose it. It wasn't for lack of trying. But I just couldn't believe there was a God in charge of this mess."

Dr. Bart Ehrman


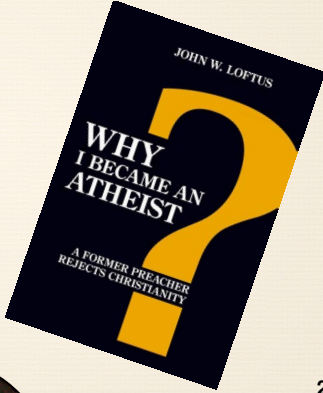



1

"I had too much to live with and not enough to live for."

"My expectations of faith, prayer, the church, & God were crushed."

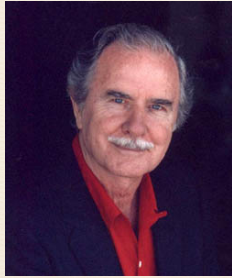
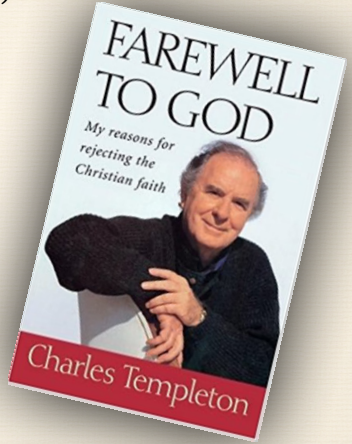
Rev. John W. Loftus

2

"Founder of Youth for Christ."

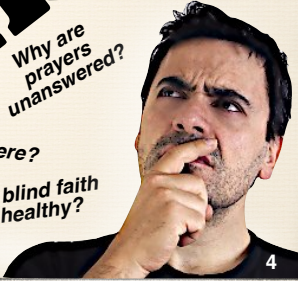
Charles Templeton

3

Doubts

Why is there so much evil?
 Can I trust the Bible?
 Does science disprove the Bible?
 Was Jesus real?
 Can't you read into the Bible anything you want?
 How can I be sure?
 What about other faiths?
 Is faith a feeling?
 Does God care?
 Why are prayers unanswered?
 Is God there?
 Did Jesus raise from the dead?
 Is blind faith healthy?



4



5

Ephesians 6:11

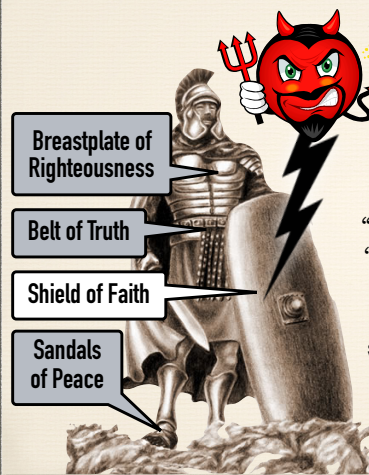
“Put on the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”



6

Ephesians 6:16

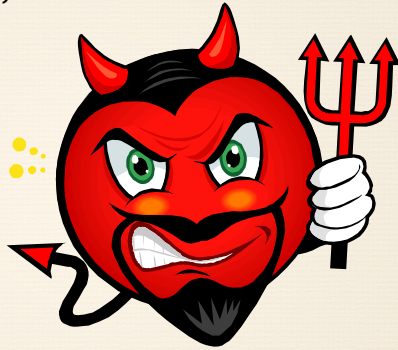
“in addition to all, taking up the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one.”



7

Satan does not want to take away our faith, hope, and love.

He just wants to control the **object** of our faith, hope & love.



8

Naturalism, atheism, secular humanism, etc. are **faith based**.

Romans 1

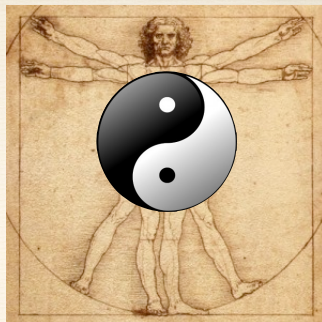
“20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been **clearly seen**, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. . . . 25 For they **exchanged** the truth of God for a lie, and **worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

9

Pantheistic Humanism

Defining reality and making decisions as though god was “The Force” uniting all the universe and us together.

- God is **Nature**
- We are all **One**
- Faith is a **Feeling**



“Pantheism is sexed-up atheism. Deism is watered-down theism.”

Carl Sagan

10

A modern theologian meets God and is asked - “Who do you say that I am?”

“**Thou art the existential, incomprehensible, unpropositional, encounter with the infinitude of inherent subjective experience.**”

11

“I have never denied the deity of Christ nor of any human.”

Paul Tillich



12

What are the “flaming missiles of the evil one”?

Examples:

Fall of Eve & Adam - **Gen.3:1-6**

Temptation of Christ - **Matt.4:1-11**

Forgiveness - **2 Cor.2:8-11**

Trials of Job - **Job**

13

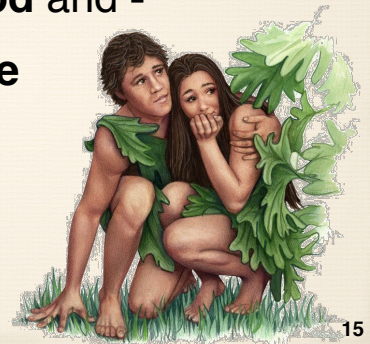
Genesis 3

“3 . . . God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” 4 The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. . . . 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.”

14

The shipwreck of Adam & Eve

1. **Fear** of missing out leads to -
2. **Distrust** of God and -
3. **Looking** to the creation for hope with -
4. **Shame** as the result.



15

2 Corinthians 2

“8 Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. 9 For to this end also I wrote that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things. 10 But whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, 11 **in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.**”

Shame is God’s tool before salvation and Satan’s tool after.

16

Matthew 4

“3 And the tempter came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

6 and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, ‘*He will give His angels charge concerning You*’; and ‘*On their hands they will bear You up, Lest You strike Your foot against a stone.*’”

9 and he said to Him, “All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me.””

Expectations, expectations, expectations!

17



“Flaming missiles” (applied)

Expectations
Promote unrealistic expectations.

Emotions
Confuse emotions with the Spirit.

Evidence
Emphasize the inconsistencies.

Exclusion
Keep shame alive.

SHIPWRECK SHIPWRECK SHIPWRECK

19

Faith is trusting God in the dark.

It means we don’t walk alone, by sight, feelings, or signs.

It calls for “delayed gratification” and commitment.

20

Hebrews 11

“36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated 38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. 39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, **did not receive what was promised,**”

21

1 Peter 4:12

“Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;”

2 Peter 3

“3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their **mocking, following after their own lusts,** 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For every since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.””

22