

THE PLEASANT VIEW PLUMB LINE

"...then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel..." (Amos 7:8)

IN PRAISE OF MOTHERS

As far as I can tell, Mother's Day is another of those holidays that just seems to have been around forever. And rightfully so. Think about it. Where would we be without mothers? We owe so much to our mothers, and I mean that in more than one way. As individuals, we owe our own personal mothers a debt that can never be paid. But also, as a group, we owe a great debt to the whole of the institution of Motherhood. Most people, who ever achieve any amount of success, regardless of the field, when asked the question "To what do you owe your success," most people will say, "To my mother." Stories and fables of mankind's efforts to honor Motherhood go back virtually as far as recorded history. In the Middle Ages in particular, "Mothering Sunday" became a holiday of sorts in England. In the early days of American History, several tried to establish a holiday to honor mothers, but it wasn't until May 9, 1914, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the first proclamation declaring the second Sunday in May as "Mother's Day." This day was brought about primarily due to the efforts of a woman named Anna Jarvis. The Civil War had just recently ended, and Anna believed that if our nation would take the time to honor their mothers, then fightings and hatred would cease. She began her efforts in the early 1900s, just after the death of her own mother. She convinced a minister to dedicate a special church service to the honoring of mothers and on May 9th, 1907, the first actual church service dedicated as Mother's Day was held. After that Ms. Jarvis was tireless in her efforts to win support of the idea of a national holiday. She wrote letters, gave speeches, and organized other groups to push for a day to honor our mothers. As a result of her efforts, Mother's Day is now an international holiday, celebrated by more than 40 other countries. You might even say that Anna Jarvis was the "Mother of Mother's Day."

When I was a kid, Mother's Day was a day when we got dressed for church just a little bit early. Then we would spend some time out among my mother's rose bushes, selecting just the right rose to wear to church that day. I guess it is only appropriate that Mother's Day falls in mid-May. After all, that's when the roses are in full bloom, just like a Mother's love.

Here are some quotes about mothers; given by some of the great minds of our time...

- "All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother." - Abraham Lincoln
- "Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother." - Lin Yutang
- "The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness." - Honore' de Balzac
- "My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her." - George Washington
- "By and large, mothers and housewives are the only workers who do not have regular time off. They are the great vacationless class." - Anne Morrow Lindbergh
- "The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom." - Henry Ward Beecher
- "Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall. A mother's secret hope outlives them all." - Oliver Wendell Holmes
- "I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life." - Abraham Lincoln
- "The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." - Author Unknown
- "No higher praise can be given that to say, 'He made his Mother proud.'" - Rom

A WOMAN WITHOUT EQUAL

Text: _____

I. The _____ She Was

Notes:

II. The _____ She Did

Notes:

III. The _____ She Owns

Notes:

IV. The _____ She Speaks

Notes:

V. The _____ She Is

Notes:

MOTHER

Never a sigh for the cares that she bore for me
Never a thought of the joys that flew by;
Her one regret that she couldn't do more for me,
Thoughtless and selfish, her Master was I.

Oh, the long nights that she came at my call to me!
Oh, the soft touch of her hands on my brow!
Oh, the long years that she gave up her all for me!
Oh, how I yearn for her gentleness now!

Slave to her baby! Yes, that was the way of her,
Counting her greatest of services small;
Words cannot tell what this old heart would say of her,
Mother—the sweetest and fairest of all.

-Edgar A. Guest

Lamar

- “Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also; and he praises her: Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all. Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.” - Proverbs 31:28-30

-Ron Lamar

A MOTHER’S LOVE

A little boy came up to his mother in the kitchen one evening while she was fixing supper, and he handed her a piece of paper that he had been writing on. After his mom dried her hands on an apron, she read it, and this is what it said:

- For cutting the grass: \$5.00
- For cleaning up my room this week: \$1.00
- For going to the store for you: \$.50
- For baby-sitting my kid brother while you went shopping: \$.25
- For taking out the garbage: \$1.00
- For getting a good report card: \$5.00
- For cleaning up and raking the yard: \$2.00
- Total owed: \$14.75

Well, his mother looked at him standing there, and the boy could see the memories flashing through her mind. She picked up the pen, turned over the paper he'd written on, and this is what she wrote:

- For the nine months I carried you while you were growing inside me: No Charge!
- For all the nights that I've sat up with you, doctored, and prayed for you: No Charge!
- For all the trying times, and all the tears you've caused through the years: No Charge!
- For all the nights that were filled with dread, and for the worries I knew were ahead: No Charge!
- For the toy, food, clothes, and even wiping your nose: No Charge!
- When you add it all up, the cost of my love is: No Charge, Son!

When the boy finished reading what his mother had written, there were big tears in his eyes, and he looked straight at his mother and said, “Mom, I sure do love you.” And then he took the pen and in great BIG letters he wrote: “PAID IN FULL.”

We are indebted to our mothers for ALL they have done for us. Thank you, Mom!

-excerpt, author unknown

HOW DO YOU KNOW THERE IS NO GOD?

In September, 1976, in a debate with brother Thomas B. Warren, Dr. Antony Flew affirmed the proposition, “I know that God does not exist.” Such is a very bold position to take, and throughout the debate Dr. Flew was insufficient in proving it because the position itself is insufficient to be proven. A statement that explicit is rarely heard even from the mouths of skeptics, but that ultimately is the conclusion of everyone who exalts atheism. They know there is no God. This concept has spread through the world like wildfire and now has affected so many areas of social living, even down to the very way the sanctity of life is viewed. An outcry bursts forth from all corners when the very mention of God or intelligent design is uttered. These critics ask believers, “How can you be so sure that there is a God?” But in response perhaps the simple question can be in return, “How can you be so sure that there isn’t?”

So to you who say there is no God, how do you know? It cannot be from the random chaos with which this universe functions because it has perfect order. When in Genesis 1:1 God created the heaven and the earth, they were created with full capability to function with natural precision. God created light and separated it from the darkness thereby defining evening and morning (vs. 3-5). And still does the world function according to this natural order enacted by God. God separated the water from the dry land thereby distinguishing earth and sea (vs. 10). Likewise does the earth still exist according to this order. God created all the kinds of animals and vegetation and without fail these have continued within their kind (vs. 9-14,20-25). So if you know there is no God, does that knowledge come from the lack of design?

Again to you who say there is no God, how do you know? It cannot be from the simplicity with which the human body is arranged. Without God, there can be no explanation for our complexity. Knowing that there is no God do you know how the inner workings of the human eye are so well tuned? Knowing that there is no God can you account for the self-healing nature of the body? Knowing that there is no God can an explanation be given for the wonder which is the central nervous system? Knowing that there is no God what answer can you give for the ability of the human brain? Given the complexity of the body with which you function how can you be sure God does not exist?

If you say there is no God, how, still, can you know? It cannot be from a void of natural law for with creation did God set natural law in motion. Today, as in the beginning, if something goes up that is heavier than air itself, it comes down because of gravity’s law. Today, as in the beginning, if something is itself an effect, it by necessity has a cause. Today, as in the beginning, if something is living, it by necessity came from living matter. There are a multiplied number of natural laws with which we and this universe function, but without God how can any of them be explained? Therefore if you know there is no God, how do you know?

With Nebuchadnezzar’s statement do we agree when he said, “...*there is a God in heaven*” (Daniel 2:28) because “*the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork*” (Psalm 19:1). Throughout life emphasis in other areas is to draw a conclusion based on the evidence. But in the minds of many today evidence is formulated based on the conclusion desired. In other words because some do not want there to be a God they manipulate the minds of the many with false theories and notions disguised as evidence in order to persuade them into concluding that He is not. The evidence, though, points completely to the fact that GOD IS! Therefore to the skeptic, how do you know there is no God?

The obvious conclusion is that no one can know that there is no God. Really all of mankind falls into one of two categories: (1) those who know God exists, and (2) those who do not know God exists. In the end, though, any deficiency that exists is not in God’s existence, but in man’s knowledge of it.

How can you look at the majesty of the mountains; how can you look at the innocence of an infant; how can you look at the unity of the universe; how can you look at the brilliance of the body; and how can you look at the serenity of the scriptures and know there is no God? With the Psalmist may all reach the conclusion: “*Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, **thou art God***” (Psalm 90:1-2). God always has been, is, and forevermore shall be. All evidence points to His being. Therefore to all who shall answer otherwise, how can you know?

-Andy Brewer