



the intrusion of our eyes. What would have made our ancestors blush and turn their eyes, our culture parades and thrives upon!

Why can't those around us see the casualties of this "advancement?" Are they blind to the pain of those lonely people abandoned by their selfish companions of marriage or cohabitation? How sad it is for those scores of people in the world who will never know the joy of a truly committed spouse, husband and father, wife and mother! What of the children? Who will they remember as their parent?

A daycare worker or teacher? It is they who are the vulnerable objects of our world's evangelistic effort to shape their view of life, sexuality, and religion. Who will give them values? What of the men and women who have been irreparably damaged either physically, mentally, or emotionally by our society's perverse alterations of sexuality?

Lest I be misunderstood, I do not believe that everything that is new is bad. Many technological advancements have made our lives much more pleasant, and offered us freedom of time and tremendous opportunities for spreading the gospel. I do not advocate a separation from society, as have groups like the Amish, and Menonites—although I both understand and (to some extent) respect their reasons for withdrawing from society. I simply hope to encourage a cautious approach to the things of this world together with a confidence and reverence for God's revelation in the past. I firmly believe the old statement that "those who will not learn from the past are doomed to repeat it's failures." There have been many times in the past when man has thought he was quite advanced, only to be brought to ruin by the spiritual illnesses with which man is mortally infected apart from Christ. It may not be an easy thing to live in an ever changing world, but even if we sometimes feel like "neanderthals" we can be confident in the eternal God and His promises!



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Welcome Visitors

ISSUE

15.33

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

August 18,
2013



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Andrew Dow

Is Everthing New Always Better?

By Kyle Pope

Christians are a curious lot! While all the rest of the world continues to advance, progress, and "evolve," Christians maintain a stubborn commitment to the past. While "everyone else knows" that human beings are moving forward, learning more and more, and taking continual steps up the cultural ladder—while the rest of the world sees clearly that the "answers" to life come from man's continuing advancement—only "neanderthals" such as Christians continue to believe that the answer to life will not be found in the future, but lies rather, in the revealed wisdom of the past. What a hopeless lot!

The opinions expressed above are not my own! They are however, the views commonly believed by many in the world around us. The reason is easy to understand. In the last few generations the technological changes that have taken place in our world are mind-boggling! We have gone from stagecoaches and horse-drawn buggies to space shuttles and SUVs. Older people still living have witnessed changes that seem almost miraculous. Doesn't this prove that man is evolving, and everthing is getting better?

While certainly we have harnessed some technology of which our ancestors would never have dreamed, the question is *has man changed?* Think for a moment about why technology has so rapidly advanced. About 500 years ago a man by the name of Johannes Gutenberg developed the printing press. The effect this had on civilization was staggering. There were plenty of books before this, but they were very expensive and only in the hands of those who could produce

them or afford them. Before the printing press mankind had to rely on individual study and exploration to provide them with knowledge. As the presses began to produce books a person could much more easily study and learn from the work of others. As more books were printed and distributed a person could quickly build upon earlier study, rather than having to start from scratch. With the availability of mass printing information began to compound upon itself. A person no longer needed to be an apprentice in order to learn a trade or science, he could study for himself. In no time at all discovery would build upon discovery, and men would make advancements drawing upon other people's original efforts.

To the imperialistic countries of Europe in the years after this, who (because of this advanced technology) found themselves able to subjugate what they viewed as primitive cultures of Africa, Asia, and the Americas, such an advantage seemed to actually be an "evolved" status. But, again, *had man changed?* Did a change in technology signify a change in man himself? Had his brain capacity expanded? Had his body become more equipped to fight off disease? No, he simply had learned how to manipulate nature, and how to use tools made from a technology that he may or may not have even understood.

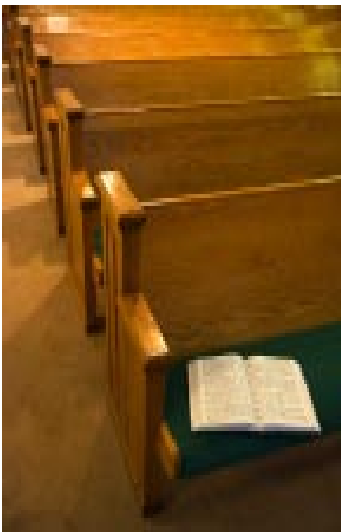
From within an environment such as that described above the modern theory of evolution was born. Charles Darwin, who lived in England in the heart of its imperial grandeur, most certainly was influenced by his country's perceived cultural superiority and advancement. An offshoot of Darwin's evolutionary theory, known as *Social Darwinism*, influenced social and political thinking for decades. This theory holds that cultures themselves are involved in a battle of "survival

of the fittest." *Social Darwinism* was influential on Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan's desire for world domination as an "evolutionary advancement." *Social Darwinism* led many communist countries to heartlessly murder their opposition believing them to be primitive and inferior.

The examples mentioned above begin to show some of the problems with believing that man is advancing and that everything new is better. The communist philosophy that "the end justifies the means" and the horrifying events of the first and second World Wars revealed that human beings had not changed. Our moral character is still such that we can justify murder for the sake of communist ideology, and create weapons that can kill millions in one stroke. Yet, to this day our world continues to hold to the idea of an ongoing human evolution, appealing to technology as a witness to this imagined advancement!

Man has even exchanged traditional social institutions for any new idea that comes along. Thomas Jefferson said wisely in the *Declaration of Independence* "...Prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes..." O that we possessed a measure of such "prudence" in these days! Think about some of the "governments" (so to speak) our generation has "changed for light and transient causes..." For generations western culture allowed, as does the Bible, divorce only for the cause of fornication. In our day few are the couples who have not been divorced for any and every cause. Our culture, in the mainstream, has for

generations recognized the importance of the marriage bond and scorned those who would cohabit without its commitment. Our culture now, feeling it has developed some new wisdom, questions the validity of the institution of marriage. While we must recognize that there are times when a mother may need to work outside the home, our culture has told women that they are of no value unless they have a "legitimate" occupation. As a result, countless numbers of mothers have surrendered their truly legitimate natural privilege of forming and shaping the life of a young child for occupational status. Finally, our culture used to teach men, as does the Bible, to treat women with honor, modesty, and respect. Our "advanced" culture now treats women like pieces of meat, simply to be displayed, used, and exploited. It is fashionable now to be crude, indecent, immodest, and invade a woman's privacy with



Olsen Park church of Christ