

Living Springs Institute

Where Sound Doctrine Endures.

www.livingspringsinstitute.org

*“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”
Colossians 2:8*

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Step Into the Springs!

Welcome to the Living Springs Institute’s first newsletter! I know most of you that have received this first letter did not ask for it. That being true, I want to point out, we are using this letter as an introduction, and most of you will not receive this letter again unless you decide to subscribe to it. I will be giving information on how to subscribe a little later in this letter, but first let me tell you about it.

This really will not be a newsletter as much as it will be a teaching letter. We will use this letter to give you any news as we have it, but for the most part this is a way for us to send out teaching. We hope what you read here will be a help in your day by day life! The bulk of the letter will be an ongoing series of teaching, and you will find the introduction to that series in this letter. We will try to follow a format, but it will not be too restrictive. In general, any news or items of special interest will appear on the front page. The two inside pages will be dedicated mostly to our ongoing series of teaching. On the back page, we will have a variety of articles. Some issues will have a commentary on various current events. Sometimes, we will share extra teaching on specific subjects. Other times, we will have a question and answer. It is also my hope that there will be articles written by other members of the Institute.

For now, this letter will be sent out every other month. It is our hope,

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in the not to distant future, to publish it every month. First, we need to see how it goes and get our publishing feet under us. Once we have everything organized, we should be able to devote more time to this letter; who knows, we may even have more than just four pages!

A Rest Stop Along the Virtual Express Way!

Talking about getting things organized brings us to the highlight of this letter's announcements. By the time you get this letter, the Institute's website should be online! The address is www.livingspringsinstitute.org. There you will be able to read teaching in our learning center, submit questions you've always wanted to ask, and get resources like books and graphs that will help you follow our studies. You can even read this letter there. We really hope this to be a great help in making more direct contact with each of you! If you like what you see there, we also hope you will direct your friends and family to the site.

I know not everyone has a computer and/or access to the internet, but that's OK. You can still send in questions through regular mail; (We will be sharing instructions on how to participate in our question and answer ministry in our next newsletter!) and as books and other resources become available, we will let you know through this letter. Anytime you have questions and comments about something you have read in this letter, please don't hesitate to write us. If there is something you would like to see teaching on, feel free to let us know. We are here to teach and preach the Word of God, so anything we can help you with we will!

This letter is sent out free of charge. So, if you would like to subscribe to this newsletter, we'd like to send it to you! If you have access to the web, you can order it online. You can even have it e-mailed to you. For those of you who would like it sent to you via regular mail, all you need to do is write us at, Living Springs Newsletter, P.O. Box 271, Loveland, CO 80539. Ask for the newsletter to be sent to you. Be sure to include your name and mailing address. Only for the purpose of contacting you

in the event we have trouble mailing the newsletter to you, we ask that you give us your phone number and/or e-mail address. If you do not receive our next letter in September, please let us know! We want you to know Living Springs will not share your Name, Address, Phone Number, E-mail Address, or other Personal Information with any other parties!

We praise God for the opportunity to touch lives with His Word. So, please let us know if you would like to receive additional copies of this newsletter to give to family and friends. Remember, if you did not subscribe to the newsletter before you received this one you will not keep receiving it, so order today, and be sure to visit us online at www.livingspringsinstitute.org. We look forward to hearing from each of you!

Following the Biblical Stream:

By Philip E. Busby

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Rom. 10:17) One of the reasons this is true is that as we read the Word of God, we find God has known and does know what He is doing! This becomes even more apparent when we look at history in conjunction with the Bible. History shows us that God's Word hit the nail on the head every time; and if we can put aside false teaching, then we will see there is no better time than the present to understand just how "right on" the Bible is. It is no coincidence that God brings His people (the Israelites) out of Egypt and establishes them as a nation right before we see the emergence of people like the Assyrians and Babylonians. Man and the devil trying to rebuild the idea of controlling the world from one government. Why? Because false religion and control over people has a great impact on forgetting God. But where sin abounded grace did much more abound! (Rom. 5:20) So, God made sure that His name would never be blotted out from the earth, and gives us a blessed people to

carry His name before us even unto this day! No matter how much secular people try to say things like, “The Jews made up a religion from borrowed parts,” it does not change the facts! The story of the Bible is right in line with what has and is happening. The Jewish nation was entrusted with the oracles of God. It is the work of false prophets that have tried to convince the world that what God gave them is nothing more than just “another religion”! You don’t have to find Noah’s ark to know that the Bible is more than a collection of tales! Everyday events show us things Noah’s ark could not even come close to proving.

This is why I want to start out by teaching the story of the Bible. The Bible’s story is really the story of mankind! There are those that try to put secular teaching into this story. One example is the idea that the seven days of creation are really millions of years, and that God used the process of evolution to create the world. I have to say, there is almost nothing I find sillier than people who think it necessary to meld the ideas of man to explain the power of God. God’s miracles are just that - miracles! They are things we can not do on our own but to God are simple. We do not need to explain the crossing of the Red Sea by finding a high ridge of sand that Israel could have used to walk across. In this series, you will find none of that! When the Bible says they walked across on dry ground, we will take that as fact. Not because we can duplicate the action or explain it, but because the Bible said it happened just that way!

Now, one of the things you will find to be true about this ministry is, we do not just hit the high points of the Bible and move on. For those of us who were raised in Sunday school or have attended church as an adult, we have been over the Bible stories many times. However, one of the things that surprises me the most is that there is still a general illiteracy to the chronological order of these events. For most of us the Bible is just a collection of stories without continuity. The fact this is true, is just one of many results of what I like to call “Fractional Christianity.” If you stick with me through this series you will hear me use a lot of terms like that. I will try to take time to explain what I mean as I go. I will also try to write books on these subjects so you can have a further understanding of what I’m talking about. Fractional Christianity is the process most of us grow up in or will find by attending

most churches. It is a process of teaching by jumping all around the scriptures so you can take what you want and use it in support of what you want to teach. I'm not saying every teacher and preacher who takes several scriptures and preaches on them is doing this, but at the same time, there is little effort to help people know the Word as a whole. Every time you hear a sermon, you should read all around the scriptures that were used, to make sure the preacher is not taking the scripture out of context! As I said before, I will take time through this series to talk about these things more.

We will start with this series because it is important for us to understand the Bible as a whole. People are always asking me where they or someone they know, that is not familiar with the Bible, should start reading. I know many people believe, those new to the Word should start somewhere in the New Testament, but that is wrong! The answer is simple, start at the beginning. The only thing that makes the beginning hard to understand is, many believe they already know the New Testament, and this is putting it all backwards! You do not understand what is taught in the Old Testament by knowing the New Testament story! You understand the story of the New Testament by understanding the Old Testament. I believe this is one of the biggest fallacies we have in our churches today, and I think it would be a great help to many to start at the beginning and go through the Bible.

We will talk not just about the Biblical record but also the historical events surrounding these things. Now, I know, I said we are not a ministry that just hits the high points, but in this first series we do want to lay a foundation. We will take the time to look at many things along the way, so this series will be much more than just the Bible stories in order. However, we will not do a Bible study on each verse of each book. We will go through the Bible and then we will come back and take it a book at a time.

In this series, we will look at dates. I understand that there is a lot of argument about this subject, but we will not be proclaiming anything too particular. What I mean by that is, we won't be pinpointing month and day for a particular event. At the same time, I do want to point out when these events took place in general so we get a sense of how the world unfolded, and brought us to our modern time. While the Bible does not give us dates,

it does give us genealogy. It also makes it very clear that there were only so many generations between certain events. This gives us a pretty good idea of what time periods we are talking about. Once again, you need to keep in mind that we are looking at the Bible as the unmovable cornerstone of this study, not the foolishness of men. We take what God said as true, and the world has its own system of looking at things. We will talk more about this from time to time, through this study, but let me just get the ball rolling by simply reminding you that the carnal mind is enmity against God. (Rom. 8:7) You have to realize the things carnal men like to state as fact, are not just things they have come to believe, but they are actually trying to say the Bible can not possibly be true.

Men like to use a stretch theory. As they go back in history, they find places where they feel the time is not set in stone, then they stretch those places to add extra time. Of course, the further back you go the easier this is to do. It is hard to say that World War II lasted a thousand years! We all know that isn't true. There are still those living among us that fought in it. It is even difficult to say the Romans ruled for 10,000 years, because the records surviving from the time don't give you that freedom. However, if you go back to a time where there are few to no records that have survived, you can stretch that period into thousands, millions or even billions of years! As you compare the record the Bible gives with the record that man lays out, there are no real disputes until you get past the time where the Bible is the only record, and other writings or records are few. Once again, we will not go with man's made for evolution record, we will go with the Word of God!

Well, that's all the space I have for this time, but if you are still thinking this is just a high points series, let me say (anyone who has been at the Institute can tell you this is true) this first series will take us a very long time. If you are looking for the quick Bible study that will take you through the Bible in a few short lessons, I'm afraid this series will not be your cup of tea. However, if you have always wanted to know the Word in depth, then come along with me, because I think we're going to get along just fine! So, write us today, subscribe to this newsletter, and I'll see you next time!

One Nation Under God?

By Philip E. Busby

On June 26, 2002, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional. The reason, because it contains the line “One nation under God”! This pledge wording issue comes to the front because this is supposed to be a free nation where people can believe what they want; therefore, they do not have to say, one nation under God, if they don't want to, right! Right! Now don't tell me you were really shocked. I mean, we all knew this was coming someday! The part that shocked me the most, was the fact Congress responded so quickly to condemn the ruling!

Just for the record, I am pleased we recognize God in at least some small way still; but at the same time there is something that bothers me! You see there are many of us that I believe find a false sense of security in the idea we live in a “Christian Nation,” and it is for that security we fight. The issue most Christians will see in all of this is, once again, the government is out to squelch the fact that this nation was based on Christian ideas. This is definitely true, but in worrying about this we, many times, lose focus in our personal lives. We should all recognize the world will wax worse and worse! If The Lord should tarry and the US survives as a nation, there will be a day when even our money will not trust in God!

Take a minute to think about why so many people balk at the idea of saying “under God” in a pledge. I mean, who cares, if we believe in any god, maybe we are just saying we believe this nation is under that god. Can't they just believe we are saying whatever god you believe in. Is it really that important he have a name, I mean god is what we make him, right! If we believe in no god then it really shouldn't matter! If there is no god then there is no point to life other than to enjoy it. If you feel there is no god then why does it matter if your child comes home asking about it. Why wouldn't you simply explain it is a silly concept some people

believe in to find meaning in their life. If there is no god then what are you so afraid of, or what is it that offends you so badly. It's not like you're going to answer to a higher power someday for recognizing there is a god. You would need a god for that! Surely, it is far more harmful to your life to take the time fighting the pledge, than it is just to accept the fact that there is some god believing silliness around you.

The simple fact is, saying "under God" is to recognize The Creator of the universe, and this should remind us or maybe point out to us a fact many forget or have never been taught! Every human that has lived from Adam until now, is born with the knowledge there is a God. (Ps. 22:9-10, 58:3-5, 71:6, Isa. 49:1, Jer. 1:4-5, Luke 1:15, 1:39-45) That's right! God knows us and we know Him. The question is, do we want to? The corruption in the flesh tries to get us to forget God. Not all gods but The True God! Why do we care to say, "under God"? Because many people live their lives running from God. (Rom. 1:28-32) If we take the time to confess Him and believe He has provided a Lamb, (Gen. 22:7-8) we are compelled to walk with Him! (Rom. 10:8-9)

So, what we should all see in this is the fact that, once again, life gives us an example that the Bible is truth! God is not found in religion; He is not found in health and/or wealth; He is found in that still small voice we have known since the day we were conceived! (I Kin. 19:11-13, John 10:27-28) We should all rest easier knowing, whether people are willing to acknowledge God or not, the world will always know He is there!