# Payton's Pen

Image Bearer!

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, so that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Gen. 1:26

When God created the world, He left the best for last. God created man in His image. The Bible tells us that God is not flesh and blood but Spirit ( John 4:24). The Bible tells us that we are made in His image in that we have a soul that lives for all of eternity. God has given us the ability to reason and choose, which separates us from the animals that God gave us dominion over. Animals are incapable of sin because they have not been given a soul. Animals act out of instinct. There is no right or wrong in their world.

The sad truth is that many people believe there is no difference between the animals that inhabit our world and the people God created in His image. Peta states that humans are wrong to think they are superior to animals. They refer to that thinking as "Speciesism." From the Peta web page, I found the following definition, "Speciesism is a misguided belief that one species is more important than another. This toxic mindset is deeply ingrained in our society, and it results in all kinds of negative consequences".

The result of this kind of thinking is the devaluing of human life. The idea that a baby in the womb is not life and can be killed up to birth directly results from the devaluing of life made in the image of God. Just this past May, a 23-year-old Belgian woman who survived a deadly Islamic State bombing of a Brussels airport opted to die by euthanasia after years of mental health issues stemming from the attack.

The euthanasia was approved by two psychiatrists earlier this year after she struggled for years with anxiety and depression. This happens when men and women believe there is no difference between men and animals. They deny the Creator and worship the creation. When one can come to the belief that there is no God and we evolved from a mud puddle than it easy to see why they believe that man is no different from an animal and neither have a soul. Do you have to ask yourself how this could ever happen in the world?

But God did create man in His image and gave us a soul that would live forever. God also created us to live as His image bearers on the earth. As Christian men and women, this means that we follow Christ and live our faith daily. Each of us must self-examine our daily lives and see if we are living lives representing the One who saved us.

Your shepherd,

**Pastor Mark** 

Quote of the Week

"We cannot continue to send our children to Caesar for their education and be surprised when they come home as Romans." — Voddie T. Baucham Jr.

Grace Gemy

The god of this generation! (Arthur Pink)

"Our God is in Heaven — He does whatever He pleases!" Psalm 115:3

How different is the God of the Bible from the god of modern Christendom! The conception of Deity which prevails most widely today, even among those who profess to give heed to the Scriptures, is a miserable caricature, a blasphemous travesty of the Truth.

Ah, my reader, the God of Scripture is no make-believe monarch, no mere imaginary sovereign; but King of kings, and Lord of lords! To countless thousands, even among those professing to be Christians, the God of the Scriptures is quite unknown. The god of this generation is a helpless, effeminate being who commands the respect of no really thoughtful man. He no more resembles the Supreme Sovereign of Holy Writ, than does the dim flickering of a candle, the glory of the midday sun! The god who is now . . .

talked about in the average pulpit, spoken of in the ordinary Sunday School, mentioned in much of the religious literature of the day, and preached in most of the so-called Bible Conferences — is the figment of human imagination, an invention of mushy sentimentality!

The heathen outside of the pale of Christendom form gods out of wood and stone — while the millions of heathen inside Christendom manufacture a god out of their own carnal mind! In reality, they are but atheists, for there is no other possible alternative between an absolutely supreme God — and no God at all. A god whose will is resisted, whose designs are frustrated, whose purpose is checkmated, possesses no title to Deity — and so far from being a fit object of worship, merits nothing but contempt!

"I know that You can do anything, and no plan of Yours can be thwarted." Job 42:2

"The Lord does whatever He pleases in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all the depths." Psalm 135:6

"Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty\_reigns!" Revelation 19:6

## Weekly Gatherings



#### **Bible Classes**

Old & New Testament Classes Ladies Class Young Adults Young Parents Youth Surge Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM



#### **Weekday Meetings**

Mondays | 7PM Men's Bible Study 1st and 3rd Saturday Women of Grace | 9AM



#### **Family Groups**

Thursdays @ 7PM every other week @ Chambers, Cox's, Patrick's, Brown's and Royall's



#### **Build the Body Teams**

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team and forgot to sign up, please contact the team leader at the appropriate email address.



#### **Youth Study**

Wednesdays @6:30PM Youth Study and AWANA!



#### **Service Times**

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM Sunday School 9:30AM Children's Church @11:00AM Giving from service on 10/09/2022

 General Offering
 8,968.00

 Building Fund
 1,205.00

 Total
 10,173.00

Attendance ........... 232 Sunday School ...... 161 Online ......... 20

### Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org
 AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org
 Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org
 Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org
 Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org
 Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org
 Maintenance-maintenance @ghbcva.org
 Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org
 Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org
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