

The Short Road to Irrelevance

Already Gone by Ken Ham & Britt Beemer

In the continuing premise that the Church has lost its relevance (or is irrelevant), Ken and Britt begin this chapter with the ironic fact that Charles Darwin is buried in the Westminster Abbey. Certainly know for his denial of God, Charles does not seem like the type that would have desired to be buried in the Church...

Coinciding with Darwin's publications, the view of the English Church began to consider – and embrace – evolution as a potential if not accept his theories.

Much of the Church in England (and then across the United Kingdom and Europe) began to adopt Darwin ideas, reinterpreting the Genesis account of creation and proposing views such as “theistic evolution” (that God used Evolution to bring the different life forms into being).

These changes spawned the “road to irrelevancy”: the Church gave the earthly things (example of the biological, astronomical, etc.) and turned solely to the heavenly things (spiritual, relationships, the Gospel).



As this road was traveled, the Church incurred further change, as the authors explain:

When it came to science, the Church gave in to human notions. It was now acceptable to use man's ideas to re-interpret the Bible rather than to use the Bible to judge man's ideas...**It was the historical or origins science that the Church gave up to the world – and thus disconnected the Bible from the real world.**

In the review of history, the authors conclude that:

The Bible, God and Church have become irrelevant in less than three generations. Generations have gone down this slippery slide of unbelief, until they have now basically rejected the entire Bible and its message of salvation.

At the end of this “road” is not so much the fine details of creation, but is more about the authority behind it; for where the Bible is disregarded as an account of creation it may just as well be disregarded as the way to salvation. This authority is the point of contention for the authors who recognize that any alternative is “undermining the authority of the word of God”.

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In the examples that follow, the authors point to the courts of our society as evidence to the disregard for Biblical things: “Most courts have given up asking someone to place their hand on a Bible while taking an oath of truthfulness”. But in view of other examples (of disregard), this one seems small and of little consequence: in my limited experience, *due-process* does not include the search for truth – failing to seek it in the first place, or deliberately overlooking it’s violation in clear examples of libel or slander. With the plea bargain, who needs the truth?

Back to creation and the Bible, the view shared by the authors (and still others) is that the Bible is the authoritative word of God. In the present state of our culture however, they conclude:

The authority of Scriptures is the foundation. If this is not protected, everything will eventually crumble. **In honesty isn’t that where we are already?** If we look at our schools, our churches, and our families we have to admit that the relevance of Scripture is already gone in this culture.

Hope does live; and that hope can be manifest by:

- Defending the word of God
- Living the word of God
- Standing on the word of God uncompromisingly