

Erasing or Enduring?

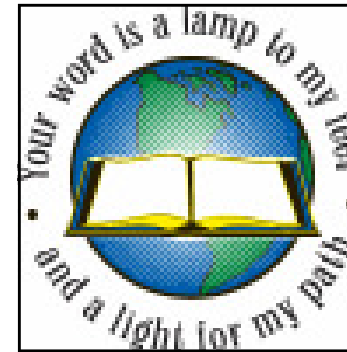
Xerox Corporation said it has found a way to create temporary images on paper that would self-erase in 24 hours or less. The special pages could theoretically be used again and again - as many as 50 times.

The idea started three or four years ago when its researchers discovered that 40 percent of printed pages are used for the day, then thrown away. With that in mind, Xerox decided there was clear demand for paper that could be re-used, but not recycled, on a daily basis.

The team designed paper covered with special chemicals. Once the paper goes through the printer, the chemicals are exposed to a light source that causes the text on the paper to gradually fade. It disappears completely in 16 to 24 hours, but can be quickly erased by running it through the printer again.

Though documents are not yet printed on this paper, in reality, all printed material is temporary. However, Christians have a more sure Word. The Word of God has been settled in heaven forever (Psalm 119:89).

"We have also a more sure word..." 2 Peter 1:19



The Black Creek Courier

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**"I am the Way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
(John 14:6)**

June 28, 2009

The Conviction Crisis

"And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.'" Luke 22:41-42 (ESV)

"Then Paul answered, 'What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.' And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, 'Let the will of the Lord be done.'" Acts 21:13-14 (ESV)

Jesus and Paul demonstrated their deep conviction and devotion to God by their willingness to suffer and die to do the will of God. Many early Christians like Stephen and James gave their lives for the cause of Christ.

When Dr. David Livingston was working in Africa, a group of friends wrote him: "We would like to send other men to you. Have you found a good road into your area yet?" According to a member of his family, Dr. Livingston sent this message in reply: "If you have men who will only come if they know there is a good road, I don't want them. I want men who will come if there is no road at all."

American society has relentlessly pressured Christians to abandon or compromise their preaching and morals in order to accommodate a "melting pot" society.

Educators and media leaders have used political correctness to vilify the convictions of Christianity. Let a man say he believes in creation, and society instantly regards him as unlearned and unworthy of a voice. Let a man speak out against sexual immorality, and America will vilify him as a judgmental bigot guilty of a hate crime and akin to Adolf Hitler. It is not easy to uphold the will of God in America today.

Sadly, many Christians are either ignorant of the Lord's will in such matters or are unwilling to take a stand for what they believe. One wonders if American Christians today would sacrifice their lives for the Lord. If society can bully Christians to forsake their convictions and abandon their morals, there is little hope that these Christians can serve as a conscience for the nation.

Godless people are unafraid to bully others and force the issue. They do not treat others the way they wish to be treated; they want their way and will do anything to get it. When the godly remain silent on vital issues and essential morals due to fear, society will become increasingly more aggressive in their agendas.

In the midst of all of this are Christian leaders who beat the drum of change, thinking that accommodation to culture will win souls and bring about greater devotion to Christ. One, however, cannot lead others to a place one has already abandoned. Instead of being lights in the world, compromising leaders and parents have chosen confusion and darkness.

People who trust in the times can be negotiated out of their choices by the winds of change. Convictions, however, are non-negotiable. Christians who love God won't sell out their faith or morals, even if the truth is difficult to bear. When the crowd walks away, they will not follow because they know only Jesus has the Words of life (John 6:66-69).

People who yield to cultural fads weaken under pressure while people with the conviction of faith grow stronger. Faith always builds strength in the character, while uncertainty and compromise weaken the soul. The fight of the Cross was first won at Gethsemane. He endured the tremendous suffering without caving in emotionally because He resolved to do right long before the time of testing.

Peer pressure has no age limit. While the young are always susceptible to the calling of the crowd, many adults are now falling prey to the pull of the age. Some of the authorities in Jesus' day believed, "but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God" (John 12:43-43, ESV). Some leaders today need to consider where they are leading those who follow.

People who live by the dictates of the times dislike those who hold convictions. The apostle Peter warned early converts that their pagan friends were surprised to see them leave the old way of life for Christianity and would put them down (1 Peter 4:4). Evil has always hated the light, and one should not expect that to change.

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Sunday Morning:
Bible Class: 10:00 AM
Worship: 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening:
Worship: 6:00 PM

7:00 PM



Visit our website at:

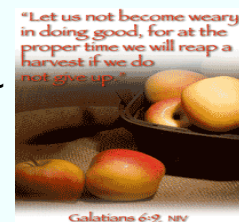
www.blackcreekchurchofchrist.org



- ◆ Bible Call
- ◆ Georgia Mission (Soperton Church of Christ, Soperton, GA)
- ◆ Bible Correspondance Courses & Tracts (By Request)

Works of Benevolence:

- ◆ Hospital Benevolence Basket ~ Orange Park Medical Center
- ◆ Raintree Village Children's Home (Valdosta, GA)



Works of Edification:

- ◆ The Black Creek Courier
- ◆ Black Creek Christian School
- ◆ Visitation Program
- ◆ Vacation Bible School
- ◆ Bible Classes For All Ages
- ◆ Keenagers Group (Over -50)



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Gospel (Matthew 7:24-27; Romans 10:14,17) → Believe the Gospel (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6) → Repent of My Sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30) → Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10) → Be Baptized (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21) → Be Faithful Unto Death (Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10).



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Society still doesn't want its sins exposed. Postmodern America remains mysteriously confused and inconsistent in its thinking as major cultural changes are taking place. Rejecting the traditional Judeo-Christian beliefs and morals, many have embraced a non-judgmental ethic. They have merely determined not to make **any** judgment about anything immoral or Christian.

Further, many Americans have inconsistencies in their own beliefs. More than eighty-five percent of Americans claim to be Christians; but according to the U.S. Religious Landscape Survey, most Americans (70 %) say that many religions - not just their own - can lead to eternal life.

Belief in Christ should include what Christ has said about Himself, Jesus said, "I am the Way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6, ESV). The apostle Peter declared "there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12, ESV). The apostle Paul clearly says there is one faith (Eph. 4:4-6). If this be true, then Christianity is an exclusive religion.

Most Americans tend to fear dogmatism to the point that they are unwilling to take a stand for what they believe in the face of opposition. They know what they prefer to believe but remain amazingly silent when their faith is contradicted. They can tell you what they believe but are afraid to stand against much of anything.

For instance, while seventy-eight percent of Americans believe there are absolute moral standards of right and wrong and eighty-two percent would say religion is somewhat or very important to them, only twenty-nine percent would rely mainly on their religious beliefs for guidance regarding right and wrong. Only forty percent would oppose homosexuality, and only forty-three percent say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases. When push comes to shove, many Christians who claim their faith is important give lip service to their convictions. They are not willing to side with the will of God in opposing evil.

While many are fainting in their faith, this is not the time to give up. Should we give up and remain silent, we could not prove to be the spokesmen God needs in times such as these. Paul asked others to pray for his boldness (Eph. 6:19-20; Col. 4:2-4; 1 Thess. 2:2), and we too need boldness to speak the truth in a hostile society. Our faith and our hope in God should lead us to speak with boldness (2 Cor. 3:12).

Instead of retreating, we must remain focused on God and continue to speak out for the will of God. Paul said, "Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others" (2 Cor. 5:11). Perhaps at no time in our history has the need been greater for Christian parents and leaders to train their children in the way of God. If America continues to decline morally and spiritually, a generation may arise that know nothing of God. We cannot stop fighting for our faith.

~ Phil Sanders

WORSHIP
THE LORD
IN THE
BEAUTY
OF HOLINESS

FALSIFICATION OF GOOD

All faithful Christians should understand the evil involved in falsifying that which is good. Christians should filter all they see and hear through the Scriptures (1 John 4:1). However, we know that not all Christians will. Isaiah stated that we are to be aware of those who refer to that which is evil as good (Isaiah 5:20). When other Christians justify and condone wickedness, they must recognize that they have become an abomination to God (Proverbs 17:15).

Many within the Church, and most outside the Church, have a difficult time determining the difference between good and evil. This inability to discern the difference between good and evil, results in many men and women choosing evil instead of good. Much of this is the result of their refusal to accept the most readily available standards of the Holy Scriptures (Hosea 4:6).

The transition from good to evil in society is not always easily discernable. A twilight zone of shifting shadows and continually changing definitions can produce a problem. When we step out of the sunlight and into the shadows we pass through a penumbral zone (an area of partial shade). In this murky light we hear disturbing and confusing terminology. Individuals or groups of people are referred to as savage, subhuman, or animal. The mental state that would cause us to use such terms to refer to people, stems from a lack of Bible knowledge (see Genesis 1:26-27).

Students of history recognize that the classification of people as animals is something that has occurred many times in the past. The indigenous people of North and South America, as well as Africa, were called "savages" and were enslaved or killed. The influence of Darwinian thought upon societies in the late 1800's led to changes in economics, racism, warfare, and business. Of particular influence was the idea of "survival of the fittest."

Racism is an example of how good was falsified in the last century. The idea of one race being superior to another race is a product of Darwinian biological theory. Most biologists would say this was an aberration of a sound theory. John West wrote a book entitled, "Darwin's Day in America". In his book, he shows that the promotion of the concept of some so-called superior race has happened far too many times for it to be an aberration. In fact, racism appears to be a common factor in the pernicious theory of Darwinian evolution. The Lord said that we shall know them by their fruits (Matt. 7:18). The fruits of this theory are the deaths of millions of people in the twentieth century. Sadly, our culture today still embraces this theory even though history has shown us the evil and ugly outcome.

As we confront the evils of Neo-Darwinism, secularism, communism, and Islam, let us never forget the words which God spoke through Isaiah the prophet so long ago. "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 4:20).

~ David Campbell

Black Creek...This Week

Servants For the Month of June

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry Russell	Larry Russell
Scripture Reading	Gordon Richau	Gordon Richau
Song Leader	Sam Sipper	Steve Atnip, Jr.
Opening Prayer	Don Miller	Floyd Grace
Lord's Table	Stanley Posey	Stanley Posey
Assistant	Don Shaw	
Assistant	Billy Smith	
Assistant	Stephen Hedgecock	
Assistant	Dennis Evans	
Sermon	Steve Atnip, Sr.	Steve Atnip, Sr.
Closing Prayer	Dick Morgan	Ted Copeland
Prepare Communion	(June) Marne Miller	(July) Brenda Russell
Cleaning the Building	(June) Marne Miller	(July) The Richau's
Nursery Attendant	(AM) Brenda Russell	(PM) ???



Keep Them In Your Prayers...

Black Creek Family:

Doug Pope, Stephen Hedgecock, Carolyn Lackey, Copeland family, Posey family, Morgan family, Dasher family, Shaw family, Sonny Best, Grace family, John Moore, the Dennard family, Dix family, O'Conner Vaughn, Blair family, Scriven family, Evans family, and Maloy family.

Away:

Aubrey Heath (Brenda's Sister), Pardue Family, Kay Van Horne, Jayne Imery (Carolyn's son's fiance), Steve Holiday (Mary Dennard's Nephew), Evan Chapman (5 yr. old who was just diagnosed with Leukemia), Thompson Family, Baxter & Mary Louis Forrester, Dwayne Seaman and family, Cindy Anderson, James Smith, Kay Taylor, Dorothy Wilson, Eileen Lacy, Donald Petteway, Robert Vaughn, Gerri West, Terry Thompson, Gary Bartlett, Sloan Hunter, Bob Melson, and Catherine Moon, Judy Angelo.



We are so happy that you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us, please remain a bit after services so we can become acquainted and let you know how special you are to us. Also, if you have any questions concerning anything you saw in our services today, please ask any one of us here today. We will be more than happy to answer any of your questions.



There is a list on the bulletin board for anyone who could volunteer to watch the little ones during service if the need is present.

Mailboxes: Please remember to check your mailboxes weekly.

Hospital Basket: We need to restock our snacks for the Hospital basket. If anyone can contribute, please see Billy Smith or Mary Register.

Ladies Bible Class: There will be no ladies Bible class for the this week due to VBS.



There will be a finger food fellowship tonight after the evening services. We will also be celebrating Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month of June.

Arlington Church of Christ: Is offering a 12-week course entitled **Historical Christian Evidences (Apologetics 1)** on Tuesday evenings starting on May 26th. For more information, see the bulletin board.

Children's Home Food Truck: Will be stopping by the church building on July 6 anywhere from 11 AM to 1 PM. The list of foods and items needed are posted on the bulletin board.



Thanks to all those who volunteered their time and efforts in this years VBS. It was a huge success and couldn't do it without all the hours of work from each and every one of you. Thank you so much.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR PHONES ON SILENT OR VIBRATE.

