

# Pressing On!

Philippians 3:12-14

Vol. 108 - 3

Sept. - Dec. 2013

NEW  
TESTAMENT  
MINISTRIES -  
UNLIMITED

The NTMU has been a fellowship of Gospel workers since 1902, always engaged in preaching the Good News of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ, seeking to plant New Testament churches.

To read more, go to:

[www.ntmu.net/](http://www.ntmu.net/)

You'd rather receive  
"PRESSING ON!"  
by snailmail?  
Let us know!

## NTMU offices:

U.S.A. > 208 Barons Rd., CLEMMONS, NC 27012-7203  
Email: <[Bfallsrd@aol.com](mailto:Bfallsrd@aol.com)>

U.K. > 60 Chesterfield Rd, EASTHAM CH62 8ER  
Email: <[albert.robinson@ntlworld.com](mailto:albert.robinson@ntlworld.com)>

Spain > Your Editor: Jim van Heiningen,  
Apartado 31, 29700 VÉLEZ-MÁLAGA  
Email:  
<[pressingonstill@gmail.com](mailto:pressingonstill@gmail.com)>

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2: *What Ails You?* -  
Howel Jones

PAGE 2&3: *Apostles of the Absurd* -  
Stephen R. Crosby

PAGE 4&5: *The Tale of 2 NT Churches* -  
Jim van Heiningen

PAGE 6: *The Marvelous Chicken Egg* -  
Dr. Jobe Martin

PRESSING ON! (DL: MA 1367-98)  
published 3x-a-year-free

## Hopelessly Sold Out

The real peril today arises from within the fold of orthodox believers. It consists of an acceptance of the world's values, a belief that the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them are valid prizes to be pursued by believing men and women. Blind leaders of blind souls are admitting that there is something to be said in favor of the world's glory after all; they insist that Christians should not cut themselves off from the pleasures of the world, except, of course, from those that are too degraded for respectable society. Everything else goes, and the very values that Christ scorned are now being used to attract people to the gospel.

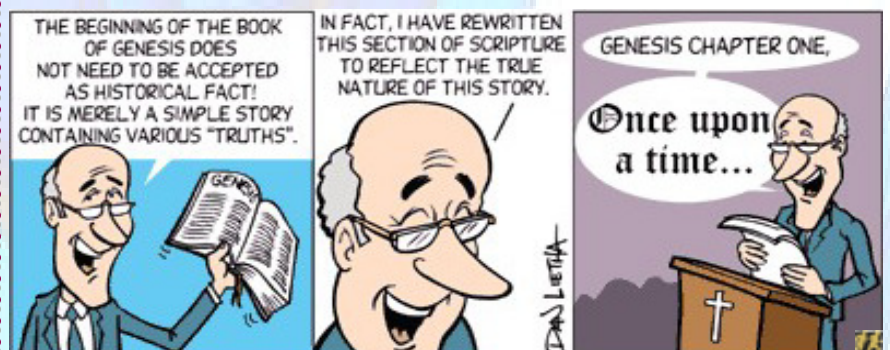
Christ now stands in need of a patron, a celebrity who will sponsor Him before the world. He looks weakly about for some well-known figure upon whose popularity He can ride forth as He once rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. His ability to draw men unto Him is frankly doubted, so He is provided with a gimmick to do the trick for Him. The cheap and tawdry glory which He once rejected is placed around His head as a crown. The crown they give Him is studded with paste imitations, all borrowed from the world: middle-class prosperity, success, fame, publicity, money, crowds, social acceptance, pomp, display, earthly honor. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life have all been Christianized (not by the liberal, mind you, but by the evangelicals) and are now offered along with Christ to everyone who will "believe."

And on top of this we still pray for revival, with no awareness of our dark betrayal and no intention to repent. All such prayers are vain. We need only humble ourselves to obey the truth and the true revival has already started. An emotional revival superimposed upon an evangelical religion, hopelessly sold out to the glory of the world, would but increase the confusion and confirm the deception.

O Lord, save your people from such a snare! — A.W. Tozer  
(As quoted in "The Functioning Church" by Alex R. Hay)

## The Evangelical Professor

Source: "Answers in Genesis"





# What Ails You?

Lessons from Galatians

Howel Jones

This is a letter to Christian congregations who were dear to Paul's heart. It is probable that they had resulted from the endeavors of his missionary journey in Asia Minor with Barnabas. An encouragement then, they had now fallen foul of influences that threatened to arrest their development and to rob them of the potential growth in their Christian experience. In expressing his concern he covers three main areas.

He begins by establishing, once again, his own credentials. After opposing the new message at first, he encountered the truth on the Damascus road. He then went into Arabia on his own to consolidate his grasp of the gospel and its implications - something that he alludes to from time to time in other letters. When he eventually appeared before the apostles, they readily accepted his transformation and standing. Paul declares that he is a new creature and claims, **"I live, yet, not I, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me"**.

From that authentic stance he now shares his concern for them. Having started well, they have allowed their


growth to be arrested by succumbing to teaching that imposed the external requirements of the law upon them. Not only does he express his concern - **"My little children I yearn that Christ may be formed in you"** - but he also explains that the law was meant to be a means to an end temporarily only, to be replaced by the real thing. They should not now revert from the genuine transforming experience, obtained by faith, to a works-related obligation of law-observance. They should be free to grow.

Finally, he encourages them to enjoy that freedom and not allow themselves to be subjected to unnecessary and unhelpful bondage.

But that freedom is to be used responsibly. The secret is to live by the Spirit, to be motivated by "Christ in you". By walking in the Spirit they safeguard themselves from reverting to the unsavoury aspects of the old nature - immorality, etc. Instead, they should display the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Because, **"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its**

passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit"

The key is action. Consequences depend on those deliberate actions, **"for God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."** Tiring though that may be, they should persevere and grow dynamically, not be stifled by crippling constraints of those whose focus is on external show. For Paul the dynamic principle is to glory **"in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world"**.

What can we learn from this epistle? Among other things is a warning not to be waylaid by additional impositions which come from untried sources that only stifle growth, but to stay with the simple, dynamic, truth of the original gospel! In how many situations in our Christian experience are we susceptible to unwarranted additional demands of the 'gospel plus'? Productive Christian life is Christ-life as expressed in those words of Paul: **"I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me."** 

## Apostles of the Absurd

Prophets of the Preposterous

Stephen R Crosby

If someone you loved dearly was engaged in behavior that was destructive to himself and others around him, your love would compel you to have an intervention, even if the person didn't like it.

I've been a life-long charismatic believer. I am thankful for my heritage, my tribe, if you will. However, as the years have rolled by my heart has broken as I have watched that heritage drift further and further into self-destructive thinking and practices: intoxicating Gnosticism. Even the term "charismatic" has been so polluted in popular understanding that I wish there was an alternative to use.

In my tribe of the family of God, it has reached the point that if anyone shows any passion for a disciplined commitment to the accurate handling of Scripture, that person will be called a legalist, a dogmatist, narrow, judgmental, too doctrinal, hopelessly left-brained, not open to the Spirit, too "Word-focused", "a spiritual sheriff", "old-order", and other charming labels.

The attitude saturates popular-level social media. I deal with it frequently in interactions with individuals. Theology is considered a problem, a nuisance to be gotten rid of - a "limiting restraint" on the Spirit of God; man-made chains to be broken in order to free us into the liberty of God's Spirit (I have actually had "leaders" tell me that). News flash: the Word and the Spirit are NOT in competition for primacy!

I believe in a broad bandwidth of "orthodoxy". I have titles in my library by Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Syrian/Coptic authors. I have been blessed by them. I am not looking for conformity of thought to my way of thinking on every blessed point of biblical minutiae. God forbid! What a boring world that would be! I don't even believe everything I believe! I certainly don't expect others to!

I don't believe that doctrine/teaching is the beginning and end-all of life in Christ. I understand that "theology" is not the river of life. I understand that being a dead, dry, "theologian" is not a compliment. However, the other extreme is also true! Having little or no biblical discipline is not a compliment! If the river of our spirituality has no banks, if the highway of our journey has no guardrails, we should not be surprised if we end up drowned or in the ditch. My tribe is drowning in the ditch.



Lest you think I am fussing about minor points of doctrine, here are some real examples of the scale of this problem in my tribe. These are samples from my little corner of the world. You do the extrapolation. You estimate the tens of thousands affected by what I share here:

I once saw a very well known "apostle", a leader of a world-wide "network", a member of the International Coalition of Apostles (ICA), get up in front of an adoring throng of gullible young people and say: "I know that what I am about to say is not what the Scriptures mean from the passage I will be using, but the Spirit has told me to teach..." He proceeded to mock disciplined exegesis, scholarship, and theologians and went on to fill the notebooks and minds of those impressionable young people with pure fantasy mush from his supposed "prophetic-apostolic revelation". This man heads a world-wide network/association.

Another person from the ICA that I knew personally taught that theology gets in the way of the anointing and we need to get rid of it. (I was in the meeting where he shared that). He said that what we needed was more anointing, not more scholars. I have since come to realize that it was his deep insecurity talking.

Another member of the ICA, the head of a large international organization, with a strong emphasis on "father-son" teaching, spiritual covering, submission to the set-man, etc., was on the platform at a conference when one of his young "sons/acolytes" got up in the meeting, began extolling this man's lofty virtues, and "exceptional anointing". The young man suggested that the spiritual father was so anointed that the folks should be baptized into the name of this "apostle". Nothing was done or said in the meeting about this. Whether something was said or done behind the scenes I do not know. I sure hope so. But since it was a public incidence, it should have been corrected in public, for the benefit of the public in attendance at the time.

I had another so-called apostle tell me that he never studies the Scriptures prior to preaching. He said that too much study gets in the way of the "flow of revelation". Then, semi-chagrined, he said that he just hopes after he is done that he can find something in the Scriptures to back up what he just taught. He was not trying to be funny. He was serious. This man also oversaw a worldwide network/association.

I once had a conversation with another apostle, going over the Scriptures with him. He didn't like what I was bringing, but admitted it was correct and said: "When you have a large and successful ministry like I do, then I will consider changing what I teach, until then I am going to keep on doing what I am doing."

I had a conversation with an apostolic-evangelist who was bashing theology and said that too much emphasis on "doctrine" gets in the way of the revelation of the "cosmic-Christ" in each of us.

I was in a meeting where a "prophet" worked the crowd and preached for 90 minutes without ever mentioning Jesus or the Scriptures. What he presented was full-on, new age, astral projection, portals, frequencies, and vibrations. He openly and publicly mocked those who would question him. Here's the kicker: He was invited to stay for weeks as a headliner for "revival meetings" because he was so "anointed." It was doubly sad as the crowd was made up largely of young and impressionable new converts who were swallowing everything this "prophet" had to say. I was so grieved in this meeting I got up and left and cried and prayed in the parking lot, where I met two others doing the same. But three out of 300+ in attendance is not very encouraging.

I was in another meeting at a church overseen by a young apostolic-pastor where the youth in this church were being

instructed by their youth-leader in techniques of astral projection. He was teaching them how, as a group, to leave their bodies (en masse), go into astral planes, talk to the dead, and come back and give "testimonies" of their conversation with dead people. This church thought they were having "revival" among their young people. These young people were paraded on Sunday morning with their testimony of talking to Martin Luther, Abraham Lincoln, and more. Of course the leadership could pull up some obscure Old Testament proof text, poorly exegeted, to "justify" what they were doing. "Necromancy for Jesus." There's a winner for you.

I once had a conversation with an elder's wife, pointing to something Jesus said in the Scriptures, red-letter stuff, that she didn't want to face. Her stunning response was: "I don't believe that; my Jesus is not like that". The essence of idolatry is to make up one's own god in the "chambers of our imagery" as Ezekiel calls it. She was a "wonderful person". Well, wonderful people believe, say, do, and teach stupid things all the time.

Friends, these stories I have recounted here are 100% true, and I wish I could say they are all I have. They are not. I could go on and on.

It would be easy to overlook this matter if spiritual novices were the source of the problem-babes who didn't know any better. That's not the case. I hear and see these sorts of things on a regular basis coming from so-called apostles, prophets, and other leaders and influencers with high profile media and multinational ministries.

It has reached the point that being thought or considered "prophetic" and having a "successful ministry" apparently means teaching or believing anything you want, with utter disregard for a disciplined posture before the Scriptures.

Cook up your own fantasy typology? Doesn't matter. Teach "doctrine" from your dreams and visions? Doesn't matter. Misrepresent God with a twisted scripture? Doesn't matter. Disregard scriptural context? Doesn't matter. Disregard language disciplines? Doesn't matter. Disregard original culture or intent? Doesn't matter.

We are in deep trouble. The whole family is sick. The family I love is diseased. The womb that birthed me is defiled.

"Steve, this is so negative, there are lots of wonderful people (apostles and prophets) who are not like this. Why don't you focus on that?"

Thinking that way is like watching a pedophile violate a young girl in the bushes, and doing nothing about it because "lots of married people have God-sanctioned sex, there is good sex too, you know, why don't you focus on that?"

I don't focus on that because tens of thousands of innocents are being violated in the spiritual bushes of the kingdom! The fact that the good exists is irrelevant to the dysfunction that damages.

Genuinely well people don't need a physician. Unfortunately, everyone of these instances I have recounted was with someone who was considered "anointed", "wonderful", "sincere", "humble", "Spirit-filled", overall decent chap, with adoring followers who thought they were well!

What is the remedy? Stop the nonsense. Develop some courage. Stand up to these authority figures. Say something. Stop supporting these folks with your time, talents, and treasure. Don't be complicit in their ways. Quit making excuses for them. Stop being blinded by financial and numeric success. Abandon Christian celebrity-ism. Don't allow yourself to be bullied or intimidated into silence by them. Ask embarrassing questions. Tell the emperor he has no clothes on. Return home to the welcome of **Christ and Him crucified!**





# The Tale of Two NT Churches

4

Jim van Heiningen

Revelation 2 & 3

- 1) The **Smyrna** congregation: Abject poverty! Pitiful indeed! However, they were declared truly rich - **rich in Christ!**  
2) The **Laodicea** congregation: Incredibly wealthy!! But then, the spiritual X-ray reveals reality: **Total bankruptcy!**

This is the seventh and last in our series of New Testament portraits of striking contrasts. We started off with what Matthew portrays of the pagan magi and the Jewish theologians. The last portrait we gave was of the two contrasted imperialists - Cornelius and Agrippa - in Acts 10 & 12. Each portrait makes for fascinating scrutiny. Most importantly, as we look at a portrait, there is the challenge:

Who do I identify with? Is it number 1, or number 2!

Now we are about to look at the amazing contrast between two (New Testament) congregations - not very far apart geographically, yet, spiritually, on different planets! The Smyrna Christians, known for being poor, were pronounced rich by their Lord; but the Laodicea ones, so rich and wealthy in their own eyes, were known by their Lord to be "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked". What an indictment! And what a contrast! All that premeditated and acquired prosperity of the Laodicea Christians was utterly contemptible and repugnant to HIM, and worthy only of being vomited.

## When Poverty Is a Blessing

Jesus told the apostle John to write to (or, more correctly, 'for') the messenger from **Smyrna**, who had come (or was to come) to be with John on the Isle of Patmos. The letter was to be taken back by the messenger to the congregation on the main land.

In the letter, the Lord introduces himself as the One who is "the First" and "the Last" and... was "dead". How could "the First and the Last" be dead? Impossible, we'd say. Unless that dead Creator/Redeemer comes back to life. It is what John was told to write: **"He came to life!"**

Since that moment of resurrection, the Risen Lord speaks frankly to his followers about the realities of life and death, which can be hard and unforgiving. The Smyrna Christians too were having to face tribulation, poverty, blasphemy from their rivals, suffering, prison, more tribulation and death - much of it because their lives were living testimonies to the **FIRST** and the **LAST**!

HE is the One who knows the end from the beginning. Lovingly He prepares his people for what is about to burst on them. The Romans demanded emperor worship, and the Christians were not prepared to worship any person or entity outside the God who had saved them through Christ.

In 155 AD one of their elders, Polycarp - at the age of 84, met a martyr's death at the stake. Polycarp had learned much from the apostle John and it is not unlikely that he was the "messenger from Smyrna", who came to John on the Isle of Patmos.

Yet, in spite of all their suffering, and in the midst of it, the Lord declares his children to be **RICH!** **"The crown of life"** is set before them. Their need is now to be faithful to the end.

How often, in these last 20 centuries, have poor and suffering Christians been similarly heartened by these words, recommitting their lives to their Lord. For them too, in a very personal way, He was and is **"the First and the Last"**, the One they are living for.

Hannah's wonderful prophecy in 1 Samuel 2 declares: **"The LORD... raises the poor from the dust and lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set them among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory!"**

Even before NT times, we get a glimpse of the Lord's people congregating in similar (and perhaps secret) ways. Malachi describes very turbulent times among the Israelites after the exile. The attitude of most was negative and ugly. They weren't looking to the Lord to know his will and walk in his ways.

Yet there was this remnant - the few. What characterized them? Malachi 3:16-17 tells us that they were the ones who feared the **LORD**, and, in the midst of all that was wrong with God's people, these God-fearers would seek each other out, meet and speak often to each other. Possibly they were the laughing stock of the majority. Perhaps they were, condescendingly, called "them poor guys". But the **LORD** loved them. In heaven He took special note of their simple meetings. And far from calling them "poor", He called them his "jewels".

Four centuries later, things hadn't improved. If anything, they had gotten much worse. Priests, Pharisees and scribes proudly paraded their religious and intellectual 'wealth', but Jesus trashed it from the beginning, declaring publicly that real blessedness was the prerogative of the ones who had nothing to boast of, the **"poor in spirit"**.

These are the people and the gatherings and the activities hardly ever noticed among the rest, but they are very much noticed in heaven. It is what we see shining through the Lord's wonderful note of appreciation for his dear ones in Smyrna.

There is something that characterizes the "poor in spirit". In Hebrews 10 we find they are "Let-us-people": **"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith... Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He... is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..., and so much the more as you see the Day approaching!"**

They were "one-anothering" in their 'ministry of consideration', as they kept on motivating and encouraging each other in times of suffering, tribulation and poverty. They stirred up love and good works, as they kept meeting around their Lord and his Word.

Nowadays, even if you are 'house bound', you can be part of this ministry through the modern social media, like Facebook, etc. You too can remind the 'Lord's poor' how **RICH** they truly are **in Christ!**

## Prospering by the River

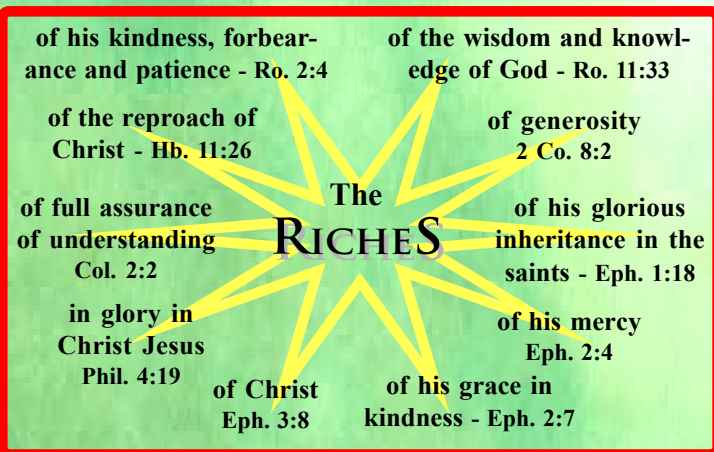
A missionary by the name of James Watson once gave this fascinating account (taken from our website) from the work in a South American country:

"When we arrived at Alcantarilla, after having managed to ford the river on horseback, and not without danger, the friends were finishing their first meeting. They were very glad to see us and gave us a royal welcome. We sat talking for a long time, with them asking many questions, wanting an explanation of this text or that point. Then we all had dinner together and afterwards another meeting.

The most remarkable feature in it was the singing. It baffles description! I thought I had heard original singing before, but this eclipsed everything I have ever heard in the way of music. Patricio, the man of the house, has no more idea of music than a brick wall! Nevertheless he sings for joy. He can sing every hymn in the book - to the same tune. He composes it as he goes along, and it is little short of genius the manner in which he makes the tune fit the words, especially towards the end of the lines! I never heard a tune like it - a sort of weird chant. And he has taught the people how to sing, and all of them sing for joy. The sincerity and real worship could not be doubted for a moment. The whole thing certainly gave me food for thought for many days.

Eventually the table was cleared of books and the cloth spread. The bread and cup were brought and we gathered round the table to **"remember the Lord's death till He come"**. It has been my privilege to be present at many grand religious gatherings, but I never attended one where I realized the presence of the Lord more. It was not because of the large number - there were only nine of us present. It was not the grand singing - I never heard worse. It was not the magnificent building - we were gathered in a cane and mud hut. It was not the preaching or the exhortations - there was very little of that. Nor was it the prayers - these were few and halting.

No, it was nothing of these things. It was the fulfilment of the Lord's promise, **'where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them'**. Yes, that's the secret: everything faded from our sight, every sound died from our ears, and, as we lifted up our eyes, we saw no one but 'Jesus only', and we heard nothing but a voice which said, **'This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased; hear him'**. The Lord himself became very real. Truly, **'God is spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth'**."



## When Prosperity Is a Curse

It was David who, in the first psalm, penned that classic statement about the one and only enduring "prosperity": **"Blessed is the man [whose] delight is in the law of the LORD, and in his law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither, and whatever he does shall prosper."**

The Christians in Laodicea knew that psalm; the Jews among them especially. They were aware that God's law and God's word are the means, the only means, to make a person truly prosperous. But knowing about true prosperity, which is **not** from down here, didn't stop them eventually going after the "grain and wine" prosperity. In Psalm 4 David mentions *that* prosperity: **"You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound"** (ESV). Like the "rich fool" in Luke 12, people revel in that G&W prosperity. Not David - his joy was of a different kind, not superficial like theirs, but deep and intense.

The Laodicean congregation had been started by Ephraim, some thirty years before. As a congregation, how they had revelled in the riches of Christ their Savior, pretty much like their brothers in Smyrna! But then, very slowly, the things of the world began to get the better of them...

Paul's letter to the Colossians was addressed to the Laodiceans also (Col. 4:12-16). He had told them straight: **"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, NOT on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God!"** (3:1-3).

Their reaction was: "All well and good, but the-things-on-earth really are mighty interesting - too interesting to put in second place", and they stopped seeking **first** the Kingdom of heaven... The sad result was imaginary riches, material, intellectual and religious, all mixed up with their true faith in Christ. But **He**, of course, finds such a lukewarm mixture revolting - fit only to be vomited (Rev. 3:16). Archaeology has found that the water from the hot springs in nearby Hierapolis, channeled to Laodicea, was lukewarm by the time it got there - neither refreshingly cool in the hot weather, nor usefully hot for other uses.

Their Lord then counsels them, He tells them of his love, but, at the same time, He makes sure they know of his rebuke and chastisement. These are loving but stern words; now He expects a fourfold response. He wants them:

- 1) To turn to him and BUY from him - it will cost them!
- 2) To be zealous and repent!
- 3) To open the door to him for renewed intimate fellowship!
- 4) To overcome!

The Laodicean Christians were losers and had badly let down their loving Captain. But it didn't diminish his love for them. Now, at this late stage, He still encourages them to change from losers to overcomers, to be like HIM, who overcame ALL temptation, and was seated on his Father's throne. For them the way is still open to be seated on the Overcomer's Throne with great joy! **That** is open to us too!

**Hear what the Spirit says to today's churches!**





# The Marvelous Chicken Egg

By Dr Jobe Martin; excerpted from "The Evolution of a Creationist"



**"The Evolution of a Creationist" is a condensation and simplification of more than thirty years of studies that moved me from unquestioning belief in Darwinian evolution to undoubting trust in the special six-day creation by God as presented in the biblical account. It is my conviction that a simple discussion of the major questions in the creation/evolution controversy is needed for those men and women who have little or no background in science. Thus, I have attempted to address pertinent issues as simply as possible—fully recognizing that those who have studied intensively in specialized areas of science may accuse this book of being too simplistic. The book touches on the evolution of a creationist (me), but emphasizes the inherent conflicts between evolutionary theory and the Bible. This work is a compilation of thoughts and writings that God used to change my belief system, my worldview.**

A fertilized chicken egg is a very special creation. Before even thinking about a chick developing in an egg, it is interesting to ponder how the chicken manages to get a shell around that slippery, raw, fertilized egg. It is a rare sight on the farm to see raw egg smeared on the outside of the shell.

Have you ever attempted to put an egg back into its shell after it rolled off the counter?

The shell itself is highly specialized. Each chicken egg shell has about 10,000 tiny holes or pores. How does that chicken form a shell around a soft, messy egg and design the shell to have porosity? Put a raw egg in warm water and soon you will see tiny bubbles floating up. These bubbles are escaping through the pores in the shell. The developing chick needs these pores to breathe. Evolution basically says that when a need arises in an organism, mindless, random chance processes provide exactly, precisely and specifically what the organism needs to alter and improve it so that it will survive.

How does a chicken know it needs to make a shell with porosity, and how would mindless evolution manufacture such a shell? The chick does not know it needs the holes in the shell to breathe until it dies for lack of air. Of course, dead chicks cannot evolve!

Within the first few days after the egg is laid, blood vessels begin to grow out of the developing

chick. Two of these attach to the membrane under the egg shell and two attach to the yolk. By the fifth day, the tiny heart is pumping blood through the vessels. What makes those blood vessels grow out of the chick, and how do they know where to go and to what to attach? The chick feeds from the yolk with the yolk vessels and breathes through the membrane vessels. If any of these vessels do not grow out of the chick or attach to the correct place, the chick will die.



The chick gives off carbon dioxide and water vapor as it metabolizes the yolk. If it does not get rid of the carbon dioxide and water vapor, it will die of gaseous poisoning or drown in its own wastewater. These waste products are picked up by the blood vessels and leave through the pores in the eggshell.

What evolutionary chance happening provided for all of these crucial advancements?

By the nineteenth day, the chick is too big to get enough oxygen through the pores in the shell. It must do something or die. How does it know what to do next? By

this time, a small tooth called the "egg-tooth" has grown onto its beak. It uses this little tooth to peck a hole into the air sack at the flat end of the egg. When you peel a hard-boiled egg you notice the thin membrane under the shell and the flattened end of the egg. This flattened end, which looks like the hen did not quite fill up her egg shell, is the air sack. The air sack provides only six hours of air for the chick to breathe. Instead of relaxing and breathing deeply, with this new-found supply of air, the chick keeps pecking until it breaks a small hole through the shell to gain access to outside air in adequate amounts.

On the twenty-first day, the chick breaks out of the shell. If one step in the development of the chick is missing or out of order, the chick dies.\* Timing is absolutely crucial!

Each step in the development of the chick defies evolutionary logic. The process must be orchestrated by God, our Creator. The impersonal plus time plus chance is not an adequate explanation for the wondrous complexities of life as we observe it. There had to be a Designer and His name is the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1; Colossians 1; Hebrews 1).

\* Bob Devine, "God In Creation" (Chicago: Moody Press, 1982), pp. 9-13. This booklet discusses ten of God's creations and shows how they could not have evolved.

Article source: "The Berean Call" [www.thebereancall.org/](http://www.thebereancall.org/)



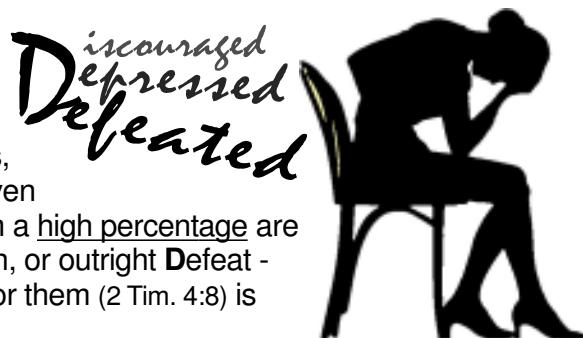
Dear reader,

We think and we hope that you will enjoy this latest issue of **PRESSING ON!**

Like every other true Christian, you're in the "race", in the spiritual one. And you know that after a while it's easy to start dragging your feet, lose sight of the "finishing line", get side-tracked, faint, even turn back. **Pressing On!** is here to inform you, to encourage you and to challenge you about **counting on God's grace for all of the race...**

As Philippians 3 informs us, there's the **goal** and there's the **prize** that are set before us, but then Hebrews 10 tells us that the "**considering**", the "**stirring up**", the "**exhorting**" are the things **all** of us are involved in: "**Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching**". It will be obvious to you that the 'considering, stirring up and exhorting' have everything to do with the "assembling". Jesus says that two or three in his name are sufficient for him to be very much present in the midst of them with all that He has to offer. It is absolutely basic for fruitful encouragement and challenge, that you and I plus other 'runners in the race' do so very humbly around HIM, looking to HIM and his open word. You too can be wonderfully used for your fellow "athletes". **Pressing On!** prepares and encourages the encouragers, and can prove to be a very worthwhile tool in your hands...

Picture yourself traveling round the planet, say from Canada, to Croatia, to Cameroon, to the Comoros, to Cambodia, to the Cook Islands, to Colombia or to Cuba. In every one of these countries you'll find true Christians. You may find some big groups, meeting in churches, and you'll find there are small groups, meeting in homes or wherever, even in prisons, but as you get to know them, you'll also find that among them a high percentage are feeling the effects of Satan's 3-D strategy - **Discouragement**, **Depression**, or outright **Defeat** - Christian "athletes" falling, or fallen, by the wayside. The crown laid up for them (2 Tim. 4:8) is receding and could be taken from them (Rev. 3:11).



Not in every country can such folks read English. In many of the 70 countries to which we send **Pressing On!**, English is not even the second language. However, there usually are individual Christians who know sufficient English to grasp the message. And some of these are receiving up to 30 or 40 copies for regular distribution.

We are fully persuaded that you too can become a most valuable encourager of the brethren! And we want you to plainly realize that **PRESSING ON!** is entirely at your disposal to help you, in other words, free of charge!

**Please, consider the form below, pray over it, then fill out what applies and send it to us:**

- \*\*\*\*\*
- ☐ I can be a regular distributor to Christian individuals, house church(es) or other Christians in **my** region. I need \_\_\_ free paper copies of future issues (even of this one too if available).
  - ☐ I have access to professional-quality production facilities. I only need a print-ready PDF copy to become a printer-distributor of **PRESSING ON!** in my region (at my own cost). I need info about the format to be printed.
  - ☐ Regardless of having the printed copy (copies) sent snailmail, I'd also like you to send me the **pdf** e-copy, so I can easily forward it by email to my Christian friends.
  - ☐ Separately I am sending you names, addresses and e-addresses of Christian friends who have confirmed they would like to be on your mailing list, either for email or snailmail.
  - ☐ If the Lord should make it clear I must contribute in some other way, I'll let you know, so you can tell me how to go about it.

**YOUR INFO:** Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Country \_\_\_\_\_ E-address \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**OUR INFO:** 1. Print this form, fill out what applies, sign it, then mail to:  
Apartado 31, 29700 Vélez-Málaga, Spain. **Or:**  
2. Once printed and filled out, scan and email the form to:  
**pressingonstill@gmail.com**

**"And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward" - Mt. 10:42.**