

British Christians

A 'Deviant Minority'

A recent survey has found that as the British abandon Christianity (only 26% now believe in the God of Christian teaching), they are becoming increasingly uncertain about their own moral decision making. 75% now claim 'there can never be absolutely clear guidelines about what is right and what is wrong'. This 'decline of beliefs in any kind of over-arching guidelines or absolutes' has been accompanied by a sharp increase in wariness and distrust of other people (59%). One observer commented that Britons are conducting 'a unique social experiment ... trying to negotiate our way through life without reference to a divine figure to fix our moral compass'.

Many are alarmed at this, with 45% of those surveyed thinking the abandonment of traditional religion is making Britain a worse society, while only 20% think it is making it better. A university researcher warned of the link between the wane in religion and the rise of mental and emotional illness, alcoholism and suicide. With Britain to commemorate Charles Darwin on its new £10 note, the widespread belief in his theory of evolution is evident in that nearly one-third think 'we are just a biological organism which ceases to exist at death'.

The drift away from belief in the Bible extends to church leaders as well. An earlier survey found that only three of 103 British bishops (Anglican, Catholic and Methodist) actually believe the biblical account of Creation, while 25% do not believe that Jesus was born of a virgin. Neither do some bishops believe that Jesus rose from the dead.

A University of Aberdeen sociology professor said bluntly that Britain (the country in which the church most rapidly capitulated to Darwinism) is now a 'post-Christian society' in which 'knowledge of Christian ideas is so thin that we're talking about a deviant minority.'

The Herald Sun, December 28, 1999.

The Daily Telegraph (UK), December 23, 1999, p.16.

Sunday Express (UK), May 28, 2000, pp. A20-21.

"... there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, ... For this they **willingly are ignorant of**, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." 2 Peter 3:3-7

Filling Your Jar

Priorities



One day, an expert in time management was speaking to a group of business students, and to drive home a point, used an illustration those students will never forget.

As he stood in front of the group of high-powered overachievers, he said, "Okay, time for a quiz." Then he pulled out a one gallon, wide mouthed jar and set it on the table in front of him. Then he produced about

a dozen fist-sized rocks and carefully placed them, one at a time, into the jar.

When the jar was filled to the top and no more rocks would fit inside, he asked, "Is the jar full?" Everyone in the class replied "Yes". Then he said, "Really?"

He reached under the table and pulled out a bucket of gravel. Then he dumped some gravel in and shook the jar causing pieces of gravel to work themselves down into the space between the big rocks. Then he asked the group once more, "Is the jar full?"

By this time the class was catching on to him. "Probably not", one of them answered.

"Good!" he replied. He reached under the table and brought out a bucket of sand. He started dumping the sand in the jar and it went into all of the spaces left between the rocks and the gravel. Once more he asked the question, "Is the jar full?"

"No!" the class shouted.

Once again he said, "Good". Then he grabbed a pitcher of water and began to pour it in until the jar was filled to the brim. Then he looked at the class and asked, "What is the point of this illustration?"

One eager student raised his hand and said, "The point is, no matter how full your schedule is, if you try really hard, you can always fit some more things in".

"No", the speaker replied. "That is not the point. The truth this illustration teaches us is: if you don't put the big rocks in first, you'll never get them in at all. What are the big rocks in your life?"

Your children...your loved ones...your education... your dreams...a worthy cause...doing things that you love...your health...your significant other.

Remember to put these BIG ROCKS in first, or you'll fill your life with the little things that don't really matter and you'll never have time to spend on the big, important things.