

THE MAGDALENE



From the Desk of Fr. Neil...

Completely Misunderstanding God, Man, and Eternal Life

I saw a quote recently in a magazine, from a prominent public figure, who said, "I am telling you if there is a God, when I get to heaven, I'm not stopping to be interviewed. I am heading straight in. I have earned my place in heaven. It's not even close."

Where do you even begin with such a statement? I'm not exactly sure. So let's see what we can make of this.

Shocking as this may seem to you – and I hope it *is* shocking to you – this mentality is very common in today's society. This is not atheism or even agnosticism properly defined. This is a mixture of different and confused ideas about

God, man, the world, merit, and the attainment of eternal life.

We must look closely at what is being said here and think about it theologically. We must hear what is being said here and put it up against what God has said to us in His Word.

Ever since the Garden of Eden, man has possessed a warped and depraved understanding of just who actually is God of this universe. Since the fall, man has made different attempts to make himself God, or at least, make himself think that he is qualified to stand in the presence of God and make demands such as these found in the quote above. Adam and Eve listened to the serpent. They were told that they would be like God, once they ate of the tree. They would know what God knew. They would be like Him. Reading the account of the fall in Genesis, we don't really get the sense that Adam and Eve were wickedly planning to unseat God from His Heavenly throne, but this is what their sin really turns out to be. Though listening to the serpent and eating of the fruit was sinful, they don't appear desirous to bring destruction upon themselves by eating of the fruit. But they did eat, and a destruction of a certain kind did come upon them.

This act of sin made them suddenly see themselves as naked and as a result they tried to hide themselves from God. They knew immediately that they had sinned and displeased God. We don't hear any pleading coming from Adam and Eve in the Scriptures. We just read about God declaring that what they had done was now going to bring them severe circumstances. There would be pain in childbirth. There would be weeds among the plants they planted. Planting and harvesting would require labor in the form of sweat and

*St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
205 So. Glassell Street
Old Town Orange, CA 92866
www.stmarymagdaleneacc.org*

Rev. Fr. Neil Edlin, Rector

Sunday Services:

8am Mass

*10am Choral Mass &
Children's Sunday School*

Wednesday Service:

9am



Office Visitation Hours:

2pm – 4pm Monday - Friday

toil. Life would not be the same as it was previously.

From that time on, man would sometimes more, sometimes less, become his own god, or fashion gods out of his own likeness. Man would acknowledge God at times, but would only turn to Him when the going got tough. When things went well, God was “on our side” but mostly forgotten. When things got rough, he would call out to God. If things got better, God was good. If things got worse, God was either uncaring or unable to turn the bad into good. He suddenly became small. Maybe He didn’t exist at all!

When things went horribly wrong for a city or a country, God was said to be “punishing” that city or country for their bad behavior, all the while never noticing other cities suffering from similar situations and never finding God to blame there. Or believing that if things were going well in their own city or country, God was smiling down on them.

All of these views have problems with them. So it is important to get our theology - our understanding of who God is – correct, if we are to live according to His will.

So the best way to do this, again, is to take the truth about God and heaven and see how it compares to the quote. First, “If there is a God...” Well, there is a God. There is no “if” or “might be.” God is there. He created universe. He created all mankind. We live every second of our lives in His presence. Every breath we take is granted to us by our gracious God.

The universe is not eternal. It had a beginning. Nothing can come from nothing. Someone had to create it.

Second, “when I get to heaven, I’m not stopping to be interviewed.” There is no interview process when we die. There is judgment and an answering for even every idle thought, word and deed. This is not a sit down interview where God asks questions and we sit with Him and answer like it’s a talk show. God is not going to be interested in interviewing us. Besides, is there something we know that He might be

interested in learning from us anyway? No, the truth is, when we die, the Bible says, “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment...” (Hebrews 9:27 ESV) AND, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil”(2 Corinthians 5:10 ESV).

Neither of these even remotely resembles an interview. These images more resemble a court room. Moreover, they are very serious statements made by God to alert us to the importance and necessity of being found having the righteousness of Christ covering us on that dreadful Day of Judgment. They are warnings about the seriousness of which God takes sin.

“I am heading straight in.” No, we do not “head straight in.” Nothing more needs to be said here. See the above remarks.

And finally, “I have earned my place in heaven.” This earning heaven idea is another one many people hold to. Even many Christians also believe this. Yet we do not find man “earning” heaven or “earning” everlasting life in the Bible. Rather, we find the graciousness of God granting heaven and eternal life to those who believe on His Son. (John 3:16) In fact we find passages like this one in Acts which says,

“And when the Gentiles heard this, (Paul’s testimony that the Gentiles also may find salvation through faith in Christ) they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48 ESV). So, eternal life is an appointment according to Paul. Faith, which leads to eternal life is a gift of God. Eternal life is a gift from God.

So, when encountering this type of belief found in this quote, we have to be on our guard. This is a very incorrect and very dangerous way of thinking. We worship a loving Father and God but He is also a consuming fire. Eternal life is a precious gift, not something we can be arrogant or cavalier about. Paul knew God well. He

understood what stood between him and God and it was the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's close with one last word from Paul.

"Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead" (Philippians 3:8-11 ESV). +

WORD OF THE MONTH

Christian Symbolism

From the Anglican Teaching Leaflets

If the Cross is the foremost Christian symbol, others abound almost without end. This is only natural. Human beings are finite and move in a world of things. The workings of the human mind are aided by various senses such as sight and hearing, even smell. Our thoughts, beliefs and convictions are aided by the sight of relevant pictorializations. Hence the growth of Christian symbolism. Let us consider just a few examples, many of which the reader will no doubt be familiar.

A hand, palm forward and generally directed downward, but sometimes upward, represents God the Father, the Creator. God the Son is often represented as a lamb (the sacrificial object), often supporting a staff with a Christian banner on it. (Note: This symbol is found on the front of our pulpit at St. Mary Magdalene Church) Christ is also represented by a fish; the Greek word for fish, *ichthus*, in our alphabet, contains all the initial letters in

order of the Greek phrase meaning, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior". God the Holy Ghost is naturally depicted as a dove descending from heaven, or as tongues of flame, the form in which he descended upon the disciples at Pentecost.

The letters IHC (or sometimes IHS) are often seen in religious art and decoration, or on the minister's vestments. They stand for the first two and the last letters of the word JESUS in Greek, being therefore a contraction of the same.

Again, the letters INRI are often used in Christian art and decoration and they stand for the initial letters of the Latin inscription which the Roman soldiers posted at the top of Jesus' cross, *Iēsus Nazārēnus, Rēx Iūdaeōrum* Latin, meaning "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews". (Note: This sign is over Christ's head on our crucifix over our altar and on the processional cross at St. Mary Magdalene Church)

The Greek letters Α and Ω (Alpha and Omega) are very frequently used as symbolizing the omnipotence, and everlasting nature of Christ's divinity. It will be recalled that in Revelation 1:8, St. John writes, "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty". The letters are of course the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet.

The Greek letters C and R (Chi and Rho) are the first two letters of the Greek word Christ, or Christos - ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ. The X, or *chi*, (pronounced key) is CH, the P *rho*, (pronounced row) looks like an P in our alphabet. The I, or *iota*, (pronounced eeotah) looks the same as ours. The Σ, or *sigma*, resembles a capital E in our alphabet but has an S sound in Greek and the O, or *omicron*, is the same as ours as well.

Christ is many times pictured using a hand gesture, in which his first two fingers and his thumb are extended and his third and fourth finger are closed. (Sometimes the thumb is closed as well). This is among the most frequently occurring of Christ's hand gestures in Christian art. It emerged as a sign of benediction (or blessing) in early Christian and Byzantine art, and its use continued through the medieval period, and into the Renaissance. A bishop will use this hand gesture when offering a blessing. It is important to note that this gesture is always made with the right hand, as this is the hand with which one blesses. A priest generally uses a simpler flat vertical hand gesture.

It is not easy to depict something so abstract as the Holy Trinity, but that is traditionally done by using a triangle or a trefoil (something like a clover leaf) or some similar tri-fold figure or arrangement.

A very large number of the Saints are represented by one symbol or another, but it will be sufficient here to recall those pertaining to the Evangelists and one or two others.

The four Evangelists, so-called, are the writers of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Saint Matthew is represented by a winged man or angel. This is meant to recall the fact that his Gospel teaches us in particular about the human nature of Christ. Saint Mark is represented by a winged lion (the lion being the king of beasts) to suggest that his Gospel emphasizes especially the royal dignity of Christ. Depicting Saint Luke is a winged ox, a sacrificial animal, and this has reference to the stress which his Gospel places on the sacrificial aspects of Christ's life. In the case of Saint John, the symbol is that of an eagle soaring to heaven, and seems to have been assigned to the Evangelist because his gaze pierced further into the mysteries of heaven than that of any other man. These four depictions seem to have had their

inspiration in the visions of Ezekiel and of Saint John the Divine as recorded in Ezekiel 1:10 and Revelation IV:7. Finally, the great Apostle to the Gentiles, Saint Paul, is generally depicted by a sword, the instrument of his martyrdom at Rome, and frequently with an open book bearing the words *Spiritus Gladius*, "The Sword of the Spirit", because of the fighting vigor with which he carried the Gospel to the gentiles.

These are only tantalizing glimpses of a pictorial symbolism which greatly enriches our religion and will well repay any further reading in the many books which have been written on the subject. +

News

JACK BURTON BROWN + REST IN PEACE

Jack Brown, beloved husband to Peggy Brown and member of St. Mary Magdalene Church for over 10 years died on July 22nd, at 8:00pm. A Requiem Eucharist will be held for Jack on Saturday August 9th at 10:00am.

CONGRATULATIONS YESENIA GARIBAY

On Saturday July 26th, Yesenia celebrated her 15th birthday with a Mass and Quinceanera. This birthday is celebrated differently from any other as it marks the transition from childhood to young womanhood. At the end of the Mass, Yesenia made her vows to God and before her family and friends gathered, to model her life on the example of Mary the mother of Jesus and Mary's submission and obedience to the announcement by the angel from God that she would be the one to bear the Son of God.

WELCOME TO THE CHOIR!

Welcome Tiana Franzetti, Carlos Cardenes and Ashley Rosales to the St. Mary Magdalene

Church Choir. Your voices are a welcome addition to our singing praises to our Lord.

Guilds, Groups & Events

SAVE THE DATE FOR CENTER STAGE!

On Sunday, October 12th, the Guild will be presenting "CENTER STAGE – SONGS FROM STAGE AND SCREEN" to raise funds for humanitarian relief for our Christian brothers in the Philippines.

This outreach event will include a fabulous Lunch and Silent Auction at the Los Coyotes Country Club from Noon to 3:00pm. Our goal is to sell 100 tickets. We are asking all of our church members to invite their family, friends and neighbors to come. Tickets are \$40 per person, or you can become a Table Sponsor and invite 8 of your personal friends.

So why the Philippines? Fr. Canillo, missionary and Bishop to the Philippines, will attest that the damages resulting from Typhoon Yolanda were devastating. 14.1 million people including 5.9 million children were affected. Nearly 3,200 schools were destroyed. Just four months after, 4.1 million people were still displaced. After the typhoon passed, the island of Bohol experienced a 7.3 earthquake. Medical facilities, schools and infrastructure (water and power) were destroyed or damaged. Many areas are still in danger of water borne diseases from unclean water.

Is it not enough to say that "we are in the business of helping people in need." We need your help. 100% of your money will be sent for humanitarian relief.

Please contact Sharon or Violet if you have a club or organization you want to mail information concerning this event, and....

Remember to mark Oct. 12th on your Calendar!

MARY'S KITCHEN WORK DAY

Looking for a great way to serve our Lord and our local community.

The Outreach Committee needs volunteers to help make box lunches for Mary's Kitchen on **September 6th from 9am to 10am**. We will meet and prepare the food in the Church Parish Hall and transport the lunches that same day. Please contact Violet to volunteer or for more information on this upcoming event.

CONCERT IN THE PARKING LOT

On Friday July 25th, from 7pm – 10pm, Andrew Mauzey hosted a concert in the church parking lot. Three local bands were invited to play. Juice Box Bandits, The Fiix and No Look Escape each played a forty-five minute set. The *Globally Delicious Burgers* food truck was on hand to feed the crowds. Many local neighbors stopped by to listen to the music. Thank you, Andrew, for all of your hard work to bring the community out and to give St. Mary Magdalene the opportunity to offer a night of music to Old Towne Orange.

4TH SUNDAY BRUNCH

Our Parish Brunch in July was a great success. We ate delicious food in the parking lot and had a great time fellowshiping together. Mark your calendars for August 25th and plan on attending a wonderful afternoon of food and fellowship. Watch for flyers in the Narthex for the next location.

DUTCH TREAT SUPPER CLUB

So what is the "Dutch Treat Supper Club"? First, it is not actually a "Club". There is no formal membership or set group of people that come together each month. Simply put, it is just a date for dinner. Each month, a parishioner volunteers to plan a "night out on the town". The parishioner picks a restaurant or activity, makes a sign-up sheet, directions, etc., sets out the info

in the narthex and makes the reservations, if needed. There is no restriction on city or type of food. Everyone pays for themselves.

It is just a great way to have a good meal with a fun group of people in a casual atmosphere. All are welcome to come. Bring your family, friends or neighbors.

The fun part is that we never go to the same place more than once!

Our next outing, **LAZY DOG CAFÉ** in Orange, hosted by the Carlson's on **Tuesday, August 12th at 7pm**. If you are not a SMM church member and want to join us, please contact the church office for more details. 714-532-2420. Otherwise, please SIGN UP in the Narthex.

WOMEN'S DEVOTIONAL

Ladies, join us in the Women's Devotional led by Karen Carlson. The purpose of the Women's Devotional is to provide a safe place to share needs, experience prayer and learn more about living our Christian lives together. Let us explain what goes on and invite you to join us, even occasionally.

We start with a brief time of sharing prayer needs and answers to prayer, then a short teaching on spiritual and life issues is discussed from a biblical standpoint. Some ladies bring their Bible from home, others use the ones provided. Questions and answers ensue and we close with prayer for each of the needs shared during our time together.

Women's Devotional meets **1st Sundays from 9:15am to 9:50am** in the "Nursery Room". Please come early or stay after 1st service and join us.

August 3rd Women's Devotional
Is it Ever OK to be Grumpy?

MEN'S **CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**



Join the men of St. Mary Magdalene Parish for a time of conversation in the Parish Hall.

Coffee, donuts, and Bible study will become part of the St Mary Magdalene's Men's Fellowship on the **First Sunday of each month. At 9:00am**, immediately following the 8:00 am service the men will meet in the Parish Hall for 30 minutes of Bible study, devotional, prayer, coffee and donuts. At 9:30 we will break for Morning Prayer.

Placing the Men's Fellowship between the morning services will allow husbands to attend after 8:00 and/or before 10:00 while their wives attend the Women's Devotional during the same hour. We are studying the Book of Proverbs. Bring your Bible or borrow one from the church. The donuts will be especially good!!!!

Questions? Call Lou Carlson or the Church office 714-532-2420.

Next Meeting August 3rd

CRAFT GUILD WORKING **FOR OUR SOLDIERS**

Craft Guild members are hard at work making caps and scarves for Operation Gratitude, an organization that sends "care packages" to our service men and women overseas.

We have received three scarves and one cap but are shy of our goal of supporting 24 soldiers and need your help. If you **Crochet or Knit**, please consider supporting this great outreach.

Scarves must be 5-7" wide, 48-50" long, no fringe, dark colors. We have patterns for the scarves and caps if you need them. Whether you attend our church please consider joining us on

the 3rd Sunday of the month. It's a great opportunity to recognize our service men and women and share in fellowship with our St Mary Magdalene family.

Next Meeting is Aug 17th after 2nd Mass

BIBLE STUDY & EVENING PRAYER

At the moment, we are studying the Book of The Acts of the Apostles. Bible study meets every Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, except the 2nd Wednesday. Evening Prayer follows at 8:00.

REMINDERS

MEMBERSHIP

All persons, eighteen years or older, who are baptized and confirmed, regular attendees and communicants in good standing for at least three months are considered a member of the church. If you would like begin the process of becoming a member, please contact Fr. Neil for details on how to transfer your paperwork and to apply for membership.

Trusted Vendors Board

Don't forget our Trusted Vendors Board in the parish secretary's office. Each time a member of our church has had a good or even great experience with a contractor, their business card has been pinned to the board. So if you are planning on having something built, cleaned, repaired, etc., take a look to see if there is a contractor you might think about using.

Dates To Remember

COFFEE HOUR TREATS

August

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 3 – Coykendall | 10 - Craig |
| 17 - Di Filippo | 24 - Duke |
| 31 – Dunstone | |

September

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 9 – Edlin | 14 – Gates |
| 21 – Hatfield | 28 – In-House Brunch |

October

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 5 – Hickey | 12 – Holmes/Fuller |
| 19 – Luckey | 26 - Lee |

Please plan on setting out treats at 8:30am and cleaning up after the 11:15 fellowship time. Be sure to switch with someone else if you are unable to take your Sunday.

ALTAR FLOWERS / SANCTUARY LIGHT

Altar Flowers

August 24 - Burgess

Sanctuary Light

If you are interested in “giving” one of these for a future Sunday, please sign up in the Flower and Candle binder in the narthex of the church. **Our suggested donation is \$30 for flowers & \$12 for the light**, but feel free to give what you are able. Mark flowers / candles on your check and place it in the offering basket during Mass.

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

| AUGUST EVENTS | DATE | TIME |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Brown Bag Lunch & Speaker, Andrew Mauzey, "Bach to Basics, Traditional Church in Contemporary America" | 8/3 | 11:30am |
| Women's Devotional Group – "Is it Ever OK to be Grumpy?" | 8/3 | 9:15am – 9:50am |
| Men's Christian Fellowship | 8/3 | 9:00am – 9:30am |
| Martha's Guild Meeting | 8/10 | 11:30am |
| Men's Christian Fellowship Meeting | 8/10 | 11:30am |
| Supper Club – Lazy Dog Café, in Orange | 8/12 | 7:00pm |
| Vestry Meeting | 8/13 | 7:15pm |
| Craft Guild | 8/17 | 11:30am |
| Sunday Brunch | 8/25 | 7pm |
| Labor Day Parking Lot Event | 8/29, 30,31 | Fri 5pm -10pm; Sat/Sun 10am – 10pm |
| SEPTEMBER EVENTS | DATE | TIME |
| Women's Devotional Group – "Love: Needing, Receiving, Giving" | 9/7 | 9:15am – 9:50am |
| Men's Christian Fellowship | 9/7 | 9:00am – 9:30am |
| Supper Club | 9/9 | 7:00pm |
| Vestry Meeting | 9/10 | 7:15pm |
| New2You Sale | 9/13 | Sat 9am – 2pm |
| Patriot Day Mass | 9/14 | 10am Service |
| Martha's Guild Meeting | 9/14 | 11:30am |
| Men's Group | 9/14 | 11:30am |
| Craft Guild | 9/21 | 11:30am |
| Burger Bash (4 th Sunday Brunch) | 9/28 | 11:30am |