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objects. On the fourth day of creation, *“God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth’; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good”* (Genesis 1:14-18). The lights of the heavens were made to illuminate this planet. That is their primary purpose. To gaze upon them, wondering who else is out there should only result in one conclusion: God! *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork”* (Psalm 19:1).

God did not create mankind on many different worlds, scattered across many different galaxies. He placed man here on earth, making him responsible over the earth, and commanding him to populate the earth. *“God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth’”* (Genesis 1:26-28). Therefore, sentient humanoids will never be discovered on other worlds.

Furthermore, humanity will not have permanent residence beyond this planet. In all the time that has passed since cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin orbited the earth in Vostok 1 on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1961, no person has ever left this planet’s orbit. The moon is as far as any man has gone, and the moon is earth’s natural satellite, being gravitationally fixed to this world. If humanity ever does break free of earth’s orbit, there will be no home found beyond, only outposts erected by fellow men to briefly sojourn before returning to earth. *“The heaven, even the heavens, are Jehovah’s; but the earth He has given to the children of men”* (Psalm 115:16). Inasmuch as God’s gifts are perfect gifts (James 1:17), it is important to receive them with gratitude and contentment.

## POSITIVE PREACHING

Robert Welch

I like positive preaching. I like to hear it. I like to do it. It is like watching the sunshine glisten on the dewy leaves of the apple tree by my window, fresh from a springtime shower. I appreciate the knowledge that the sunshine and the rain will make the tree grow, bloom and bring the delicious, ripened fruit. I know that it takes positive preaching to make the Christian grow in grace and knowledge, blossom in faith and fervor, and bear the delightful fruit of a mature working Christian.

Only one year, however, made me see that it takes more than sunshine and rain to produce a bountiful harvest of golden apples from the tree. I saw that the tree needed annual pruning. It needed spraying or some other natural preventive of disease and contamination of the fruit. Otherwise, a pretty, little moth would find a lodging place for its egg in the bloom and every apple would be wormy and ruined.

It took no longer for me to learn that positive preaching is not enough to produce the good fruits of Christians. It takes pruning, cutting away the superfluous growth, the weak limbs, the diseased branches, and the crossed branches which would abrade other good ones. This is after the order of the Lord’s parable of the vine and the branches (John 15:1-8).

Some negative preaching and work has to be done to clear the church of such branches; including *“strife, jealousy, wrath, factions, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:20).

## 41

Author Unknown

It rained for 40 days and 40 nights; on day 41, the rain stopped. Moses hid in the desert for 40 years; year 41 came and God called him to deliver Israel. Moses went up the mountain for 40 days; on day 41, he received the 10 Commandments. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years; year 41, they entered the Promised Land. Goliath taunted Israel for 40 days; day 41 came and David defeated him. Jesus fasted and was tempted for 40 days; on day 41, the devil fled. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for 40 days; on Day 41, He ascended into heaven.

The rain will stop. The giant will fall. The Promised Land will be entered.

***"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"***

***ACTS 16:30***

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

***"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"***

***HEBREWS 10:24-25***

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.

***"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"***

***GALATIANS 6:1***

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

***"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN"***

***PROVERBS 25:11***

"Carnal men love the god that  
they make, but not the God that  
made them."

– Charles Spurgeon

***GIVE ME THE BIBLE***

KDNF 840AM

Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

***"WHOLE COUNSEL"***

***ACTS 20:27***

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 35

AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2025

**WE ARE NOT ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

The textbook defense for the existence of extra-terrestrial life is that it is absurd to think we are alone in the universe. This rationale falls far short of scientific proof. Worse, it presumes that if other planets lack humanoid lifeforms, their non-existence would render mankind alone.

Those who are faithful to God have always been assured of His presence. *"Jehovah your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you"* (Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:5; Hebrews 13:5). As Jesus prepared to ascend to heaven, He promised the disciples, *"I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen"* (Matthew 28:18). No Christian should ever be swayed by the alone-in-the-universe argument because Christians enjoy the fellowship of Christ (1<sup>st</sup> John 1:6) who *"made the worlds"* (Hebrews 1:1-2). Searching for extra-terrestrial intelligence on the basis that mankind would be otherwise alone is to deny the existence of the God who *"made the heavens and the earth"* (Genesis 1:1), which would be foolish (Psalm 14:1). This mindset proves that those engaged in a search for alien life are merely idolaters. They have removed God from their thoughts and are trying to replace Him with little green men.

Looking to the cosmos, beholding the vastness of what lies beyond, many remain convinced there must be more out there. This mentality overlooks the inspired reasons given for the existence of celestial  
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