

The Lord's Day Morning

**April 15, 1945**

**“Supernatural Beings”  
Scripture Lesson – John 3:1-15**

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Introduction

1. Resume of last Sunday's sermon
  - a. Humanism vs. revealed Christianity
  - b. Humanism declares there can be no scientific basis for anything outside the understanding of the human mind.
    1. Nothing can be done which man cannot accomplish
  - c. Revealed Christianity shows it to be supernatural
    1. In its book
    2. In its God
    3. In its Savior
2. This morning I would speak to you about Supernatural Beings

I. Supernaturally Created

1. The theory of evolution would account for man by a purely natural process
  - a. Life began with a small protoplasm
  - b. This small beginning of life developed through various stages of evolution until the lowest form of animal life came into being. Then animal life developed until finally there came out of this evolutionary process an animal which walked on two feet, used the others for hands, and came to be able to intelligently communicate with one another.
  - c. Suppose for the moment we grant that man as an animal came into being through this natural process.
  - d. Still it leaves man nothing more than an animal.
2. Man is more than an animal
  - a. Great gulf between man and animals
  - b. Man has a moral nature
  - c. Man has a self determination
  - d. Man has a soul, a consciousness of God
3. Evolution is a theory
  - a. No missing link has been found
  - b. It will not be found because the great gulf is spiritual, not physical
    1. If should find the link that would fit perfectly into the bone structure, the cranial capacity and so forth, we still would not be able to account for the great difference between man and animals.
4. Genesis 1:26-27 – “Make man in our own image”
  - a. Genesis 2:7 – breathed breath of life and man became a living soul
5. No amount of scientific investigation nor humanistic theology can show man was not a

direct supernatural creation of God.

6. Man was made a perfect creature

- a. No sin in him
- b. No death
- c. Perfect fellowship with God

7. Sin ruined

- a. Sin
  - 1. Not animal weakness
  - 2. It is rebellion against God
- b. Sin ruined man
  - 1. Came broken fellowship with God
  - 2. Man came to be a murderer, a liar, a thief

## II. Man Supernaturally Regenerated

1. Before man could again become what God made him, something must happen to him which would make him not only acceptable to God, but able to live as a child of God.

2. Humanism ignores this.

- a. Says put man in proper society and he will be all God wants him to be
  - 1. So whole emphasis upon humanistic preaching is social reform and Betterment
- b. But we know this statement no matter how vigorously proclaimed, by the pulpit or the pew, is not so
  - 1. Men go out from most cultured, educated, and moral environment to become law violators of the worst sort.

3. Man must be supernaturally regenerated, i.e., born again

- a. This happens by faith in Christ
- b. John 1:12, 13
  - 1. Not blood – racial or parental ancestry
  - 2. Not of flesh – human efforts
  - 3. Will of man – man's determination
  - 4. But of God
- c. Such a man born again
  - 1. Has sins forgiven
  - 2. Is given power to live supernatural lives

4. This man has supernatural possibilities

- a. Ruskin in "Modern Painters"

Ruskin, in his "Modern Painters," draws attention to the latent possibilities that lie in the thick black mud or slime of a footpath in the outskirts of a manufacturing town. The black slime is composed of four elements – clay, soot, sand and water. These four may each be separated the one from the other. The clay particles left to follow their own instinct of unity, becomes a clear, hard substance, so set that it can deal with light in a wonderful way and gather out of it the loveliest blue rays only, refusing the rest. We call it then a sapphire. The sand arranges itself in mysterious, infinitely parallel lines, which reflect the blue, green, purple, and red rays, in the

greatest beauty. We call it then an opal. The soot becomes the hardest thing in the world, and the blackness it had obtained the power of reflecting all the rays of the sun at once, and in the vividest blaze that any solid thing can shoot. We call it then a diamond. Last of all, water becomes a dewdrop, and a crystalline star of snow.

So writes Ruskin concerning the marvelous beauties that can be drawn from the black, city slime, by the power of the sun, which after all is only the agent of the Creator. But a more glorious transformation will take place in these poor, diseased, sin-laden bodies of ours when the Lord calls us all unto Himself. Then will it be a glorious body. For, from heaven we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, “who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able to subdue all things unto Himself” (Philippians 3:20). Yes, we shall be like Him, and our bodies fashioned like unto His glorious body.

-William Lamb, in “Great Future Events”

b. Man so born again has supernatural possibilities.

III. This regenerate man lives a supernatural life

1. We Christians have made some grave mistakes, but none is greater than the assumption that God does not expect us to live differently from the average human being.
  - a. We are supernaturally born again, regenerated individuals and He expects us to live as such.
2. Come out of life of sin
  - a. Mel Trotter
    1. His conversion
    2. His life
  - b. Buddhist illustration used last week
3. Live differently amidst difficult circumstances
  - a. Sgt. Edward Kautz of Chicago

Some will not be back at Wheaton, for they have entered Higher Service. Recently at a chapel memorial program we affixed the twenty-fourth gold star to the college service flag for Sergeant Edward Kautz of Chicago. Eddie had two years as a pre-ministerial student at Wheaton before entering the army. On his first night in the barracks as he kneeled to pray, he received boos and boots, but he kept on praying. Before basic training was complete, forty lads kneeled with him to acknowledge the Savior. Eddie's body lies in Belgium awaiting the summons of God's trumpet; we shall meet him then.

b. Helen Naylor

Some of them are too busy to advise us that they are coming. On February

5, the Boston Herald carried a feature article entitled, “Lowell Nurse’s Hymn-Tunes Transfuse Hope in Wounded.” In part it read, “With the third army...As he was wheeled toward the operating room, he asked shyly, ‘Will you pray for me?’ ‘Shorty’ Naylor is used to that question, asked with a shyness verging on shame by men who wouldn’t want that cheerful efficient 95-pound nurse to know that they were frightened. Her promise is always given sincerely with the confident reminder, ‘God does answer prayers.’”

The surgical team calls this former Lower girl its unique evangelist in the midst of war-bred callousness to life, suffering, and death. But she is no holier-than-thou killjoy. Daughter of Fred Naylor, Sunday school superintendent at Richmond, Maine, she is a practicing Christian who is at the same time a superb nurse, expert in her difficult specialty.

Major Samuel Karlin of Portland and Major Lawrence Pratt of Detroit rated her one of the kindest shock nurses they’d encountered. Men come from battlefield to her shock war – just now the pool room of a roadside café – nearly dead, and there she struggles to fan faint sparks of life into the glowing embers, so that surgeons can do their lifesaving work. As she cleans mud from eyes, ears, and noses, and as she wipes blood from faces, she hums softly.

‘She’s a big help to me,’ said Major Pratt, ‘but she’s a joy to chaplains, because she knows hundreds of hymns, not only how to sing them, but also how to play them with grace on the ricketiest of organs or pianos.’

Everyone dreams of going home to stay but she dreams of going to train at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, to become a medical missionary...

Naturally, we will do everything we can to make room for Helena Naylor. Wouldn’t you?”

#### 4. Supernaturally serve

- a. Any task, Mr. Moody – “Christ’s Last Message to His Church” – Evans, p. 188

It is said that when Mr. Moody was conducting his great evangelistic campaign in Great Britain, he was holding a meeting in the Crystal Palace. Before him were the many thousands of people. In the boxes round about the palace were members of the royal family. Mr. Moody stood up to read the Scripture lesson. It was taken from Luke 4, and read, partly, as follows: “Many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias...But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta,” etc. “Sarepta” was too difficult a word for Mr. Moody to pronounce (for he had not gone beyond the third grade in school). Mr. Sankey, who sat behind Mr. Moody, whispered the proper pronunciation. Then Mr. Moody tried again and again, and after

repeated failures, he closed the Bible, lifted up his face to God in prayer, and said, “O God, please help a man who cannot even pronounce the English language.” And this was the man who swept England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, yea a greater part of the English-speaking world off its feet and turned its face to God. O, yes, God can use us even if we have but ‘a little strength’ – if we will permit Him to do so, and then will take our hands off the glory when He has done so. Feebleness, little strength is no barrier in Christ’s work. Oftentimes, too much strength is a barrier.

b. Giving

1. Mr. Wannamaker giving Dr. Mott three million dollars for YMCA buildings in foreign lands.
2. Mr. Clinton giving to church when was then making less than he used to give to the church.

5. To die

- a. Dr. Anderson, Sr.
- b. Bill Anderson, Jr.

Conclusion

1. If you will accept Christ you will be supernaturally regenerated.
2. He will give you power.
  - a. To live to come out of your sinful life
  - b. To serve
  - c. To die
3. Accept Christ and become a supernatural being.