

Man vs. Mongrel

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Thrive - Topic, *Who is God?* Nate.
- B. City Serve Tee Shirts - if didn't receive, pick up Sunday in info booth.

II. Slide3 Intro: Man vs. Mongrel

- A. Why is Divine judgment delayed? How can God be in control when there's so much evil in the world? Do puppy's go to heaven when they die? Are we any different from animals; we all are born, live, & then go to the grave...so what's the difference?
- B. *Life, death, time & eternity*, make up the ingredients of our brief experience in this world. www
- C. (1-15) told us, *What a wonderful plan God has for your life*.
 - 1. It says our life has: **tremendous timing** & a **perfect purpose**...in **everything**.
(vs.1 **every purpose**, vs.11 **everything**)
 - 2. Verse16 now screams, **wait a minute**. If God has a wonderful plan for my life, then explain, **why such-n-such happened**, **why things are stacked up against me**, **why I got such a raw deal?**

III. Slide4 LIFE IS NOT FAIR (16) Read 16 only

- A. Johnny Carson, *If life were fair, Elvis would be alive & all the impersonators would be dead*.
- B. I bet every one of us knows at least one friend (if it's not speaking directly to us) going through an **Injustice** right now.
 - 1. Slid5 MLK, Jr. **Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere**.
 - 2. Robert Browning said Injustice is...one more **wrong to man**, one more **insult to God**.
- C. **Human courts are set up to correct injustice**.
 - 1. **But** people can be **bought**. Others have a **political agenda** for them selves. Still others are just plain **morally corrupt**.
 - 2. **How do you struggle with the tension of knowing God is in control and yet seeing wickedness in control?**
- D. **Why is Divine judgment delayed?** Rev.6:9-11 says because *more need to suffer & die*.

E. Remember, **Injustice** isn't the end of the story. Read vs.17.

IV. Slide6 **LIFE WILL BE FAIR (17)**

A. He *shall* judge - He has *timing* - He has *purpose*.

1. He shall judge – when history has ran its course.

a) *Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly small.*

2. If God does not correct injustice *in time*, He has appointed *a time* for it to be dealt with.

a) Solomon later says, *God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.* Eccl.12:14 nlt

b) Jesus said, *For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.* Lk.10:2,3

B. Slide7 Heraclitus(Gk Philosopher 500bc) *If it were not for injustice, men would not know justice*

C. **Justice** will ultimately prevail. **Injustice** is limited in scope.

1. In eternity all wrongs will be righted, & perfect justice done.

D. Slide8 *Be strong. It matters not how deep intrenched the wrong,*

How hard the battle goes, the day how long;

*Faint not, fight on! Tomorrow comes **the song**.* Maltbie D. Babcock, Amer clergyman, late 1800's.

V. Slide9 **ANIMAL TESTING (18)** *not the kind you think*

A. That they may see that they are like animals – God is revealing what man is really like...if left to himself.

1. When man leaves God out of the picture he is *like an animal*.

2. The bible likens man unto animals many times:

a) Ps.32:9 *Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.*

- b) Prov.7:22,23 *Immediately he went after her (the immoral woman), as an **ox** goes to the slaughter; Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, Till an arrow struck his liver. As a **bird** hastens to the snare, He did not know it would cost his life.*
- c) Jude 10 *But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like **brute beasts**, in these things they corrupt themselves.*

B. Man often **lives** like a beast & **dies** like a beast (19,20).

C. God allows certain circumstances/tests to show us that we all have that quality about us, where we act like **brute beats**.

VI. Slide10 **ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST (19,20)**

- A. What the author was questioning, however, may have been *the materialistic notions of afterlife* that predominated in ancient **Egypt**, where people thought that after death a powerful man could continue to enjoy his possessions, his women, and the services of his slaves. [Ps: Sol. married a daughter of an Egyptian ruler 1Kgs.3:1]
1. In short, this theology did not take seriously the **finality** of **physical death** (the great pyramids of the pharaohs were expressions of this view).
- B. (20) **Death** is the end result for humans and animals alike. This is **not** meant to be a statement concerning the *afterlife*.
- C. Kids letters to God: *Dear God, Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you have now?* – Jane
- D. Here's Solomon's view comparing the 2. If you look at a **dead man** & a **dead animal** they look pretty much the same. *They both will decay & go the way of the earth.*

VII.Slid11 **GOING UP? (21)**

- A. So you don't misinterpret the above 2 verses, **there is a difference** between **man** & **mongrel**.
1. **Solomon merely states they are the same** in they both **have a common mortality**. They both **come from the same dust of the earth**. They both **are animated from the same life breath** (Job 34:14,15). They both **go to the same place, returning to the dust**.
 2. **Slide12 ASK...How are we different from animals?** (image of God. Think, reason, create)

- B. Some translations put this in *a question form* (NIV *Who knows if the spirit of man rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?*)
- C. The bible teaches that death is the spirit leaving the body:
1. James 2:26 *says, For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*
- D. Solomon again says it in 12:7 *For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.*
- E. **Slide13** Where do souls come from?
1. **Creationism** – God creates a new soul for each person & sends it to that person's body sometime between conception & birth.
 2. **Traducianism** – holds that the soul as well as the body of a child is inherited from the baby's mother & father at the time of conception.
 3. **Pre-existentism** (*exis-stenchen-ism*) – holds the souls of people exist in heaven long before their bodies are conceived in the wombs of their mothers, & that God then brings the soul to earth to be joined w/the babies body as he or she grows in the womb.
- F. **So which is it?** – Not #3 (Mormons & Reincarnationist)
1. I believe #1 or #2, **or** either. **If both Augustine & Luther were undecided so can I be.**
- G. **Pro for Creationism (of soul):**
1. Is.42:5 *Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, **Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it.***
 2. Zech 12:1 *Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and **forms the spirit of man within him.***
- H. **Pro for Traducianism:**¹
1. **According to Genesis 2:3, after creating man He ceased creating. His Creative work was complete. The Scriptures never indicate that God created anything else.**

¹ <http://www.nouthetic.org/blog/?p=210>

2. Sin (both corruption & guilt) is passed down from one generation to the next. Though the **body** suffers from the effects of sin (clubfeet, down syndrome, and so on), it is not the *conveyor* of the sinful nature itself. The sinful nature is a matter of the **heart** (or soul). Unless sinful corruption is passed down through the generations by means of the soul, it could not happen. Such continuity would be broken if the Creationist's suppositions were true.
 3. If God created souls (after Adam and Eve's) **then** He would be **creating something sinful** rather than good (otherwise where would their sin come from).
- I. **Ps: Great men of God have backed up both theories:**
1. Creationism – Catholics, Luther, Calvin.
 2. Traducianism – Jonathon Edwards, A.H.Strong.
- J. **Slide14 SO, WILL FIFI GO TO HEAVEN?** (why **or** why not?)
1. There are heavenly **animals** (white horses, 4 liv creatures).
 2. But the question is whether **our pets** will be there, **or** the **earthly animals** there.
 3. **Setting emotions aside.** I have been pretty hard fast, saying **no way**.
 - a) Sighting...**an animal can't be born again or redeemed.**
 - b) **Also**, the difference we have with the animal kingdom...we're **made in the image of God**, thus above the animal kingdom.
 4. **Evidence the other way?** Rev.21:5 **Behold He is making all things new.** Not just people **but also** on earth **all things**. **Do those include animals?**
 - a) Randy Alcorn in his book *Heaven* argues it this way, **People are made in God's image, and animals aren't. People sinned, animals didn't. Because animals didn't sin, they don't need a redeemer in the same way.**
 - (1) **Christ died for animals indirectly** because His death for humanity purchased redemption for **what was brought down** by humanity's sin, including **animals**.
 - (2) **Rom.8:19-22** (the creation groans); 23-25 (we groan); vs.26 (HS groans)
 - b) **So...**I'll plead the 5th. **And** not be so **dog-matic** :)

K. Slide 15 **The soul of a beast** is at death like *a candle blown out*, and there is an **end** of it. **Whereas the soul of man** is then like a candle *taken out of the dark lantern*, which leaves the lantern useless indeed, but does itself shine brighter. *Charles Bridges Comm on Eccl., pg.77*

VIII. Slide 16 **CONTENTMENT (22)**

A. Accept life from God's hand & enjoy it while you can.

1. We must live by God's **promises** not *explanations*.
2. We can't always *explain* life, but we must **experience** life, either by **enduring** it or **enjoying** it.
3. Accept life. Enjoy life. Be satisfied w/Life.
4. Paul learned, *in whatever state I am, to be content*. Phil.4:11
 - a) Remember circumstances bring us pain as well as pleasure & it is *His choice* for us.
 - b) Remember all comes from a *Wise Father*.

B. (22b) He will deal w/this question later.

1. **Answer**...only **God** can help us to understand what lies beyond life.