

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

[gibsoncitychurchof
Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofChrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—33
Wednesday—17
Contribution—\$1125

For meditation:
Proverbs 31.16–18
List all the different kinds of job ascribed to the virtuous woman in these verses. To paraphrase a great quote by G. K. Chesterton: “I will pity a woman because her work is gigantic; I will never pity her because her work is small.”

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Eugenics, 4

In 1912, G. K. Chesterton exposed the evils of eugenics in his book, *Eugenics and other Evils*. Chesterton had a gift for not only seeing the evils he attacked but for seeing the good he defended. He pointed out that the eugenics is not only an abandonment of common sense, but it normalizes what in earlier generations would have been thought unthinkable.

Eugenicists argue that men and women should not marry for love but for good breeding. What this means in practice is that couples should not risk having children who might be handicapped, have Down Syndrome, other congenital debilities, etc. But if this view is valid, what should be done when a child becomes handicapped, ill, or weak after birth? Should Helen Keller have been exterminated? What about Christopher Reeves (“Superman”) after the accident that left him a quadriplegic? Many voices in our society call for the eradication of human beings who become unable to enjoy physical health. And they have a long list of reasons explaining why this makes sense.

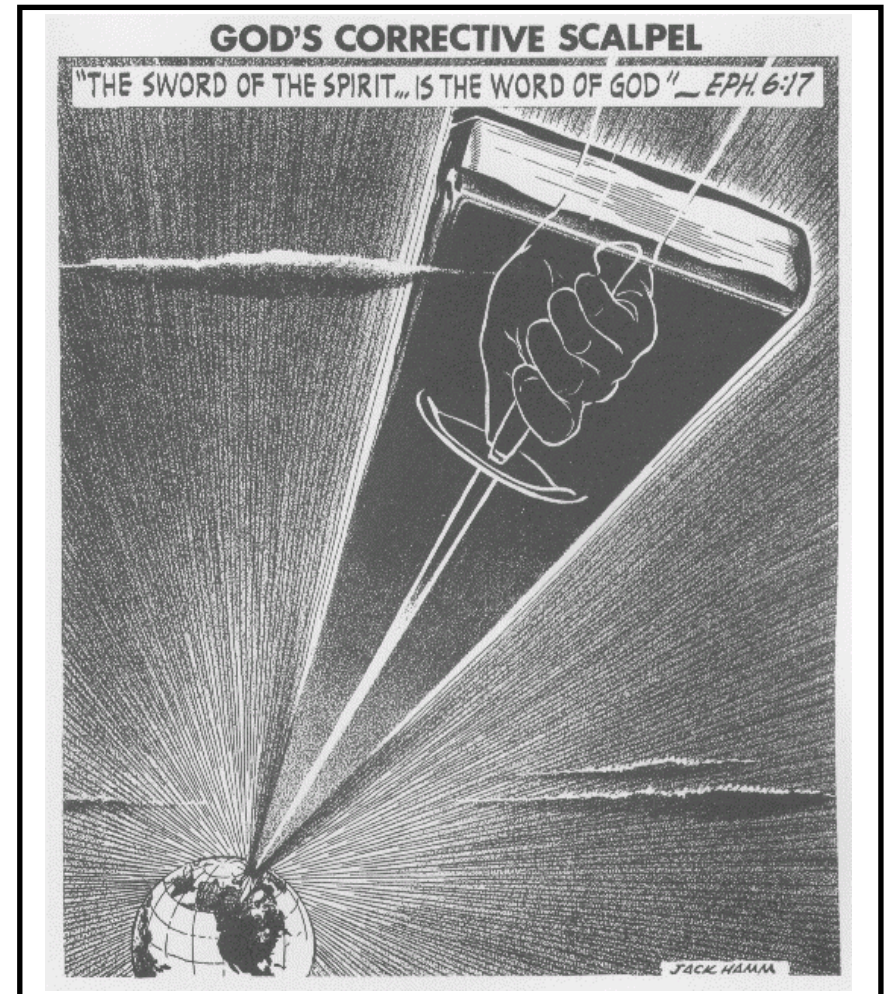
Eugenicists see the field of medicine as supplying the expertise for removing the defective among us. “We call in a doctor to save us from death; and, death being admittedly an evil, he has the right to administer the . . . most recondite pill which he may think is a cure for all such menaces of death. He has not the right to administer death as the cure for all human ills” (Chesterton).

The unbelieving world has convinced many that using death (abortion/euthanasia) to eliminate those who don’t measure up or who have become too much of an emotional and/or economic burden is sound and sensible. Chesterton called those who accept such reasoning, “splendid dupes.”

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Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL



Sermon: Philippians 3.4–10

The Only Thing That Counts

22 September 2024

The Great Confirmation

The last words of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark are known as *the Great Commission*. It falls into three parts: the *commission* given the apostles (16.15), the *conditions* for becoming a disciple (16.16), and the *confirmation* of the gospel (16.17–18, 20). Having looked at the commission and conditions, I'll close by looking at the confirmation of the gospel.

"These signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it shall not hurt them; they will hands on the sick, and they will recover." What Christ was talking about was supernatural evidence—miracles—that would be offered as proof of the supernatural message the apostles preached.

Miracles offered objective, concrete confirmation of the gospel. "If I do not the works of My Father," said Jesus, "do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him" (Jn. 10.37–38). "The works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me" (Jn. 5.36). It is logical to think that a supernatural being would be able to do supernatural works, and this is what the miracles were.

The miracles of Christ came with at least five characteristics. 1. *Their extent*: works of nature, power over material elements, power over all diseases, power over men, power over demons, power over life and death, prophecies about the future, etc. 2. *They were always successful*. No one who came to Christ seeking help ever left without getting help. 3. *They were always immediate*. Christ didn't "heal" someone and say, "You'll start to feel better in a week to ten days." 4. *There were no relapses*. The lady healed of the issue of blood didn't get a subjective high from touching Christ's garment, only to wake up the next day to discover she was still losing blood. 5. *The miracles verified/authenticated Christ and His apostles*. Read Hebrews 2.1–4 and you'll see that the writer of Hebrews shakes hands with Mark on the stated purpose of miracles: they confirmed the word.

"And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and *confirming the word* through the accompanying signs."

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The King James Bible, 2

"May your Majesty be pleased, to direct that the Bible be now translated, such versions as are extant not answering to the original."

The **speaker** was Dr. John Rainolds, a Puritan who was president of Corpus Christi College at Oxford. He was known as the most "learned man" in England and would eventually become known as the "father of the King James Bible."

The **time** was Monday, January 16, 1604.

The **place** was the king's privy chamber, a large room on the east side of the palace at Hampton Court, a massive structure east of London, containing a thousand rooms, built by the Roman Catholic Cardinal Wolsey in the sixteenth century, and eventually appropriated by Henry VIII. The reason the meeting was held at Hampton Court was because the plague was in then killing 30,000 people in London. (Because George II altered this part of the palace, no one today knows exactly where the conversation between King James and Rainolds occurred.)

The **listener** was James I of England (James VI of Scotland), age 37, an "old young man" who suffered from macroglossia, meaning his tongue was too large for his mouth. His mother was Mary, Queen of Scots, who was beheaded when her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I, perceived she was a threat to the throne.

In 1604, most Protestants used the Geneva Bible (with its marginal note that seemed to scoff at kings). James wasn't sure authorizing another translation would do much good, but he nevertheless "appointed certain learned men . . . for the translation of the Bible," and the greatest writing project ever undertaken in the English language was launched.

As soon as he dealt with the Bible translation proposal, James turned his attention to a project he found much more interesting: converting a monastic mansion and two old inns that sat on 600 acres near the town of Royston (which wasn't far from Cambridge) into a royal hunting preserve.

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News about us

- For those who can make it, we're planning on having lunch at the Kettle after services this morning as a farewell gathering for Kim and Kent, who will be moving from the area in just a few weeks.