**MAN’S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT**

***One Giant Leap For Mankind***

July 20, 1969. On that historic day over 51 years ago I witnessed on my black and white television the incredible scene of Neil Armstrong taking “one small step for man, and one giant leap for mankind.” As he jumped off the lunar landing craft onto the moon the world stood speechless. The Apollo 11 mission had to rank among the greatest human achievements in history. From the Wright brothers first man-made flight at Kitty Hawk in 1903 to the moon landing took just 66 years of human genius and planning. Simply amazing.

What would you say was history’s greatest achievement? Perhaps the computer, which has opened up the world to allow every race of man to be invited into our homes, and to explore the entire universe from the comforts of a chair.

Maybe you would vote for Johann Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press. It forever changed our world, allowing the Book of God, and all the books of men, to be easily accessible to nearly every man in every language.

I thought about such things as Running Water that can be piped into every home in the nation. What would your life be without this engineering feat? Or Thomas Edison’s Light Bulb and the engineering genius to wire nearly every room in the world to give instant light. Or Alexander Graham Bell’s telephone. Or Henry Ford’s “horseless carriage.” Or the “Medical Miracles” that have saved and extended the lives of countless billions of people. The list can stretch from the invention of fire to the most modern iPhone. The genius of man’s achievements seems unlimited. At least *man* thinks so.

The ***Humanist Manifesto II*** was written in 1973. This world-renowned group of atheist said, in part,

“The next century can be and should be the humanistic century. We have virtually conquered the planet, explored the moon, overcome the natural limits of travel and communication; we stand at the dawn of a new age, ready to move farther into space and perhaps inhabit other planets. Using technology wisely, we can control our environment, conquer poverty, markedly reduce disease, extend our life-span, significantly modify our behavior, alter the course of human evolution and cultural development, unlock vast new powers, and provide humankind with unparalleled opportunity for achieving an abundant and meaningful life. … No deity will save us, we must save ourselves.”

How stupidly foolish. In fact, that is stupidity gone to seed!

Man has not in the past, cannot in the present, and will not in the future ever be able to **achieve** his own salvation. The fact is, ONLY deity can and will save us, we CANNOT save ourselves! In truth, man’s greatest achievement was not gained by genius. In fact, it wasn’t gained by him at all. Christ’s death to redeem a lost world was “Man’s” greatest achievement. For it was by “*the Man, Christ Jesus*” that salvation came to the world (I Tim. 2:5). A wonderful summary of this “achievement” can be found in Romans 5:6-8.

“*For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

The “brilliance” of all those educated fools who signed the Humanist Manifesto said man must save himself. How, pray tell, does he plan to do that? It was God, at the creation, who commanded man to “*have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth*” (Gen. 1:28). In other words, God endorsed man’s use of His creation to do everything from creating submarines by watching the fish, and creating planes and rocket ships by observing birds, to studying herbs and plants to make medicine. Man had God’s blessing to make life on earth better. He was given permission to use His GOD-given intelligence to make a better world.

But when he tried to build a tower at Babel in clear violation of God’s command to “*fill the earth*,” God scattered man to the four winds (Gen. 11). God sits in heaven and laughs at man’s puny efforts to create a heaven on earth. He schooled ignorant men who thought they were so smart when he spoke through Isaiah these words:

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?
13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has taught Him?
14 With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding?
15 Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles ***as a very little thing***.

Let all the combined scholarship of the scientific world gather into a conference and try to do any of those things God can do “*as a very little thing*.” The hubris of scientists is astounding. They still can’t explain what they once called “the simple DNA cell.” Their “achievements” might seem to be human genius, but we must remember “*the foolishness of God is wiser than men*” (I Cor. 1:25), and “*the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God*” (I Cor. 3:19). Man’s grand achievements will one day sit on the ash-heap of history and then be burned up in God’s fiery finish to planet earth (2 Pet. 3:10).

 “*By the name of Jesus Christ… there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*.” (Ac. 4:12). Christ’s coming to earth to save us when we could not save ourselves is surely history’s greatest achievement. His incarnation was one small step for man, but one giant leap for mankind.

Just think, when you were baptized, you made history! - Rick