**ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND**

***Man’s Greatest Achievement***

July 20, 1969. On that day over 52 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 Apollo 11 mission had to rank among the greatest human achievements in history. From the Wright brothers first man-made flight in 1903 to the moon landing took just 66 years of human genius and planning. Simply amazing.

What would you say was man’s greatest achievement in history? Some say it is 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.

In the year 2000 a famous publication surveyed hundreds of historians to ask them what they considered to be man’s greatest achievement. There were many runners-up but the countdown from 100 to #1 resulted in Johann Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press. It forever changed our world. It was hard for me to argue with that selection, knowing it opened the world to being able to afford and then read the Bible. It has since been printed in virtually every language of the world. Incredible. Thank you Mr. Gutenberg.

Other great achievements that should rank among “the greatest” would be such things as:

Running Water. To be able to plumb a house that allows for easy drinking water, dish water, toilet water and hot water has got to be one of the greatest engineering feats in history. I’ve been to several third world countries and let me tell you, of all of man’s inventions that I had taken for granted, it was running water that I think I would miss the most from our modern world.

I think Thomas Edison’s incandescent Light Bulb and the engineering genius to wire nearly every room in the world to give instant light has to be ranked near the top of this list. How many houses and barns and buildings burned to the ground when the only light man had was fire? Edison’s invention has no doubt saved millions and millions of buildings and lives by his marvelous achievement.

Alexander Graham Bell’s telephone has also blessed man’s ability to quickly communicate, and also save many lives. How many would have died without our 911 emergency calls for police, fire and ambulances?

Henry Ford’s “horseless carriage” forever changed the world of transportation, allowing for not only all of us to be able to “see the U.S.A. in a Chevrolet” (that commercial sure dates me, huh?), but the mass movement of cargo across the country which stocks our stores with every imaginable item we may need.

Near the top of this list should be included the unbelievable “Medical Miracles” that have saved and extended the lives of countless billions of people. Surgeries on the brain, the heart, and every other organ, joint and ligament has not only increased man’s longevity, but improved his comfort in countless ways. I’ve got two titanium steel hips to prove it. From nearly being a cripple to now being able to do most anything without pain is a God-send.

The genius of man’s achievements seems almost unlimited. The list can stretch from the invention of fire to the most modern iPhone. But, are these scientific and engineering accomplishments the greatest achievements in world history? Most scientists, engineers and other academics think so. Just read it for yourself.

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!

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. Read it and weep, for joy.

Rom 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.”*

There you have it. Man’s greatest achievement was given to this world when a baby was born in Bethlehem, grew up in a backwater village of Galilee, preached for three years to a world that rejected Him, then died a lonely death on a tree, hated by His own people He came to redeem. From that obscure MAN came the world’s greatest achievement – the salvation of the world!

While I certainly love reading my books, drinking my plumbed water, clicking on the lights, using my computer, talking-texting-facetiming on my smart phone, the only achievement that is forever is my soul’s salvation. From our ancestors who lived in tents and rode camels to our modern world of scientific marvels we must never, never, never forget that man’s greatest achievement was the death and resurrection of God’s Son.

Thank you dear Jesus. - Rick