



Keystone BAPTIST



WHO IS A CONSERVATIVE?

By Clay Nuttall, D. Min

Taken from Shepherd's Staff - March 2016 .

These days, designations and tags are flying around like bumblebees. The problem is that these categories only represent the user's point of view. "A conservative is someone who agrees with me!" There is no static view in any of them. Conservatives come in many colors. Because of this, all of these groups change meaning over the years. Designations alone are like trying to pick up mercury.

The only way to get to the root of this problem is to ask, "How did they come to that conclusion?" rather than "What is their conclusion?" Your mindset, your system of thinking is really the issue, because that is where your conclusions, points of view, and beliefs come from. We face this every day in theology. It is why people contentiously debate doctrinal positions. One needs to ask, "How did you come to that belief; what system did you use?" The reason there are so many differing doctrines is that people use different systems of thinking. If they all faithfully used the same system with its rules, they could readily come to the same conclusions.

In the early days of American education, there was a strong emphasis on "critical and analytical thinking". This can be demonstrated in the founding documents of our nation, and it is the reason why certain people are trying to destroy them. What we have in state education today is not "critical and analytical thinking", even though they claim that it is. What is going on in this rapidly deteriorating system is "brain washing and indoctrination". Sadly, this same approach has sunk its teeth deep into what is called Christian education. That is why we look, think, act, and smell like the American education failure.

AN OBSERVATION

To illustrate this problem, I am forced to use some current designations; but hang on - I will explain later. We seem to be dealing with "liberals, moderates, and conservatives". I know there are other fringe tags, but I will let you have that discussion among yourselves. Liberalism has a hundred threads, and they are not necessarily similar. What is common about all those tangents is that they use the same system of thinking. Human reason is their authority, and they have a disdain for truth. In fact, many of them do not even believe there is such a thing

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Collapsing Barns

As I have traveled around the state this winter I have been amazed and shocked to see barns that once were strong, impressive structures

that stood as monuments in the harvest fields of rural Pennsylvania caving in with the pressures of nature. I am reminded of the news coverage of standing buildings destroyed and brought down to the ground by an implosion. What once was is no more.

On those same roads of travel I observe what use to be unquestionably a church structure now being used for something totally different. And still others that without a doubt were vibrant edifices, but today have hardly anyone darkens their doors.

In all those situations your heart breaks contemplating what must have happened to all the precious souls, the people? What happened? How did it happen? Who was involved? How much compromise had taken place? Was the Gospel being changed? Were changes being made to the message to make people comfortable in a worldly sense? Were the hymns and music changing to sound more like the world? What practices were changed to add to the demise of the church's health? Did the congregation loose its burden to see souls saved? What was done to stop it?

To me, it is all the more upsetting today when I see congregations starting to cave in. Oh, for sure it is a gradual process, but a process that is difficult to change once it is set in motion. Like the old barns along the highway giving-in to the pressures of the elements and the weight of the

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From the Parsonage Window



A \$2 Bill

In 1978, the \$2 bill was reissued. My husband was



a senior in college, and we had been invited to go to Maine where he would become the Youth Pastor at Victory Baptist Church, Monmouth. The ministry was very young and while the pastor, church families and we were sure it was God's will, there was no way a salary was guaranteed. Otherwise, we were going by faith. We had \$60 left in our savings, and 10 year-old and 3 year-old daughters, one who had health issues. And, there were family and friends questioning the wisdom of our decision. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD" (Is. 55:8) said it all.

My husband worked at a local hardware store, and as we talked and prayed about moving to Maine, one day he received one of the new \$2.00 bills. He brought it home and said, "Let's plant our faith in our future by opening a Christmas saving in Maine for \$2.00 per week and trust the Lord for a \$2.00 bill to send each week." Even though, they were recirculated at that time, they were then and still continue to be rare. We contacted the Maine bank, got the account set up and began a journey of faith. Every week, to our delight, a \$2 bill showed up, but some weeks, it was Saturday before one came. Week after week, we sent our investment on and week after week, the Lord honored our faith. The last week of May, we loaded a U-haul and started for Maine with what would be our final \$2.00 bill. Once we arrived in Maine, \$2.00 bills stopped.

Was there a salary for us? Yes, and it met every need we had. And with just \$60 in savings and the Christmas savings, we able to buy our own

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as truth. Their final authority is man, culture, intellect, etc. No matter how illogical their conclusions may be, they will defend them to “your” death. Liberalism is not wrong about everything; but as I often say, “It doesn’t have answers, but only creates problems and then blames them on someone else”. So liberalism (as an illustration) is about how they think and not so much what they think.

Conservatism (bear with me here) at its heart is interested in truth that can be demonstrated, unlike the so-called science of liberalism that is based on faith or what one believes based on man’s authority. Early conservatism leaned heavily on “analytical and critical thinking”. Sad to say, most people we know in this category love to argue but are not able to answer the “why” of their position. In these days, I fear that thinkers are in the minority. We must remember, however, that even in this group the views are not unanimous.

When people declare a position, or the importance of that position, they create questions that allow us to discover their systems of thinking. That is why you have conservatives championing liberal positions. The left might hold views that the right holds, and vice-versa. That is where moderates come in. They are neither one nor the other, but the problem is that moderates always move left and not right.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

So in this present atmosphere, we ask “How can you tell who is what?” It is not about what they say, but how they arrived at what they say. If one thinks like a liberal, he divides things up; he is a moral conservative, a liberal in economics, and so on. That is the problem. This is not about the leaves; it is about the root. It is how they think, and so many people who claim to be conservative simply tend to think like liberals. How you think determines what you believe and what you are.

Perhaps you can explain why I have never met a person who is liberal in politics who is not also liberal in religion. This is not about whether they got something right; it is a system of thinking as to how they view everything in life. So, if you are thinking about who is a conservative, you should be asking how that person thinks.

There are some positions that quickly identify with liberal thinking. Abortion and sodomy are two of them, and you have to think like a liberal to support such heinous acts. These, though, only allow you to ask the right questions. Any person who is soft on any major issue of any kind is giving you a message. As believers, we should be reminded that for us there is no such thing as a separation of the religious and the secular. The Bible is clear; every thought, deed, and position is subject to the will of God.

LOOKING DOWN THE BARREL

Since we are on the subject, consider pulling out the rifle and looking down the barrel. Let me talk about “us” - those who claim to be conservative and profess salvation. In theology, you have all three of these categories. Call them what you wish; it is right, middle, and left. There are those who are completely committed to the Word and will of God. We may not always practice it right, but we trust a Holy God and believe the Book is God’s Word.

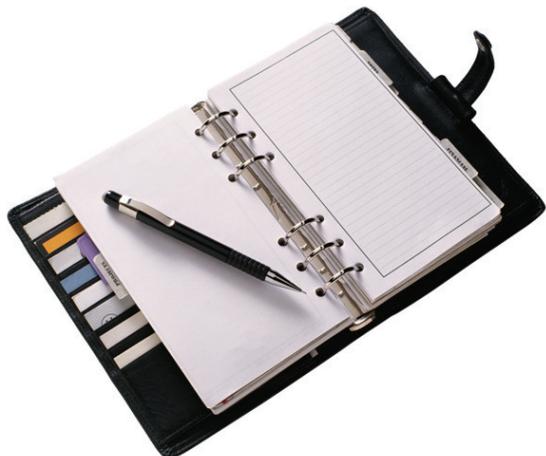
Then how did we get to the “theological error of the month”? It is because we have been taught to think like liberals. Look at how quickly our “professed” fundamental friends run to defend and buddy up to the moderates. By their very nature, moderates think with a liberal mind-set; so the truth is that our own brothers have been duped by that humanistic way of thinking.

I want you to remember this: “Moderates, those in the middle, are far more dangerous than the worst heretic among liberals.”

That is where we are today. In the present atmosphere, our own brothers and sisters are running to cast their

2016-17 PARBC Calendar

If the Lord Tarries



Spring Conference – April 4-5, 2016

Calvary Baptist Church, New Stanton

Hosts: Pastor Richard Sementilli and
Congregation

Speaker: Rev. Larry Hufhand

Youth Retreat & Talents for Christ

April 22-23, 2016

Calvary Baptist Church, Bloomsburg

Hosts: Pastor Timothy Smith & Congregation

Speaker: Evangelist Randy Merrill

Fall Conference – September 12-14, 2016

Bible Baptist Church, Shickshinny

Hosts: Pastor Donald Thomas, Jr. and
Congregation

Speaker: Dr. Alan Griffin

Spring Conference – April 24-25, 2017

Hope Baptist Church, Hanover

Hosts: Pastor Allen Harris & Congregation

Fall Conference – September 11-13, 2017

Marsh Creek Fellowship Baptist Church

Wellsboro

Hosts: Pastor Keith Williams & Congregation

Churches Searching for a Pastor

Faith Baptist Church, Bradford ▼ First Baptist Church, Corry

First Baptist Church, Grove City ▼ Sharon Baptist Church, Hermitage

First Baptist Church, Limestone ▼ Mountain Top Baptist Church, Mountain Top

Chestnut Street Baptist Church, Port Allegany ▼ Carmel Baptist Church, Saegertown

Calvary Baptist Church, Union City ▼ Waterford Baptist Church, Waterford

Churches Calling Pastors

First Baptist Church, Hallstead – Pastor Lloyd Penberthy

Acre Lake Indept. Baptist Church, Kingsley – Pastor Sherman Skeens

Bible Baptist Church, Southampton – Pastor Ted Aucewicz

heavy snows.

Why does Paul charge the churches to **stand fast**? It must have been important for him to have said so six times. He said in II Thessalonians 2:15, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." This charge/command to the New Testament churches was very necessary because of the pressures to give in, cave in and eventually collapse altogether.

Looking at chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation there is evidence that the churches had some areas of concern. Active as they were, busy as they were, alert as some of them were there were issues that the Lord had against them. It is obvious the pressures had done some damage already.

Next time you are out traveling around the country-side in Pennsylvania and your eye catches a glimpse of a dilapidated, caving in old barn, stop and think. Is our church becoming like that? Is our church, is our congregation starting to collapse by the pressures of the world or is it imploding from struggles of shallow, weak, troubled Christians from inside? A lot of churches today are taking on the looks of a collapsing barn. And much of the congregations don't even know it.



home due to a mortgage option available at that time. However, as often is the case, our faith was tested a few months later when our child's health issues escalated. Could we continue to trust? Had God's provisions been forgotten? I won't say it was easy to not question BUT, one day, someone in the church held out their hand to me and said, "I don't know why, but I think I'm to give this to you." It was a \$2.00 bill. This would happen through the years again and again. God has always been faithful to nudge our faith and assure us of his provision in many ways but none so dear as the \$2.00 bill.

When God called us to Maine, little could we know that God had many lessons to teach us, but also plans for our ministry, which would lead us into Christian education. My husband founded Victory Christian School in 1981 and this past fall, started the first day of a new school year which for him began his 35th year of Christian Education ministry.

When we went to Maine, the Lord placed many verses on our hearts which encouraged and challenged us. As we crossed the border into Maine, I read outloud to our family, "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands" (Is. 55:12).

With great joy, we marveled at the beauty of where God called us to serve Him but more so the beautiful experience of learning to trust Him and that He will provide whether it seems logical or even possible.

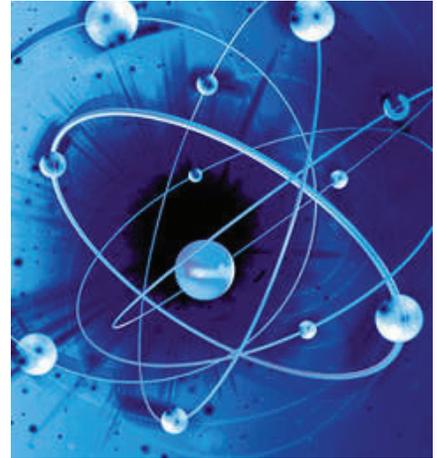
Recently, when clearing out a drawer, I found a \$2 bill tucked into something. I'd squirreled it away sometime ago, and I was reminded again about God's provision.

Our children have grown, we have grandchildren and hundreds of children and students in the Lord. Where God has taken us, He has always provided. That's probably one of the most valuable lessons this pastor's wife has learned. \$2 bills are rare but God's provision is not. He provides for His own--every need, in every way and in every place.

GOD vs SCIENCE

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“Let me explain the problem science has with religion,” The atheist professor of philosophy pauses before his class and then asks one of his new students to stand.



“You’re a Christian, aren’t you, son?”

“Yes sir,” the student says.

“So you believe in God?”

“Absolutely.”

“Is God good?”

“Sure! God’s good.”

“Is God all-powerful? Can God do anything?”

“Yes”

“Are you good or evil?”

“The Bible says I’m evil.”

The professor grins knowingly.. “Aha! The Bible!” He considers for a moment. “Here’s one for you. Let’s say there’s a sick person over here and you can cure him. You can do it. Would you help him? Would you try?”

“Yes sir, I would.”

“So you’re good....?”

“I wouldn’t say that.”

“But why not say that? You’d help a sick and maimed person if you could. Most of us would if we could. But God doesn’t.”

The student does not answer, so the professor continues. ‘He doesn’t, does he? My brother was a Christian who died of cancer, even though he prayed to Jesus to heal him. How is this Jesus good? Can you answer that one?’ The student remains silent.

“No, you can’t, can you?” the professor says. He takes a sip of water from a glass on his desk to give the student time to relax. “Let’s start again, young fella. Is God good?”

“Er..yes,” the student says.

“Is Satan good?”

The student doesn’t hesitate on this one and replies, “No.”

“Then where does Satan come from?”

The student falters. “From God”

“That’s right. God made Satan, didn’t he? Tell me, son. Is there evil in this world?”

“Yes, sir..”

“Evil’s everywhere, isn’t it? And God did make everything, correct?”

“Yes”

“So who created evil?” The professor continued, “If God created everything, then God created evil, since evil exists, and according to the principle that our works define who we are, then God is evil.”

Again, the student has no answer. “Is there sickness? Immorality?

Hatred? Ugliness? All these terrible things, do they exist in this world?”

The student squirms on his feet. ‘Yes.’

“So who created them?”

The student does not answer again, so the professor repeats his question. “Who created them?” There is still no answer.

Suddenly the lecturer breaks away to pace in front of the classroom. The class is mesmerized. “Tell me,” he continues onto another student.

“Do you believe in Jesus Christ, son?”

The student’s voice betrays him and cracks. “Yes, professor, I do.”

The old man stops pacing. “Science says you have five senses you use to identify and observe the world around you. Have you ever seen Jesus?”

“No sir, I’ve never seen Him.”

“Then tell us if you’ve ever heard your Jesus?”

“No, sir, I have not.”

“Have you ever felt your Jesus, tasted your Jesus or smelt your Jesus? Have you ever had any sensory perception of Jesus Christ, or God for that matter?”

“No, sir, I’m afraid I haven’t.”

“Yet you still believe in him?”

“Yes”

“According to the rules of empirical, testable, demonstrable protocol, science says your God doesn’t exist. What do you say to that, son?”

“Nothing,” the student replies. “I only have my faith.”

“Yes, faith,” the professor repeats. “And that is the problem science has with God.. There is no evidence, only faith.”

The student stands quietly for a moment, before asking a question of his own. “Professor, is there such thing as heat?”

“Yes.”

“And is there such a thing as cold?”

“Yes, son, there’s cold too.”

“No sir, there isn’t.”

The professor turns to face the student, obviously interested. The room suddenly becomes very quiet. The student begins to explain. “You can have lots of heat, even more heat, super-heat, mega-heat, unlimited heat, white heat, a little heat or no heat, but we don’t have anything called ‘cold’. We can hit down to 458 degrees below zero, which is no heat, but we can’t go any further after that. There is no such thing as cold; otherwise we would be able to go colder than the lowest -458 degrees. Every body or object is susceptible to study when it has or transmits energy, and heat is what makes a body or matter have or transmit energy. Absolute zero (-458 F) is the total absence of heat. You see, sir, cold is only a word we use to describe the absence of heat. We cannot measure cold. Heat we can measure in thermal units because heat is energy. Cold is not the opposite of heat, sir, just the absence of it.”

Silence across the room. A pen drops somewhere in the classroom, sounding like a hammer.

“What about darkness, professor. Is there such a thing as darkness?”

“Yes,” the professor replies without hesitation. “What is night if it isn’t darkness?”

“You’re wrong again, sir. Darkness is not something; it is the absence of something. You can have low light, normal light, bright light, flashing light, but if you have no light constantly you have nothing and it’s called darkness, isn’t it? That’s the meaning we use to define the word. In reality, darkness isn’t. If it were, you would be able to make darkness darker, wouldn’t you?”

The professor begins to smile at the student in front of him. This will be a good semester. “So what point are you making, young man?”

“Yes, professor. My point is, your philosophical premise is flawed to start with, and so your conclusion must also be flawed.” The professor’s face cannot hide his surprise this time. “Flawed? Can you explain how?”

“You are working on the premise of duality,” the student explains. “You argue that there is life and then there’s death; a good God and a bad God. You are viewing the concept of God as something finite, something we can measure. Sir, science can’t even explain a thought. It uses electricity and magnetism, but has never seen, much less fully understood either one. To view death as the opposite of life is to be ignorant of the fact that death cannot exist as a substantive thing. Death is not the opposite of life, just the absence

of it. Now tell me, professor... Do you teach your students that they evolved from a monkey?"

"If you are referring to the natural evolutionary process, young man, yes, of course I do."

"Have you ever observed evolution with your own eyes, sir?"

The professor begins to shake his head, still smiling, as he realizes where the argument is going. A very good semester, indeed.

"Since no one has ever observed the process of evolution at work and cannot even prove that this process is an on-going endeavor, are you not teaching your opinion, sir? Are you now not a scientist, but a preacher?"

The class is in uproar. The student remains silent until the commotion has subsided.

"To continue the point you were making earlier to the other student, let me give you an example of what I mean." The student looks around the room. "Is there anyone in the class who has ever seen the professor's brain?" The class breaks out into laughter. "Is there anyone here who has ever heard the professor's brain, felt the professor's brain, touched or smelt the professor's brain? No one appears to have done so. So, according to the established rules of empirical, stable, demonstrable protocol, science says that you have no brain, with all due respect, sir. So if science says you have no brain, how can we trust your lectures, sir?"

Now the room is silent.

The professor just stares at the student, his face unreadable. Finally, after what seems an eternity, the old man answers, "I Guess you'll have to take them on faith."

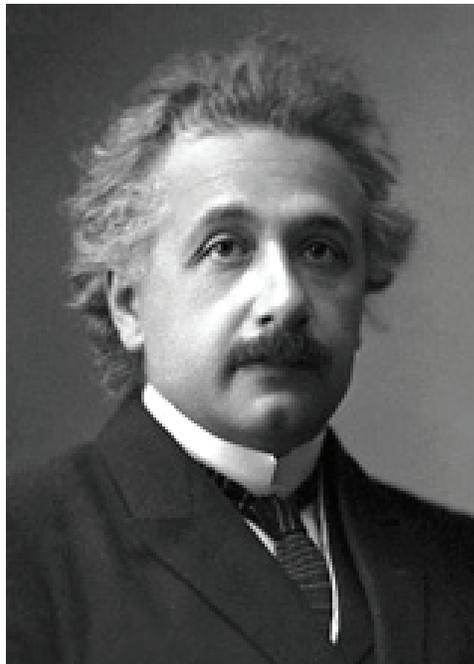
"Now, you accept that there is faith, and, in fact, faith exists with life," the student continues. "Now, sir, is there such a thing as evil?"

Now uncertain, the professor responds, "Of course, there is. We see it everyday. It is in the daily example of man's inhumanity to man. It is in the multitude of crime and violence everywhere in the world. These manifestations are nothing else but evil."

To this the student replied, "Evil does not exist sir, or at least it does not exist unto itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is just like darkness and cold, a word that man has created to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is the result of what happens when man does not have God's love present in his heart. It's like the cold that comes when there is no heat or the darkness that comes when there is no light."

The professor sat down.

PS: The student was Albert Einstein.



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## Pennsylvania Baptists for Life & Families, Inc.

*Action Line for Life & Families 570-376-2584*

*www.pabflf.org*



### Urgent Need to Save the Unborn

There is an urgent need for volunteers to help save the unborn. Pennsylvania Baptists for Life & Families is looking for women in our fellowshiping churches of the PARBC to be trained to help those in a crises pregnancy or serious problem in their home. After a few hours of training and practice you will have the material to be able to assist in a call for help (received in your own home or cell phone) that may save a baby's life and see the mother come to know Christ as her Savior.

The electronic technology is now available to direct a call from our toll free number (1-800-345-5009) control-board to your home or cell number. So for the short time on the phone you are scheduled as a "hotliner" (one answering the phone) anyone calling for help will be directed to your phone as the "temporary" 1-800-345-5009 connection. After your initial conversation you will then help them find a PARBC church and pastor for further assistance.

Did you know that in 2010, on average, **4 abortions were performed every single hour of every single day in the state of Pennsylvania?** That's more than 35,000 babies legally killed in just one year alone. In fact, since 1975 (the first year records were kept) through 2010 (the most current records provided by the PA Department of Health), over 1.6 million abortions have taken place in our state.

Please, please, won't you avail yourself to help save the unborn and help the mothers find Christ? It is for a short time every week where the plea for help comes right to your own phone. May God richly bless you for your willingness to be used for the Sanctity of Life!

**PLEASE HELP SAVE THE UNBORN**

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# PARBC Spring Conference Schedule

April 4-5, 2016

Calvary Baptist Church, New Stanton, PA

Pastor Richard Sementilli

*Theme: "Power in Prayer"*



## Monday

10am Council of Ten Meeting

2pm Registration & Fellowship

3pm Session One – Keynote Message – Pastor Richard Sementilli

4pm Session Two – Rev. Larry Hufhand

5pm Dinner (provided by host church) & Fellowship

7pm Session Three – Brother Hufhand

## Tuesday

9am Session Four – Brother Hufhand

10am Prayer Time – Pastor Paul Roofner – Faith Baptist Church, Waynesburg

10:40 Refreshments & Fellowship

11am Session Five – Brother Hufhand  
*Presentation of Faithful Servant Awards*

Noon Lunch (provided by host church) & Fellowship

1:30pm Business Session – Dr. Charles Dear – Chairman of Council of Ten

2:45pm Discussion Time

3:30pm Refreshments & Fellowship

4pm Session Six – Brother Hufhand

5pm Dinner (provided by host church) & Fellowship