

## *A Positive Note to End On*

I do not want to leave this booklet there. Surely there must be hope. Are we really doomed to ‘the survival of the fittest’? Is that the best we have? Most of us are anything but ‘the fittest’. Indeed, we are all sinners. Is there no hope? Is Woody Allen right after all? Remember what he said. Listen to the hopelessness in his voice:

More than [at] any other time in history, mankind faces a crossroads. One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness. The other, to total extinction. Let us pray we have the wisdom to choose correctly.<sup>1</sup>

From where I am standing, it seems that most end up adopting the mantra the sacred Teacher observed men repeating in his day:

Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath; humans have no advantage over animals.

Adopting such a stance, there can be only one conclusion:

Everything is meaningless [or vain; that is, passing, temporary, insubstantial, failing to satisfy] (Eccles. 3:19).

Vain? Ephemeral? Is it enough to know that my life has been spent merely producing descendants ‘fitter’ for their remorseless chase around the treadmill, and for them, in turn, to produce descendants who will be ‘fitter’ still? Is that all there is to it? Is this the sum and substance of life? For the evolutionist, yes! What else can it be?

But for the Christian, things are very different:

When I consider your [that is, God’s] heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in

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<sup>1</sup> Woody Allen: ‘My Speech to the Graduates’, *The New York Times*, August 10th, 1979.

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place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them – human beings – that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. LORD, our LORD, how majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:3-9).

And believers have this confident expectation:

Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope [that is, in confident expectation] that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved (Rom. 8:18-24).

How did Paul arrive at such a place? Read the preceding chapters of Romans, and all will become clear. We are all sinners, all under the wrath and condemnation of God. We cannot save ourselves. But God has acted in history – sending his Son to live and die for sinners, to atone for their sins, and sinners trusting Christ are at once fully forgiven and justified in the sight of God: the blood of Christ washes them from sin, and the righteousness of Christ clothes them. And that leads Paul to set out the glorious hope in the passage I just quoted. And there is more! The apostle moves straight on to declare that nothing shall ever take away this hope for the believer:

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also,

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along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:31-39).

And that brings me to why I have written this booklet – not to score points in a debate with evolutionists, but to point helpless and hopeless sinners – and Darwinism leaves sinners utterly helpless and hopeless – to the only hope, the glorious hope found in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

More than that: I appeal to you to trust the Saviour and his finished work. I assure you that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord is truly saved (Rom. 10:13). So trust him now!