

## St. Andrew's (JKP) Monthly Newsletter *May, 2010*

Edification: Thousands of years ago in a far-away land the wisest of the wise, King Solomon famously lamented: “[There's nothing new under the sun.](#)” Was he right? If you scan the shelves of your local bookstore you might not think so. There's a whole spate of books written by so-called “New Atheists” espousing a “New Atheism”. Some of the names you'll come across include Christopher Hitchens, Richard Dawkins & Sam Harris. Have they found something new about atheism that we've missed for the past several thousand years? Has the essence of unbelief changed somehow? Technically atheism = (*atheos*), meaning "without gods". It is to view all of life without any reference to a deity. This is nothing new, it began in the Garden. So what's “new” in the “new atheism”? Consider the title of Hitchens best-selling book; “[God Is Not Great – How Religion Poisons Everything](#)”. In the book Hitchens declares: “[The person who is certain, and who claims divine warrant for his certainty, belongs now to the infancy of our species. It may be a long farewell, but it has begun and, like all farewells, should not be protracted.](#)” Back in the day atheism while always rejecting any deity would nonetheless acknowledge the individual and societal benefit of theistic belief. Not so with the new atheism. The view is that if Man is to evolve to the next level all that is holding Him back must be purged. While religion may've aided Man's survival up to this point it is now an obstacle. The new atheists refer to religion as “[evil](#)”, “[insidious](#)”, “[corrupting](#)”. Hitchens says the doctrine of substitutionary atonement is “[little more than cosmic child abuse](#)”. Man has outgrown religion, now it is an impediment. All vestiges must go, and its going “[should not be protracted](#)”. Maybe it should be called “[Consistent Atheism](#)” instead of “[New Atheism](#)”?

Events/Information: Our final service of worship at the Oberlin Community Center (Lord willing) will be 05/30/10. Our initial worship service in our new (circa 1870) meeting place will be 06/06/10. More details to follow.

***There's no good reason to be the richest man in the cemetery.*** COL. SANDERS, FOUNDER OF KENTUCKY  
FRIED CHICKEN

Encourage: Recently a number of good books refuting the so-called New Atheism have been published. Authors such as Tim Keller, Al Mohler & Alistair McGrath have demonstrated that King Solomon was right after all – there really is nothing new under the sun. Solomon sought for meaning and pleasure apart from God, as do atheists. After all his soul searching and angst what was his conclusion? “[Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man](#)”. The Christian need not fear the open hostility of these atheists. The Christian need not fear any worldview that challenges his own. Our faith cannot be overcome. Our faith, and our faith alone explains and gives meaning to all of reality. All other systems, including all strands of atheism, break down at some point and become illogical and often even ridiculous. For example; Hitchens believes aliens may have seeded the Earth with Human Seeds (can you get those from a Burpee seed catalog?). The revelation of the Bible is unassailable. Again, we believe it because it's true. And we know it's true because it has been proven so over the millennia. When you think of it that way there's a real blessing in the fact that “[There's nothing new under the sun](#)”.