

# On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

## I Saw Elvis In My Cheese Whiz

by Linus A. Mathis III

Isn't it curious how many intriguing items are found by supermarket checkouts? I suppose if I were a retailer I'd be sure to put those "last minute" items in an appropriate location. You would too! We wouldn't want our customers to leave unsatisfied, would we? Of course not! So, to be on the safe side, we might put some of the often overlooked (yet vital to daily living) odds and ends in the most strategic place. You just never know who may need an eye glass repair kit or info on the latest Elvis sighting.

Perhaps you have noticed, as I have, the copious assortment of tabloids and self-development magazines. (You must admit those tabloids have catchy, if not questionable, headlines.) You may also have noticed that most of these publications report on how you may extend your life. The concept of a long life is desirable and most folks would choose to live forever if given the option. You would think that the commonly quoted Scripture reference of John 3:16 would be more readily believed.

### John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

However, a Scripture reference and

the actual Word of God are quite different. Don't get me wrong, I'm thankful for the chapters and verses for without them it would be difficult to find your place. Yet, you must do more than quote the reference. You must read the verse or verses referenced and then believe them. His Word will not profit us if we don't believe it.

### Hebrews 4:2

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Most people, those who believe the Bible and those who don't, consider tabloid articles absurd. That they are is without dispute but herein lies the rub. They provide a clever distraction by appealing to the morbid curiosity of the old-man nature (Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:22-24; Colossians 3:8-10) while making the concepts of eternal life and faith to appear ridiculous.

Allow me to elaborate at the expense of the Elvis phenomenon. Thousands of his fans have become so devoted to him that he is being deified. The twentieth anniversary of his death saw tens of thousands of fans gathered at his grave in his Gracelands home in Tennessee. They said prayers, burnt candles and filed silently past his grave. They have even formed a church called "The First Presleyterian Church Of Elvis The Divine."

This bizarre pursuit is being

punctuated by efforts to express in religious terms what Elvis has done for their lives (much like how you or I testify of the deliverance Jesus Christ purchased for us). A former girlfriend of his is claiming to have seen him transfigured by a strange light and let's not forget the "visions" so many have had. It is also said that Elvis believed to be on a higher spiritual plane than others and that his lust for knowledge "drove him crazy."

Elvis has "turned up" in some of the oddest places. Testimonies abound and some even believe that he is in fact the messiah. There are claims of a blue light shining in the sky above his home when he was born. He himself claimed to have seen a vision of God in 1965 in the Arizona desert.

For most people the concept of Elvis as a Christ-like figure head for any religion simply defies logic. It is foolish beyond description. But here's where the media, analysts and Devil find their opportunities. In a recent documentary on this very topic a noted psychiatrist relegated this entire matter to nothing more than denial. His contention is that those who idolize Elvis Presley and his music simply can't accept his death. He claims that this is all part of a human defense mechanism which shields us from loss and hurt. In other words, when you love something too much and you lose it you deny that it was lost. "Much, he said, like Christians." So you see, there's the barb! We Christians are in a state of denial. We just can't face up to the fact that Jesus Christ

died. Or, for that matter, that we will. I feel much better now, don't you?

This all reminds me of the following:

Matthew 28:1-15

In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead *men*.

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

And as they went to tell his

disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done.

And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,

Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.

And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Some are still saying that the Lord didn't get up! But, he did!!!

I Corinthians 15:12-21

Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain.

Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins.

Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

Isn't it outrageous, the ends to which the Devil will go to try and discredit our God? Yet, what is even more unreal is that some would choose to believe man rather than God! That being the case, please consider the following:

I John 5:9-13

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Let the world think that we're crazy. Considering the source, I'll take it with a "grain of salt."

#### II Corinthians 5:13-15

For whether we be beside ourselves [insane], *it is* to God: or whether we be sober [sane], *it is* for your cause.

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

The world little recognizes the accomplishments of our Lord. Not the least of which is his sacrifice for us. Yet, all of history rests upon not only his sacrifice but also his resurrection. If it were not for this what would we have?

I remember as though it were yesterday the freedom I experienced when I knew I was saved. My heart was so light, it seemed I could endure anything. Everything of importance had been done for me. I knew that

God loved me and that He had forgiven me. I had a brand new life before me, my slate was clean. I had gained eternal life for my Saviour had purchased it for me with his blood.

I knew then, as I know now, if God never, ever did anything else for me it would be okay. Because of this I am forever in His debt. I owe my God everything because He gave everything for me to be saved. He gave His Son.

If need be, I will follow Jesus Christ into the very jaws of death. Because he died so that I could live. These things that I learned when I first knew that I was saved were the greatest things that I ever had learned or ever would learn.

And so, dear reader take the following Truths deep within your heart and never let them be taken from you:

#### I John 2:24,25

If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.

There isn't anything to compare with these pure simple Truths of Christianity. Which is why the Devil tries so hard to talk us out of them. Even going so far as to beguile an entire world into believing that which is outlandish, illogical, absurd and surreal. No wonder he goes to such lengths to make it appear that the Bible and those that believe it are strange.

So then, who really is the odd-fellow? Is it the Christian who believes God and the exquisite logic of His Word? Or is it the fellow who doesn't? I'll put all I have on the Father and His Word! How about you?

Good grief! Is that Elvis I see in my Cheese Whiz?

\*\*\*\*\*