

The White Book

Gary Hope

“The White Book,” by Gary Hope

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1

“Everything in moderation... including moderation.”

This is the fourth book I have written. In the first three I simply told the truth, told some stories, listed some trivial information and repeated some history that some of us may have forgotten. This, however, is a biased book (my biases...since it's my book); my intention is to explain how I think about things, how I view religion, politics and the state of affairs in our world. Certainly, the quickest way to alienate people is to voice your views on religion (or politics, which to some people borders on religion), but I don't care about political correctness, nor do I care about hurting some people's feelings – maybe their feelings need to be hurt once in a while...maybe it'll wake them up. I doubt it, but heck, I may not have much longer to voice my opinions, so here they are: the good, the bad and a bunch of thoughts that'll probably make you mad.

First, I'm going to discuss religion as I see it. I'll just go ahead and alienate about 90% of you right now...no use waiting around. I'm a Christian, sometimes a decent Christian, sometimes a Christian who needs major forgiveness in his life, but still, a devoted Christian who loves Jesus Christ. I truly don't understand how anyone could not be a Christian, if you have any sense at all and any brains to think logically about our world and history. Being a

Christian, in my opinion, means loving the Lord and believing that Jesus Christ was born and died to save us from our sins. He paid a debt which we could not pay and cannot pay by dying on the cross for us. A lot of people don't believe this, bad for them, because one day we'll stand before the Lord and answer for our actions and our beliefs. The ONLY thing that will get you into heaven for eternity (zillions of years), is belief in Jesus and repentance of your sins. There is nothing else on earth you can do to enter heaven besides this...period. It doesn't matter how "good" you are, it doesn't matter how many great things you do, or how many people you help, or how much money you give to the poor – no, none of this will get you into heaven. Only your belief in Jesus will do that. I know a lot of you don't want to hear that – or believe it, but it's true.

For those of you who have doubts, tell me this: how do you explain the Bible? How do you explain how everything started? Do you REALLY think there was nothing and then nothing exploded in a "Big Bang" and then nothing somehow started replicating itself and eventually turned into fish, which then turned into dinosaurs, which then turned into monkeys, then men? Really? You do realize there is absolutely no scientific evidence of any of this happening and no trail of evolution, except in THEORY, to explain any of this. Unfortunately for the evolutionists, even their own scientists are now backtracking, saying they can find no evidence of species evolving into other species, but it simply "must have happened this way" ...how else can they

explain it? I'll tell you how to explain it: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..." Once you get past that first sentence in the Bible, and understand it and accept it...everything else in the Bible makes perfect sense.

How do people explain Jesus? A man born over 2000 years ago who has changed the world, a man who has had more books written about Him than anyone else in history. A man who has had more paintings done of Him than anyone in history. How do you explain that? How do you explain Him dying on a cross – and die, He indeed did; the Romans were experts at killing people – then coming back to life three days later appearing to over 500 people? How do you explain that? How do you explain the twelve Apostles who witnessed these events all dying tragic, painful deaths because they wouldn't refute what they saw? Eleven of the 12 were tortured to death and any of them could have saved their own life simply by saying it wasn't true. But they couldn't say it wasn't true, because it was...they knew it, they saw it, they felt the nail prints in His hands and feet – how does anyone explain that?

As Jesus once said, "blessed is he who sees and believes, but even more blessed is he who has not seen yet still believes." Truly, there are very large groups of people who will never believe any of this, just as there are very large groups of organized religions who have twisted and turned things so crazily, it's amazing how they have convinced so many people about so many bizarre events. They

have made religions of things Jesus never said or intended, they have convinced millions of people that the Bible is not entirely accurate, that their version of events are actually true...doesn't matter if there's no historical evidence of anything they say, nor any documents to substantiate their versions. No, just blindly believe them and do some good deeds and you will end up in Heaven. Hogwash! These people who lead others astray will one day have to answer for their actions before the Lord. Don't be taken in by these charlatans...The Lord gave us everything we need to know in the Bible. It's not a puzzle, nor is it a buffet line where you take what you want and leave out what you don't want. It's not golden tablets, nor undocumented histories, nor fairy tales...it is what it is: a documented history, divinely inspired, telling us all we need to know.

Now, for the Christians: we're far from PERFECT! We're forgiven, but Lord knows we've got just as many problems as anyone else. Many so-called Christians have done dastardly deeds in the Lord's name. Christians have killed those in other religious groups, they've killed each other, they've called each other names and lied about each other; history is rife with the sad plight of despicable acts done in the name of the Lord. It's sad to admit, but a lot of these actions are still occurring today. The Lord said, "Love one another." Not, kill those who are different...trust me, if you only love the people who are like you, then you will hate Heaven...if you somehow got there.

In my opinion, there are four things we should know about every person on earth. It doesn't matter how successful or unsuccessful they are, or how famous or obscure they are, or how attractive or ugly they are...everyone shares these four traits.

One, there is an essential emptiness in every person, that can only be filled by Christ. It doesn't matter how much money you have, or how famous you are; God made you with a void inside that only He can fill.

Two, people are lonely. There is a sense of loneliness in every individual.

Three, people have a sense of guilt. They may try to mask it with alcohol or drugs, or maybe even have a psychiatrist convince them it's not really there. The head of a leading mental institution once said, "I could release half of my patients if I could find a way to relieve them of their sense of guilt."

Four, people are afraid to die. Some may act brave and strut around, but when faced with death, they too are afraid, just like we all are. None of us knows how long we'll live...8 years, 38 years, 88 years, we never know what the Lord has planned for us. That is why we have to make every day count. We don't know when our day will come – when the Lord calls you home, you're going home! It won't matter how many vitamins you take, how many hours you spend in the gym, what kind of healthy foods you eat...when your number is up, it's up.

On the other hand, you will also be around until God is done with you. You won't go before your time. Doesn't really matter how healthy you are and what sort of shape you're in, you'll live to the time God has appointed for you – and worrying about it won't extend your life for one moment. Winston Churchill was a great man, but he didn't take care of himself; he drank a quart of whiskey every day and smoked up to 15 cigars daily, and he weighed nearly 300 pounds on his 5'9" body. Yet, he lived to be 90 years old. The Lord had plans for him, just as He does for you and me.

However, we aren't to be foolish either and "put the Lord to the test." Some people have misinterpreted some passages in the Bible and skewed the meanings. In one story Jesus said, "They will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them..." Some people actually test the Lord with this statement and handle snakes in worship services. That is not trusting the Lord, it is testing the Lord. The statement Jesus said means if you are a Christian, then you are indestructible until God is done with you. There is a day appointed for your death, and you really have nothing to say about when that day is.

So stop worrying about when you'll die, because you have nothing to say about it. It isn't up to you. Does that mean you can eat and drink anything you want? No, you should act responsibly and exercise and eat properly. This will improve the QUALITY of your life. But ultimately, the quantity is still up to God.

We can rest assured that we are here until God is finished with us. So make the most out of your life and every day God has given you. Wherever you are, whatever you do, be all that you can. Live life to the hilt in every situation, as long as you believe it's in the will of God.



"a good old girl"

2

You know what I got for Christmas? Fat! I got Fat!!

Politics. This subject can inflame almost any conversation--even more than religion can. And now, I'm going to do all I can to really stir up the flames. Some people actually think a political agenda or a political party can legislate morality...they really do. News flash: God isn't a Republican or a Democrat. He doesn't vote. If He did, He'd win every time. Another news flash: no one is ever elected without God's approval. Read your Bible...please read your Bible.

I've recently changed my party affiliation, I'm now the chairman of the "Non-Incumbent Party". If you are an incumbent, then I don't vote for you, doesn't matter to me which political party you're affiliated with...I ain't voting for you. I don't think our founding fathers meant for people to make careers of being politicians – if they did, then they were wrong. I think they meant for people to go to Washington, or Raleigh, or wherever; serve for the greater good for their elected term, then go back home and actually GO TO WORK! Make something of themselves, contribute to the greater good, pay their fair share of taxes, buy their own insurance, live by the same rules the rest of us live by – not mooch off the public payroll, get salaries for LIFE, even after you're no longer serving; not get free insurance (insurance by the way, that none of the rest of us can get), not get

free benefits, free travel, free everything...no! Stop the free ride, go back home, go to work, pay taxes, buy your own insurance...just like every other American has to do.

I started off being a left wing Democrat back in my college days. I wasn't really political, I was just against the Vietnam War and didn't want to get drafted and sent over there. That, plus, the Democrats had much prettier girls on campus. The Republican girls were just a little too Nixony for my tastes. After graduation, I changed somewhat to being a more moderate Democrat for two reasons: first, my grandfather was a Democrat, and by God if it was good enough for Grover Cleveland Townsend, then it was good enough for me; and second, the Democrats still had the prettiest girls. I read somewhere that if you weren't a liberal when you were young, then shame on you; and if you weren't a conservative when you were old, then twice the shame on you...I think there's a lot to that.

As I grew older (not wiser, just older), I evolved into a middle of the road sort of guy and started to realize that both parties were quickly filling up with weirdos and wackos. Although I still voted for Democrats, they were increasingly trying my patience with their outlandish platforms. Several elections, I did not vote for the Democratic candidate, nor did I vote for the Republican candidate. I either chose the third party loser, or more often than not, my own write in candidate.

This has now evolved into my new party, the "Non-Incumbent Common Sense Party". It has no affiliations and no members and no pretty girls...but it makes me feel good not to vote for any of those lazy, slothful career politicians who just want to mooch off my hard earned tax dollars. I'm equally disgusted with both Democrats and Republicans; some of the things they say and believe in is just absurd. Seemingly, the Democratic platform consists solely of appeasing the gay, lesbian, transgender community (all 1.7% of them) at the expense of what the other 98.3% of Americans want. Their second concern seems to be to fund any and all people who don't want to work...to give them checks every week for not working, give them free food, free insurance and a free ride for their entire lives. Sounds like a good deal if your goal in life is be a worthless, mooching bum. The Democrats also want to allow any Hispanic person, or hundreds of thousands of persons, to enter our country illegally, then give them checks every week, and food and insurance and shelter, and a free education just because they were industrious enough to cross our borders illegally, without getting caught. In my opinion, this is outright and blatant racism! I guarantee you if my ancestors from Ireland tried to enter this country illegally, then tried to get free food, free insurance, free schooling and free everything, they'd throw them back in the ocean where they came from.

And Republicans...sometimes I wonder how they can even sleep at night. One thing I give them credit for is they don't try to hide who they are: rich,

privileged socialites who want to take care of themselves and their country club friends, while stomping on the downtrodden masses who can't help themselves and actually need some government help simply to survive. I'll stop there, this hole is deep enough as is.

I feel I should address the whole homosexual, gay, lesbian, whatever issue now. First, let me simply state that as a Christian I believe homosexuality is a sin – it's not my definition, it's the Lord God's definition. If you have a problem with it being labeled a sin, then you need to argue with God, not me. However, cheating, adultery, fornication, lying, stealing, and other things are also sins – none greater or less than homosexuality. In God's eyes, a sin is a sin. And, here's the kicker—we're ALL tempted by sin. We all have desires we know are wrong, we all want to do things we know are wrong, we all give into these temptations from time to time. But, here's the good news: Jesus tells us we'll NEVER be tempted more than we can handle. We will always be able to walk away from temptation (or better yet, to run away), if we so desire. We face temptations every day, in many different forms; I even think some people are born with pre-dispositions to sins...such as alcoholism, or addictions, or even homosexuality. That doesn't mean we have to cave into these temptations...we are to fight them, to walk away from them, to repeatedly pray to the Lord for help and seek His refuge, not to give in to human temptations. This is where the gay community is trying to convince our nation that it's okay to be gay.

They say “we were born this way”. Maybe so, maybe others were born with the genes towards alcoholism and addictions...that doesn't mean it's okay to give into these vices and ruin your lives. No! You fight them, you walk away from them, you seek help, you pray – if all else fails, you pray ceaselessly...that's what we're taught. Keep praying and your prayers will be answered.

The Bible says to love all people without judgment and treating gays any differently would also be a sin. I have several friends who are admittedly gay and lesbian, and I have several relatives as well. I love them as I love everyone else. I love those who lie and cheat and steal and commit all sorts of sins – because I'm one of them – we all are. We all sin and fall short of the glory of God. We all need Him, some of us more than others. Don't let Hollywood or some popular celebrities convince you otherwise. Be strong in your faith, stand up for what you believe in and what is right in the Lord's eyes...your rewards will be in heaven – guaranteed. Just because a court rules that it's legal for gays to marry doesn't make it right in God's eyes. It's still a sin, regardless of what any court rules. Many years ago, courts ruled Black people could not vote, that wasn't right. The courts ruled women couldn't vote, that wasn't right. They ruled Blacks could not use the same facilities as whites, that wasn't right either. At one time in our history the courts ruled that Americans could not drink alcohol. These are just a few of the examples of how our courts can really screw things up...why? Because the courts are made

up of human beings and lawyers – need I say more? Always rely on God’s laws; if there’s ever any question if you should follow God’s lead or man’s lead, I hope you will choose wisely and make the right decision.



“Beauties”