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Quote of the Day



In heaven, higher we cannot go.... there are no fortunate islands beyond. This is life's utmost end of happiness, the secure Fair Haven of your souls—heaven! Christian seamen furl their sails there for the last time, rest from their labors, and enjoy themselves forevermore.

Spurgeon, from my book, *Ocean Devotions: from the Hold of C. H. Spurgeon, Master of Mariner Metaphors* (AuthorHouse, 2008), pg. 52, Feb. 15 of 366 daily devotions – see [www.PreciousHeart.net/Ocean](http://www.PreciousHeart.net/Ocean)



Sad?—Blame the Caveman!

by Michael G. Maness, sidebar from *Beaumont Enterprise*, 2-13-16, 9A.

Really? From the era of “the Devil made me do it” to “I was born this way,” what are we facing?

Experts can trace your sadness or proclivity to addiction back 40,000 years, all in that 2% little sub-microscopic “genome.” I know, you’re going to ask, What’s a genome? It’s the genetic stuff, sure, but specifically it is “the haploid set of chromosomes in a gamete or microorganism.” About as clear as mud, that is. Or “full set of chromosomes, all the inheritable traits of an organism.... sum total of genes in a set.”

You lopsided HAPLOID you!

So, are you *all* you are meant to be?

Have you no control over your “genes”? Or, for a young person, his or her “jeans”? When you goof up, can we now say, my GENES made me do it? Or, worse, “Mom ... Dad? *You* made me do it!”

Color of skin, eyes and hair; size of feet and brain; proclivity or immunity to diseases—not my fault! Well, what do you think?

Few of us will doubt that science has come a long way from the days of trepanning the human skull, for today they do it with much more knowledge of what lies inside. All of us are exceedingly thankful—and thankful to God—for all the advances in medicine. Many advances include the psychiatric, where chemical imbalances can drastically affect how a person *feels*.

Yes, thank God for aspirin, too, and Novocain in the dentist chair.

Nor do I suppose we will ever fully decipher *all* the distinctions between the physical and emotional.

However, the debate is not over yet on what determines all my actions, my moods and my proclivities. Some would say, and I could footnote several evangelically theological tomes that laboriously defend *all things are predetermined* by God, though, somehow, there is real human freedom; and other conservative Bible-believing Christians will likewise attest to God allowing us a true measure of freedom without Him *necessarily* taking charge of every second. I wrote a book, *Heart of the Living God*, on just that discussion.<sup>1</sup>

That brings me to the Christian life. My church, FBC Woodville, is offering a free dinner and the beginning of Celebrate Recovery, 6:15 p.m., Feb. 25, an enormously successful small-group study, that helps persons with their “hurts, habits and hang ups.” Amid all the theological struggles, the magnificent scientific breakthroughs, and the conflict between creationism vs. evolution—I think and believe we in New Bethel can agree—that the Bible is clear on a few things, among them that we are responsible for *some* of our actions and attitudes, and the church is there to help.

For more, see [www.FBCWoodville.com](http://www.FBCWoodville.com) and [www.CelebrateRecovery.com](http://www.CelebrateRecovery.com).

**Neanderthal inheritance**

It’s been 40,000 years since the Neanderthals disappeared, but their lingering genetic legacy may be influencing your health.

If you are of Asian or European descent, about 2 percent of your genome came from your Neanderthal ancestors, scientists say. Now, new evidence suggests this inheritance affects a broad range of health disorders including skin disease, your ability to fight infection and even your risk of addiction and depression.

<sup>1</sup> See *Heart of the Living God: Love, Free Will, Foreknowledge, and Heaven; a Theology on the Treasure of Love* (AuthorHouse, 2004; 728p.), [www.PreciousHeart.net/foreknowledge/](http://www.PreciousHeart.net/foreknowledge/) for more, a tome in its own right.

## Virginia District Cancels School over Islamic Lesson Anger

Yahoo Article, not dated, taken apparently from Associated Press piece

<https://www.yahoo.com/digest/20151218/virginia-district-cancels-school-islamic-lesson-anger-10639216>

A rural Virginia school district canceled classes and a holiday concert after being flooded with angry messages over a school calligraphy lesson that involved copying a Muslim statement of faith in Arabic. No specific threats were made, but officials said the volume of calls and emails related to the high school class lesson and concerns over their “tone and content” prompted the decision. The backlash appeared to reflect a current mood of anxiety and distrust of Muslims among some Americans. Advocacy groups have said a spate of recent anti-Muslim incidents across the U.S. can be linked to the mass shooting in San Bernardino, Calif., and inflammatory rhetoric from politicians.

School board statement:

We regret having to take this action, but we are doing so based on the recommendations of law enforcement and the Augusta County School Board out of an abundance of caution.

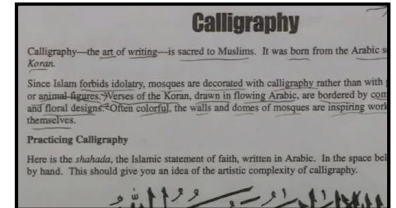
The anger arose after a teacher at Riverheads High School gave students an assignment that involved practicing calligraphy and writing a statement in Arabic — the Shahada, a profession of faith recited in Muslims’ daily prayers. The statement translated to: “There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah.” The teacher’s lesson was drawn from instructional material that also includes Judeo-Christian assignments. School officials said the aim of the lesson was to illustrate the complexity of the written Arabic language, not to promote any religious system.

Doug Shifflett, Augusta County’s assistant superintendent for administration:

Although students will continue to learn about world religions as required by the state Board of Education and the Commonwealth’s Standards of Learning, a different, nonreligious sample of Arabic calligraphy will be used in the future.

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▲ *political correctness gone mad, I think* ▲



## Gesture on Valentine’s for Elderly Couple

KDFM staff article, 2-15-16

<http://kfdm.com/news/local/hardin-county-deputy-heartwarming-gesture-on-valentines-for-elderly-couple>

HARDIN COUNTY — A local welfare check turns into a sweet Valentine’s surprise for an elderly couple. Hardin County Deputy Donnie Gulley delivered a Valentines basket to a 79-year old man to help surprise his wife.

He met the man after getting the call to check on the man. The man was stopped at a Dollar General where he was buying chocolates to surprise his wife who was at church. The caller drove him home where deputies checked up on him.

The man was okay and had purchased the chocolates, but the deputies decided to go back to the store and buy more gifts for the elderly man to give to his wife. The couple has been married for 59 years.

Deputy Gulley had the following to say about what took place:

“I want to remind everybody it’s not about what we did. I think the focus should remain on the man’s devotion to his wife and the love he has for her,” Deputy Gulley said. “He was willing to do what it took no matter what the cost to make sure she had a good Valentine’s Day. It’s a great example for the rest us.”

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*Now then ... aren't you glad you live in East Texas!*

