

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?

The Impact of Christianity on Civilization

Part II – Healthcare and Science

April 23, 2004

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?

"Christian-bashing is a popular indoor sport"

-Pat Buchanan

- fashionable in "post-Christian" era to bash Christians & the Church
 - emphasis on negative aspects of Church history
 - fault Christianity for all the ills of society
 - characterization of Christians (esp. evangelicals) as authoritarian, repressive, fundamentalist fanatics

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?

- overwhelming positive impact of Christianity on civilization largely downplayed, ignored, or denied
- those who condemn Christianity today often unaware of all the benefits they presently enjoy because of the massive transforming effects of Christ and Christianity on civilization over the past 2000 years

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?

- the impact of Christ on civilization includes:
 - transformation of the dignity and sanctity of human life
 - elevation of women
 - establishment of ministries of charity and compassion
 - transformation of ethics and morality
 - establishment of civil liberties and codes of justice for all (not just the rich)
 - literacy and education for all
 - establishment of universities

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?

- the impact of Christ on civilization includes:
 - development of science and medicine
 - establishment and development of hospitals
 - development of free market system
 - inspiration of great works of art, music, and literature
 - countless lives transformed

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?

"All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life."

J.A. Francis
in *One Solitary Life*

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?

References

D. James Kennedy and Jerry Newcombe, *What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994)

Alvin J. Schmidt, *Under the Influence: How Christianity Transformed Civilization*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2001)

Hospitals & Health Care: Their Christian Roots

"I was sick and you looked after me...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Jesus Christ, Matthew 25:45

Greco-Roman Society...

- Human life was cheap and expendable
- Scorned the poor and the weak
- Disdained physical labour
- Sought after status
- Rarely showed compassion/charity
 - **Liberalitas** – giving to please the recipient in the expectation of future reward
 - **Plautus** (254-184 B.C.) – “You do a beggar bad service by giving him food and drink; you lose what you give and prolong his life for more misery.”

The Christian Response...

- **Compassion**

- Christ's teaching

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Matthew 25:35-36

Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:30-37

The Christian Response...

- **Christ's Example**

- Associated with the sick, tax collectors, beggars, etc.

- Healed the sick – **Matthew 14:14**

- Fed the hungry – **Matthew 15:32**

- Died for our sins on the cross

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

1 John 4:10-11

The Christian Response...

- **Caritas**

- Giving without expecting anything in return

- “Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Luke 14:12-14

Faith Translates Into Action...

Before 313 A.D. (when Christianity was still illegal)

- ***Diaconia***: Cared for widows (37 A.D.)
- ***Matricula***: Church list of needy persons (i.e. orphans, the elderly and the sick)
- ***Collegia/Soladitates/Factionis***:
Voluntary associations to aid the poor
(2nd and 3rd century)

Faith Translates Into Action...

After 313 A.D. (Edict of Milan legalized Christianity)

- *Orphanotrophia* (*orphan+trophos* = rearer, nourisher): Buildings for orphans (4th C)
- *Brephotrophia*: Buildings for foundlings (4th C)
- *Ptochia*: Institutions for the poor (4th C)
- *Xenodochia*: Buildings that housed strangers, travelers, and the sick (late 4th C)

Faith Translates Into Action...

After 313 A.D. (Edict of Milan legalized Christianity)

- *Morotrophia*: Mental asylums (4th C)
- *Nosocomia*: Institutions serving only the sick (late 4th C)
- *Gerontocomia* (*geras* = aged + *comeo* = to take care of): Institutions for the aged (5th C)
- *Typholocomia*: Institutions for the blind (630 A.D.)

Healthcare: Greco-Roman Style

- *Aesculapia*

- shrines/temples to mythical greek god Aesculapius (~300)
- sick may have spent a single night in temple for “religious purposes” (i.e. receiving treatment plan through dreams)
- no nursing provided

Healthcare: Greco-Roman Style

- *Iatreia*
 - the sick were diagnosed by a physician
 - medication prescribed
 - no nursing provided

Healthcare: Greco-Roman Style

- *Valetudinaria*
 - treated only sick slaves, gladiators and sometimes ailing soldiers
 - nursing provided
 - did not treat common people, labourers or the poor

Healthcare: Greco-Roman Style

- *Aesculapia, Iatreia and Valetudinaria*
 - buildings that functioned as hospitals, but were generally not places where the sick (of the general public) were housed and cared for out of charity
 - missing a heart of compassion

Healthcare: Christian Style

Before 313 A.D.

- frequent and severe persecution of Christians
- sick cared for where they were found or brought into homes of Christians
- spiritual as well as physical needs cared for
- gave of themselves to the point of death

"Very many of our brethren, while in their exceeding love and brotherly kindness did not spare themselves, but kept by each other, and visited the sick without thought of their own peril, and ministered to them assiduously and treated them for their healing in Christ, died from time to time most joyfully..."

(Works of Dionysius, Epistle 12.4)

Healthcare: Christian Style

After 313 A.D.

- Hospices (*Xenodochia*) established in every city with a cathedral (*Council of Nicaea 325*)
 - nursed the sick
 - provided shelter for the poor
 - lodging for Christian pilgrims

Healthcare: Christian Style

After 313 A.D.

- **1st Hospital (*nosocomium*)**
 - Built in Caesarea in Cappadocia (369 A.D.) by St. Basil
 - Ministered exclusively to the sick
 - One of “a large number of buildings, with houses for physicians and nurses, workshops, and industrial schools.”
 - Had rehab unit/workshops where recuperating patients with no occupational skills could learn a trade

Nosocomia, Nosocomia & More Nosocomia!

- **375 A.D.** – Edessa
- **390 A.D.** – Rome: sponsored by Fabiola
- **398 A.D.** – Ostia: sponsored by Fabiola
- **4th & 5th centuries**
 - Constantinople - St. Chrysostom (East)
 - Northern Africa – St. Augustine (West)
- **6th century**
 - hospitals a common part of monasteries
 - Council of Orleans (France) passed canons assuring protection of hospitals

And Still More Nosocomia...

- **750 A.D.**
 - spread from Continental Europe to England
 - hospital specializing in care of foundlings (Milan, Italy)
- **9th century**
 - Charlemagne (Emperor of Holy Roman Empire) constructed numerous hospitals
- **14th century**
 - 37 000 Benedictine monasteries that cared for the sick! (not including hospitals!)
 - 600 hospitals in England (pop. 4 million)
 - France, Germany and Italy (each had more than England)

The Trend Becomes...Trendy!

- **8th century** – Christian hospitals draw the attention of the Muslim World. Hospitals built in Arab countries (previously unknown)
- **Crusades (c. 1080-1300 A.D.)**
 - construction of hospitals in Palestine and in other parts of the Middle East
 - hospitals served both Christians and Muslims
 - founding of healthcare orders (The Order of Hospitallers, Hospitallers of St. Lazarus)

Hospitals in the New World

- Building of hospitals continued over into South and North America by the explorers
- First hospital founded in Mexico City (1524)
 - Jesus of Nazareth Hospital
 - Served mainly meso-American Indians
- Generally built by Christian denominations or local churches and named after the denomination or a saint
 - (i.e. St. Michael's, St. Joseph's, Baptist Hospital etc...)

Nursing...A Christian Innovation!

- Nursing always a core part of Christian healthcare
 - **1st Nurses**
 - widows, deaconesses and virgins
 - **Middle Ages**
 - nursing done by monks and nuns “infirmarians”
 - **12th Century**
 - women recruited by Knights Hospitallers of St. John to care for leprosy patients
 - **13th Century**
 - the Order of Augustinian Nuns – oldest nursing order of sisters.

Nursing...A Christian Innovation!

- **Theodore Fliedner** (Lutheran pastor)
 - Built a 100 bed hospital (mid-1800s)
 - Founded Lutheran deaconesses order training peasant women as nurses
 - Well known in Europe for quality of nursing
 - Trained Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale: A Nursing Innovation!

- Nurse in Crimean War (1854) famous for her service to the wounded soldiers
- In England promoted hospital reform in administration and nursing, founded St. Thomas Hospital Nursing School (London), helped establish principles of nursing

“The kingdom of heaven is within, but we must also make it so without.”

The Red Cross

Jean Henri Dunant (1828-1910)

- Formed the International Red Cross (1864) with members from 16 countries
- Purpose: to give impartial aid to the casualties of war
- Chose the symbol of the cross for organization
- Red Crescent established (1876)
- Dunant received the first Nobel Peace Prize (1901)

“I am a disciple of Christ as in the first century, and nothing more.” Jean Henri Dunant (1910)

Christianity in Healthcare Today...

- Medical Missions:
 - Medical care not always a part of missions
 - 1850 – only 15 physicians in missions
 - Missions previously thought of as a job for preachers and evangelists
 - Medicine as a science still in its infancy in 1800s
 - Mid 19th Century: medical care recognized as a powerful tool for ministry and later as a *vital* part of the missions ministry

Medical Missions

- **1850:** 15 physicians in missions
- **1925:**
 - 1, 157 missionary physicians
 - 1,007 missionary nurses (World Missionary Atlas)
 - 19 Christian medical colleges
 - 66 Christian nursing schools run by missions organizations for training nationals (World Missionary Atlas)
- **1932:**
 - 231 missions hospitals (Directory of Protestant-Related Hospitals)
 - 818 missionary doctors; 1317 national doctors
 - 1321 missionary nurses; 6928 national nurses

Medical Missions

Percentage of total medical services provided by Missions Hospitals in Two-Thirds World Countries in 1968. James C. McGlivray 1969:305

- Tanzania 43%
- Malawi 40%
- Cameroon 34%
- Zambia 30%
- Ghana 27%
- Taiwan 26%
- India 15%
- Bangladesh 13%
- Indonesia 12%
- Zaire 9%

Medical Missions

- Early medical missionaries:
 - Provided much needed medical care for free
 - Provided medical education for nationals
 - Laid the groundwork for the medical infrastructures of numerous countries

Prominent Medical Missionaries...

- David Livingstone: Southern Africa (1841)
 - Famous explorer, was actually a missionary!
- Hudson Taylor: China (1854)
 - Founded the China Inland Mission
- Albert Schweitzer: Africa (1913)
 - M.D., PhD in Philosophy, Licentiate in Theology, Concert Organist. 1952 – Nobel Peace Prize
- Paul Brand: India (1946)
 - Expert on Leprosy; first orthopaedic surgeon to correct deformities from leprosy in hands and feet

Missions Organizations...

- Today a multitude of organizations are involved in medical missions:
 - Samaritan's Purse
 - World Relief
 - World Vision

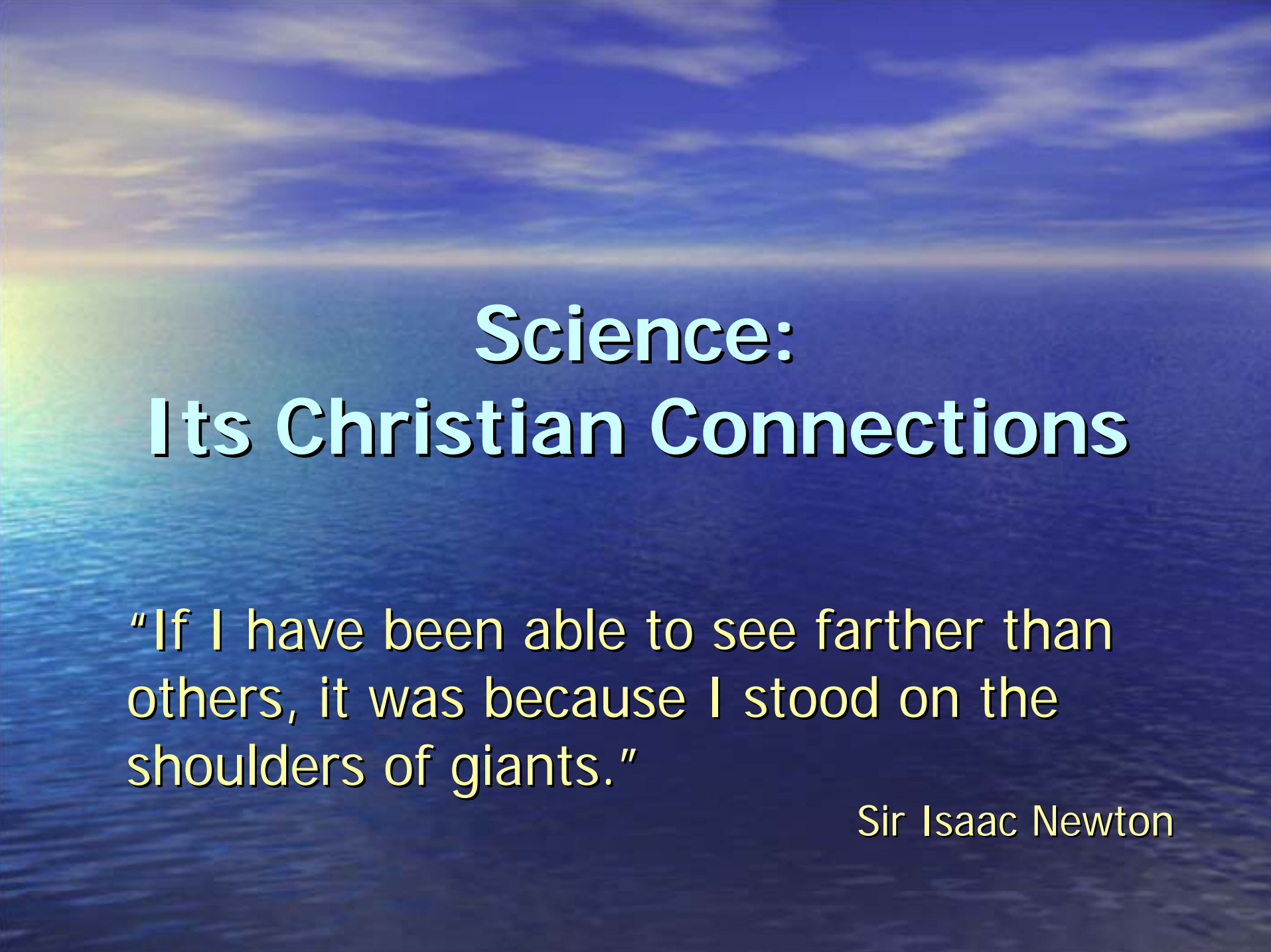
 - CMDS/EMAS (Canada)
 - CMDA (U.S.A.)
 - CMF (U.K.)

Christian Medical Organizations

- CMDS
 - Medical Christian Fellowship
 - Dental Christian Fellowship
- Nurses Christian Fellowship
- Pharmacy Christian Fellowship

Christians in Healthcare Today...

- Andrea Chan
- Sarah Cheang
- Tim Cheang
- Emily Fung
- Steve Ho
- Jennifer Hong
- David Hwang
- Peter Hwang
- Emily Kennedy
- Joe Kennedy
- Nathan Kennedy
- Matthew Kwok
- Julia Lee
- Jiwei Li
- Ken Liew
- Lien Luu
- Vien Luu
- June Ma
- Jackie Tsang
- Keith Tsoi
- Rebecca Wu
- Gianna Yan
- Sharon Yeung



Science: Its Christian Connections

"If I have been able to see farther than others, it was because I stood on the shoulders of giants."

Sir Isaac Newton

Science & Christianity: Compatibility

"[F]aith in the possibility of science, generated antecedently to the development of modern scientific theory, is an unconscious derivative from medieval theology."

- A.N. Whitehead, philosopher of science (1926)

"Every unbiased mind must admit that the age in which the chief development of the science of mechanics took place was an age of predominantly theological cast."

- Ernst Mach, German physicist (1960)

Science & Christianity: Conflict

- Andrew Dickson White (1896): *A History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom*
 - As an enemy of science, Christianity could not have fostered the arrival of science
- “A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.”

Aristotle's legacies

- Aristotle (384-322 BC) – ancient Greece
 - God/gods intertwined with the universe of nature
 - Planets have an inner intelligence (*anima*) that causes them to move
 - Challenged by Jean Buridan (1300-1358), a Christian philosopher at the Univ. of Paris
 - The world did not have a beginning and was not created by God (vs. Genesis 1:1)
 - Knowledge is acquired only through the deductive processes of the mind
 - continued to be held by Christian monks, natural philosophers, and theologians for ~1500 years

Behind the science...

- Aristotelian pantheism
 - Implies that the scientific method (which manipulates various elements within the physical universe) is sacrilegious and an affront to the divine within nature
- Christian perspective: God and nature are distinctively separate entities

Behind the science...

- "Science could never have come into being among the animists of central or southern Africa or many other places in the world because they would never have begun to experiment on the natural world, since everything – whether stones or trees or animals or anything else – within it contained living spirits of various gods or ancestors."

D.J. Kennedy and J. Newcombe

Behind the science...

- In a pagan or polytheistic (nonrational) world, the gods often engaged in jealous, irrational behaviour
 - Futile to conduct systemic investigation of such a world
- If God is rational, then the universe is rationally governed by discoverable laws.
- The Christian belief in “the existence of a single God, the Creator and Governor of the universe, [one that] functions in an orderly and normally predictable manner” makes it possible for science to exist and operate

Behind the science...

- The origin of science required Christianity's "insistence on the rationality of God." – A.N. Whitehead
- If God is a rational being, then may not human beings, who are made in his image, also employ rational processes to study and investigate the world in which they live?
- "...fill the earth and subdue it..."

Genesis 1:28

Behind the science...

- Robert Grosseteste (ca.1168-1253)
 - Franciscan bishop; first chancellor of Oxford U
 - First proposed inductive, experimental method
- Roger Bacon (1214-94)
 - Franciscan monk
 - “all things must be verified by experience”
 - Devout believer in the truthfulness of Scripture
 - Saw the Bible in the light of sound reason and as verifiable by experience

Behind the science...

- William of Occam (1285-1347)
 - Franciscan monk
 - Knowledge needed to be derived inductively
- Francis Bacon (1561-1626)
 - “the practical creator of scientific induction”
 - Careful observation of phenomena
 - Collected systematic information to understand nature’s secrets
 - Also wrote treatises on the Psalms and prayer

Christians as the Pioneers of Science

“From the thirteenth century onward into the eighteenth, every major scientist, in effect, explained his motivations in religious terms.”

- Lynn White

Occam's Razor

William Occam (1280-1349)

- The Scientist

- Scientific principle: what can be done or explained with the fewest assumptions should be used
- “shave off” all excess assumptions

- The Christian

- wrote 2 theological treatises, one on the Lord's Supper and the other on the body of Christ
- positive influence on Martin Luther

Human Physiology & Biology

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

- The Scientist

- Botany, optics, physics, hydraulics, aeronautics
- Cadaveric dissection
 - Disproved belief that air passed from the lungs to the heart

- The Christian

- Paintings
 - The Baptism of Christ
 - The Last Supper
 - The Resurrection of Christ

Human Physiology & Biology

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)



The Last Supper (1497)



The Baptism of Christ (1470)

Human Physiology & Biology

Andreas Vesalius (1514-64)

- The “father of human anatomy”
 - 1543: *De humani corporis fabrica* (Fabric of the Human body)
 - Exposed Galen’s errors
 - called a “madman”, “clever, dangerous free-thinker of medicine”
- The Christian connection
 - Embarked on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land
 - “We are driven to wonder at the handiwork of the Almighty.”

Human Physiology & Biology

Gregor Johann Mendel (1822-1884)

- The scientist
 - Cross-breeding of garden peas
 - Concept of genes
 - 3 laws of genetics
- The Christian
 - Augustinian monk
 - Rejected Darwin's theory of evolution

Astronomy

Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543)

- The scientist
 - Trained as a physician
 - Heliostatic theory: the sun (not the earth) is the centre of the universe; the earth revolves around the sun
- The Christian connection
 - Studied theology and became a canon (not a priest)
 - 1543: *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (Concerning the Revolutions of the Celestial bodies) published and printed by his Lutheran friends

Astronomy

Tycho Brahe (1546-1601)

- The scientist
 - 1572: *De nova stella* (Concerning the New Star) on an extremely bright star in the constellation of Cassiopeia
 - 1577: published a paper describing a newly sighted comet
- The Christian connection
 - Lutheran
 - Wrote about “the divine works that shine forth everywhere in the structure of the world”

Astronomy

Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)

- The scientist
 - Heliocentric system
 - First “natural laws”
 - Planets orbit elliptically
 - Planets do not move at a uniform speed
 - Harmonic law
 - Defined “weight”
 - 1604: Optics
 - 1609: The new astronomy
 - Recalculation of Christ’s birth (~4-5 B.C.)
 - Pioneered differential calculus
- The Christian
 - Lutheran convictions cost him:
 - his mathematics teaching position (1598)
 - Difficult life (multiple deaths in the family; unpredictable income; frequently forced to move from country to country)
 - Wrote that he only tried “thinking God’s thoughts after him”
 - On his deathbed, his faith was placed “solely and alone in the work of our redeemer Jesus Christ”

Astronomy

Johannes Kepler (1571-1630):

*I used to measure the heavens,
Now I must measure the earth.
Though sky-bound was my spirit,
My earthly body rests here.*

Astronomy

Galileo (1564-1642)

- The scientist
 - Used telescope to study the skies, moon, and planets
 - 1632: *Dialogue on the Two Principle Systems of the World*
 - 1636: *Dialogues on the Two New Sciences*
- The Christian connection
 - Roman Catholic
 - Summoned before the Inquisition where he was compelled to deny his belief in the Copernican theory and was sentenced to an indefinite prison term (?never carried out)
 - Note: Lutherans (not Catholics) encouraged the publication of Kepler's (pro-Copernican) work

Physics

Isaac Newton (1642-1727)

- The scientist
 - Built on Kepler's laws and devised the inverse square law of gravitation
 - *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*: one of the greatest single contributions in the history of science
- The Christian
 - He "had no intention of being anything else but a Christian."
 - "The Father is omniscient, and hath all knowledge originally in his own breast, and communicates knowledge of future things to Jesus Christ, and non in heaven or earth, is worthy to receive knowledge of future things immediately from the Father but the Lamb."

Physics

Gottfried Leibniz (1646-1716)

- The scientist
 - With Newton, developed the theory of differential calculus
 - This contribution was vital to science because physics is so dependent on higher mathematics (the language of science)
- The Christian
 - Lutheran
 - Saw Bible as God's authoritative word
 - Spoke of God's grace and maintained that there was no conflict between true faith and valid reason

Physics

Blaise Pascal (1623-62)

- The scientist
 - Pascal's law: liquid in a container exerts equal pressures in all directions
 - Invented the syringe and hydraulic press
 - Pascal's triangle
 - Today, a comp sci language is named after him
- The Christian
 - "We know God only through Jesus Christ"
 - Strong defense of Christianity

Physics

- **Alessandro Volta** (1745-1827)
 - Discovered current electricity (volt, voltmeter)
 - Participated in Catholic masses and devotional activities
 - “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, may it produce good fruit!”
- **Georg Simon Ohm** (1787-1854)
 - Ohm’s law: measures electrical resistance
 - Ohmmeter
 - Planned to write additional volumes of Molecular Physics “if God gives [him] the length of days.”
- **Andre Ampere** (1775-1836)
 - Ampere or amp measures the strength of an electric current, (Volts/ohms)
 - “One of the most striking evidences of the existence of God is the wonderful harmony by which the universe is preserved and living beings are furnished in their organization with everything necessary to life.”

Physics

- **Michael Faraday (1791-1867)**
 - Discovered electromagnetic induction, making electricity available for varied applications
 - First to make a liquid out of a gas
 - Invented the generator
 - member of the Sandemanians (or Glasists), a small fundamentalist Christian group
 - Read the Bible daily and “donated a significant portion of his income to the church and frequently visited and tended the sick.”
- **William Thompson Kelvin (1824-1907)**
 - Established the scale of absolute zero, founded thermodynamics
 - “If you think strongly enough, you will be forced by science to the belief in God.”

Chemistry

- Robert Boyle (1627-1691)
 - The “father of chemistry”
 - Boyle’s law
 - Wrote numerous theological essays and contributed money to support Bible translations

Chemistry

- Antoine Lavoisier (1743-1794)
 - Showed that oxygen was a necessary condition for burning materials
 - Law of the conservation of energy (matter cannot be created or destroyed)
 - He died confessing the Christian faith
- John Dalton (1766-1844)
 - “father of atomic theory”
 - He was the first to publish the atomic weights of some elements
 - Formulated the law of partial pressures relative to gases
 - Daltonism: color-blindness, from which he suffered
 - Held strong Christian convictions

Chemistry

- Joseph Priestley (1733-1804)
 - Discovered oxygen, hydrochloric acid, nitrous oxide (“laughing gas”), and sulfur dioxide
 - Published *Socrates and Jesus Compared*, which concluded that Socrates was an idolater
 - Believed in Christ’s physical resurrection
- George Washington Carver (1864?-1943)
 - A black American chemist who developed over three hundred by-products from peanuts
 - Encouraged farmers to grow peanuts, sweet potatoes, and pecans in addition to cotton to diversify the Southern agriculture
 - 1939 Roosevelt medal: “To a scientist humbly seeking the guidance of God and a liberator to men of the white race as well as the black.”

Medicine

- **Medicine was not always scientifically based**
 - Aesculapius “healed” sick people by having dogs and serpents lick them
 - Diseases thought to arise from internal imbalances of the body’s “humors”
 - Saints inflicted disease on people
 - Medical theories were based on deductive reasoning and not on systematic observation and experimentation

Medicine

- Initial study of medicine was in monasteries (first organized centres of learning)
- Study of medicine switched to universities as educational institutions developed
- Early Studies: Cadaveric Dissection
 - Originally opposed by the Church
 - Opposition due to prominent church theologians entrenched in Aristotle's deductive philosophy
 - Cadavers obtained by robbing graves
 - Three universities allowed to perform legal dissections (1300s)
 - 1556 – dissections deemed to “serve a useful purpose” by theology faculty at the University of Salamanca

Christians in Medical Science...

Paracelsus (1493 – 1541)

"I am a Christian, no sorcerer, no pagan, no gypsy."

- Used inductive reasoning – theories should be supported by observation
- Theories:
 - External agents attack body and cause human illness
 - Disease can be treated with chemicals

Christians in Medical Science...

Ambroise Pare (1509 – 1590)

"I dressed his wounds, but God healed them."

- Brought a degree of respectability to surgery (previously performed by barbers, executioners, bathhouse keepers, etc.)
- One of first to use ligatures to stop bleeding instead of cauterizing with a red hot iron
- Introduced artificial eyes, improved artificial limbs and implanted teeth
- First physician to experiment using the control method (uncooked onion for treating burn wounds)

Christians in Medical Science...

Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)

"The more I know, the more does my faith approach that of the Breton peasant."

- Chemist/microbiologist
- Discovered bacteria cause fermentation, spoil food and infect wounds
- Treated rabies with inoculation
- Developed pasteurization

Christians in Medical Science...

James Simpson (1811-1870)

- Discovered chloroform (used for alleviating pain in childbirth)
- Laid the foundation for anesthesiology
- Told friends his greatest discovery was “that I was a sinner and Jesus Christ is the Saviour”

Christians in Medical Science...

Joseph Lister (1827 – 1912)

- Quaker from England
- Introduced sterilizing surgical equipment
- Taught physicians to wash their hands
- Reduced post-operative infection and mortality rates



In Summary...

**What if Jesus Had Never
Been Born?**

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?

1. Healthcare would be drastically different from what it is today:
 - We would not care for the sick or the poor
 - There would be far fewer hospitals
 - Nursing would not exist
 - Medical practice would be mostly unethical, unmoral, unscientific
 - Developed countries could not offer medical aid to developing countries

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?

2. Science (and its knowledge and inventions) would not exist:

- We might still attribute natural phenomena to irrational gods/spirits
- We would not have the powerful tool of science to help us understand God's creation
- We would not have the everyday conveniences and luxuries in our lives that are a result of scientific discovery

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?

*...But He was born, and is alive and
working in the world today and will
continue His work on into the future until
He comes again...*

What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?

The Impact of Christianity on Civilization

Part II – Healthcare and Science

April 23, 2004