

Right-Handedness

As a man ought to be

At some point, clinging to a belief in God is just going to be too embarrassing.

Sam Harris, Neuroscientist
(191, *Wired*, Nov 2006)

My Friends, I must ask you an important question today: Where do you stand on God? It's a question you may prefer not to be asked. But I'm afraid I have no choice. We find ourselves, this very autumn, three and a half centuries after the intellectual martyrdom of Galileo, caught up in a struggle of ultimate importance, when each one of us must make a commitment. It is time to declare our positions. This is the challenge posed by the New Atheists. We are called upon, we lax agnostics, we noncommittal nonbelievers, we vague deists who would be embarrassed to defend antique absurdities like the Virgin Birth or the notion that Mary rose into heaven without dying, or any other blatant myth; we are called out, we fence-sitters, and told to help exorcise this debilitating curse: the curse of faith.

Gary Wolf
(184, *Wired*, Nov 2006)

For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but **thy right hand, and thine arm**, and the light of thy countenance, because thou had a favor unto them.

Psalm 44:3

And the vineyard which **thy right hand** hath planted, and the branch that thou made strong for thyself . . . Let thy hand be upon **the man of thy right hand**, upon the son of man whom thou made strong for thyself.

Psalm 80:15, 17

THE PERCEIVED RIGHTS OF MEN

THE FIRST RIGHT - yamiyn {yaw-meen'}; dexios {dex-ee-os'}

The right side, right, right hand, the side of the body opposite the left

THE SECOND RIGHT - mishpat {mish-pawt'}; exesti {ex'-es-tee}

That which is lawful; Inherited property; or reasonable, natural allowance of liberty and control

THE THIRD RIGHT - yashar {yaw-shawr'}, miyshowr {mee-shore'}; orthos {or-thoce'}

The correct, appropriate, upright, just, pure, noble, and honorable answer to any given question or situation

RIGHTeousness - tsedeq {tseh'-dek}; dikaiosune {dik-ah-yos-oo'-nay}

The correct, proper, just, pure, noble, honorable pattern for living – the most virtuous course, the most perfect means, the most correct methodology and behavior

DEEPER SPIRITUAL MEANING OF THE RIGHTS:

THE FIRST RIGHT

In God's mysterious language, the right side of the body denotes far more than a mere compass direction or physical appendage; it denotes strength, power, salvation, control, will, lordship, kingship, holiness, cleanliness, correctness, correction, social propriety, honor, and wisdom. Therefore, if man claims this "right side" of his being and refuses to release it unto God, he is despising the offer of God's strength, power, salvation, control, will, lordship, kingship, holiness, cleanliness, correctness, correction, heavenly propriety, honor, and wisdom and is determining to seek those things by means of his own machinations. Therefore, the right side of one's being must be relinquished in order for man to become as he ought to be.

Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

Exodus 15:6

The Second Right

Humanism emphasizes the natural born rights of man for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These inborn, inherent, innate rights of man are reasonable and proper to uphold in a human society. But God's business is pressing us into a heavenly, and not an earthly, society – a heavenly and not earthly, pattern for living. Every man has these reasonable and naturally inherited possessions – a right to control, decide his course, engineer his outcome, design and build his fortune and fame, create and stimulate his happiness and pleasure, keep or relinquish his assets. But as long as man holds onto this perceived right, he cannot enter into the pattern of Jesus Christ, who asks for everything, including even that which is reasonable to keep, to be poured out as a sacrifice upon the alter of devotion. Therefore, the natural born inherent rights of man must be relinquished in order for man to become as he ought to be.

Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?
All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

1 Corinthians 10:22

The Third Right

Man has a way which he perceives to be correct and proper, but God must prove that Man's opinion is unholy and wholly unlike his own. God must redefine "correctness" in man's existence. God's ways appear foolishness to man's natural mind, but in reality, God's ways are "right and correct" and it is Man's ways that are actually foolish, incorrect, and wrong. The "right" idea, is, by Scriptural definition, the perfect and inviolable opinion of God; never wrong, never perverted, never polluted, and always, without exception correct – God is right, His Word is right, His Word become Flesh is right, and everything that opposes this "right", is without exception always **wrong**. Therefore, the "way that seems right to man" must be relinquished in order for man to become as he ought to be.

There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 14:12

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD ponders the hearts.

Proverbs 21:2

For the word of the LORD is **right**; and all his works are done in truth.

Psalm 33:4

The statutes of the LORD are **right**, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

Psalm 19:8

Righteousness

Simply put – it is the correction of the Right, a condition acceptable, pleasing, and glorifying to God; Righteousness is the way God is – and the way man ought to be

For they being ignorant of God's **righteousness**, and going about to establish their own **righteousness**, have not submitted themselves unto the **righteousness** of God.

Romans 10:3

Right-Handedness

In Biblical culture, the Right hand is the hand of blessing, the holy arm. The Bible portrays it as the Sacred Hand, the Correct Hand, the Helping-Rescuing Hand, the Ruling Hand, The Hand of Power, the Hand of War, the Hand of Righteousness.

The Sacred Hand

Then shalt thou kill the ram, and take of his blood, and put it upon the tip of the **right ear** of Aaron, and upon the tip of the **right ear** of his sons, and upon the thumb of their **right hand**, and upon the great toe of their **right foot**, and sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.

Exodus 29:20

And the **right shoulder** shall ye give unto the priest for an heave offering of the sacrifices of your peace offerings . . . He among the sons of Aaron, that offers the blood of the peace offerings, and the fat, shall have the **right shoulder** for his part.

Leviticus 7:32-33

O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: **his right hand, and his holy arm**, hath gotten him the victory.

Psalm 98:1

The Hand of Kingly Authority

And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in **his right hand**: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

Matthew 27:29

The Hand of Blessing

And when Joseph saw that his father laid his **right hand** upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy **right hand** upon his head. And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.

Genesis 48:17-19

Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy **right hand** there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 16:11

The Hand of War

Thy **right hand**, O LORD, is become glorious in power: **thy right hand**, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

Exodus 15:6

The Hand of Righteousness

And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: **from his right hand went a fiery law for them.**

Deuteronomy 33:2

According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth: **thy right hand is full of righteousness.**

Psalm 48:10

The Hand in Marriage

And **thy right hand** shall teach thee terrible things . . . Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the scepter of thy kingdom is a **right** scepter . . . Kings' daughters were among thy honorable women: **upon thy right hand** did stand the queen in gold of Ophir.

Psalm 45:4,6,9

And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine **handmaid**, and remember me, and not forget thine **handmaid**, but wilt give unto thine **handmaid** a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

1 Samuel 1:11

And Mary said, Behold the **handmaid** of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.

Luke 1:38a

The Hand of Rescue, Salvation, Wisdom and Strength

Show thy marvelous loving-kindness, O thou that saves by **thy right hand** them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.

Psalm 17:7

Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and **thy right hand** hath held me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.

Psalm 18:35

Now know I that the LORD saves his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of **his right hand**.

Psalm 20:6

My soul follows hard after thee: **thy right hand** upholds me.

Psalm 63:8

And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of **the right hand** of the most High.

Psalm 77:10

The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous: **the right hand** of the LORD doeth valiantly . . . **The right hand** of the LORD is exalted: **the right hand** of the LORD doeth valiantly.

Psalm 118:15-16

Even there shall thy hand lead me, and **thy right hand** shall hold me.

Psalm 139:10

THE HAND OF JUDGMENT

For thou hast maintained my **right** and my cause; thou sit in the throne judging **right**.

Psalm 9:4

CHRIST, THE FATHER'S RIGHT HAND

Jesus said unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on **the right hand** of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Matthew 26:64

Therefore being by **the right hand** of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on **my right hand**,

Acts 2:33-34

Him hath God exalted with **his right hand** to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 5:31

Who is he that condemns? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at **the right hand** of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Romans 8:34

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at **his own right hand** in the heavenly places,

Ephesians 1:20

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on **the right hand** of God.

Colossians 3:1

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on **the right hand** of the Majesty on high;

Hebrews 1:3

Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on **the right hand** of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

Hebrews 8:1

Who is gone into heaven, and is on **the right hand** of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

1 Peter 3:22

The Man of the Right Hand

The Man made strong, The Branch measured and proven perfect

And the vineyard which **thy right hand** hath planted, and the branch that thou made strong for thyself . . . Let thy hand be upon **the man of thy right hand**, upon the son of man whom thou made strong for thyself.

Psalm 80:15, 17

- After The Pattern Shown in the Mount
- The Prophet without error
- The Temple built plumb and square
- The Fulfillment of the Law
- The Measuring Reed, measuring the house of God
- The Root and Offspring of David

The Righteousness of Christ

As God is and man ought to be, wholly abandoned to the will of the Father, demonstrating the Pure and Perfect Holiness of the Almighty, the heavenly wisdom of the Godhead, the unspotted

and unsullied representation of the Divine Nature; a Life moved and governed by divine Love, implicit Faith, and undaunted hope.

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of **righteousness** shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:17

For Christ is the end of the law for **righteousness** to every one that believeth.

Romans 10:4

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in **righteousness** he doth judge and make war.

Revelation 19:11

The Righteousness of Man

As man believes he ought to be, in his own will-power and strength, bent on showcasing his own personal glory and securing his own personal fortress, and thus profoundly demonstrating the inability of man to imitate the pure and perfect glory of God.

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our **righteousnesses** are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Isaiah 64:6

For I say unto you, That except your **righteousness** shall exceed the **righteousness** of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20

When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own **righteousness**, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.

Ezekiel 33:13

And be found in him, not having mine own **righteousness**, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the **righteousness** which is of God by faith:

Philippians 3:9

Not by works of **righteousness** which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Titus 3:5

The Right-handedness of Christ

Jesus' perfect alignment with the pattern of God, His perfect consecration unto God's purpose/plan/will, His perfect given-ness to the control of the Spirit. Jesus demonstrated an utter and unblemished purity, the holiness of God, the love of God, and the glory of God; and He did this by submitting his right hand to the Father. Christ's perfection wasn't merely the outflow of his God-ness, but the fruition of his given-ness. He demonstrated how a right hand must be used, must be surrendered, must be consecrated. Though He was God, he limited his God-ness, in order to demonstrate perfect right-handedness. He surrendered His right hand, though He was God, and exhibited, with inerrant clarity, the power, majesty, correctness, holiness, and glory of God's right hand.

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:6-11

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on **the right hand** of the Majesty on high;

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Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on **the right hand** of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

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1 Peter 3:22

For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but **thy right hand, and thine arm**, and the light of thy countenance, because thou had a favor unto them.

Psalm 44:3

The Right-handedness of Man

The dependence of man upon his own strength, his own wisdom, his own will-power, his own machinations to rescue him upon this earth. The right hand of man is symbolic of the scepter of man's kingdom, the branch grown out of the root of selfishness. When the root is pulled up and Christ is planted, then a new scepter, a new rod grows forth – the right hand of the Most High, the right scepter, the righteous strength of Almighty God laboring on behalf of his children.

And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in **their right hand**, or in their foreheads:

Revelation 13:16

For they being ignorant of God's **righteousness**, and going about to establish their own **righteousness**, have not submitted themselves unto the **righteousness** of God.

Romans 10:3

SURRENDERING THE RIGHT

To become as we ought to be

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of **righteousness** unto God . . . Know ye not, that to whom ye yield

yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto **righteousness**? . . . Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of **righteousness** . . . I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to **righteousness** unto holiness . . . For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from **righteousness**.

Romans 6:13,16,18,19,20

PURPOSEFUL DIMINISHMENT

And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

Judges 7:2

NOTE: We must allow God to strip us of everything that might cause us to think we have saved ourselves by our own right hand

THE INFILLING OF THE SPIRIT

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:4

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31

I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all . . . In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serves not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

1 Corinthians 14:18, 21, 22a

NOTE: All our human faculties must be overtaken. Our mind must submit to things that may appear foolish, our hands and feet must now do the bidding of a New Power within, for no longer is our right arm our own.

POURING OUT THE SPIKENARD

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

John 12:5

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Luke 10:38-42

NOTE: Our every possession must be handed over, poured out with ridiculous extravagance upon the feet of our King. We must learn to abide, to rest at his feet, and though the world bustle about in the strength of their own right-handedness and call us crazy, we must choose the good part (the holy pattern) in order to fully apprehend His strength, salvation, abundant Life and amazing Love.

RECEIVING THE STIGMA

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; **be it unto me** according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:38

We are fools for Christ's sake

1 Corinthians 4:10a

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God . . . For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe . . . But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; . . . Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. . . . But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He takes the wise in their own craftiness.

1 Corinthians 1:18,21,23,25; 2:14; and 3:19

NOTE: We must willingly become fools in the eyes of the world. We must forsake popularity for the applause of The Man of the Right Hand. For the Kingdom and for the Glory we must pronounce Truth that we know will sound like foolishness in the hearts and minds of the World. We must choose to live a life that seems not merely strange, but repulsive to the Right-handed men and women that look on. But through this foolishness, God will ultimately prove that the true fools are those who lean upon their own right-handedness to save them.

Remembering the Poor

He preserves not the life of the wicked: but gives **right** to the poor.

Job 36:6

For he shall stand at the **right** hand of the poor, to save him from those that condemn his soul.

Psalms 109:31

I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the **right** of the poor.

Psalms 140:12

And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.

Galatians 2:9-10

NOTE: The Right Hand of God will not work on behalf of the rich, but He will certainly rescue the poor. When our right hand is consecrated unto Christ, then it must fall in line with what Christ's right hand would do – it must reach out, it must extend itself to fight against injustice, to fight for Truth, to protect the fatherless, to feed the hungry, to comfort the sick, and to provide for those who have nothing. A Righteous life is a life wholly spent, not partially spent, on the work of the right hand of God.

Grace rems through Righteousness

That as sin hath reigned unto death, **even so might grace reign through righteousness** unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:21

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if **righteousness** come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Galatians 2:21

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in **righteousness** and true holiness.

Ephesians 4:24

Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast held me by **my right hand**.

Psalm 73:23

The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon **thy right hand**.

Psalm 121:5

I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at **my right hand**, I shall not be moved.

Psalm 16:8

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his **righteousness**; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

John 16:7-10

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:2-5

To FOLLOW JESUS

- We must surrender our right
- We must purposely diminish
- We must be filled with the Spirit
- We must pour out our spikenard
- We must receive the stigma
- We must remember the poor