



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



The Tale of the Old Willow Tree

Years ago, I was pruning an old willow tree at the end of my backyard, when I noticed a huge limb that didn't appear as productive as the others. It appeared out of place. I decided I should get rid of this ugly old branch once and for all, so I pulled out the old chainsaw. Within a few minutes, the surgery had been completed. It is amazing how nice the tree looked without the old, disfigured branch. I stood back and admired my work like Rembrandt or Picasso — it was a work of art (perhaps minus the artists' genius!)

A few months went by, and a heavy storm struck our area. When we woke up the next morning, my beautiful willow had a huge branch which had broken off. It took two landscapers an entire day to cut up the broken branch and remove the debris. After they had finished, a huge chunk was now missing near the bottom of the old willow. I thought the tree would look like new, but the large scar remained. My willow was no longer a beautiful tree.

After the work was completed, one landscaper pointed out a space he found on the tree. It was the spot where I had previously removed the large limb. He asked me when I cut it, and I told him the timeframe. He explained that the limb I had removed had provided balance for the tree.

Once it had been removed, the support necessary for the old willow to withstand the storm was no longer there, causing part of the tree to topple. Unbeknownst to me, I had removed the very branch my tree needed.

Life is much like my experience with the old willow tree. Often our moral values become like the old, odd branch in our lives. The things we once held sacred such as the sanctity of life, the sacredness of marriage, and — most importantly — a relationship with our Lord now seem old fashioned and out of place. As a result, our vulnerabilities to sin have left us broken and exposed.

We think we are making our society better by removing the branches which seem like restrictions on our happiness, only to find they were the very supports which kept our society from falling!

The old willow may never grow another limb big enough to provide support for itself, but we can be reconnected with our life support when we allow Christ to take His rightful place as the Foundation of our lives!

- Dr. L.W. Edwards

Proving Absolutes Exist: The Solar Eclipse

For a few hours on Monday, April 8, 2024, the eyes of more than 30 million people in North America turned to the heavens. They watched the solar eclipse as it [traveled from Mazatlán, Mexico to Newfoundland, Canada](#). While I did not personally see the celestial event, I watched [NASA's video footage](#) from each of the locations in the path of totality (the locations where the sun was completely blocked by the moon). As spectacular as the eclipse was for those present, what amazed me most was our ability to track its occurrence to the second. This is a testament, not only to advances in science and technology, but most importantly, to the precision with which our universe operates. This precision, based on absolutes (unchanging constants), is what makes predictability possible in science and other areas of life.

Predicting the Eclipse

[According to NASA](#), astronomers preparing for an eclipse use Isaac Newton's laws of motion to mathematically calculate the movement of Earth and the moon in space. The current positions and speeds of Earth and the moon are entered into their equations. Then a computer projects the equations into the past or future to determine the positions of the moon and sun relative to Earth at any given time in history.

While computers make calculating these equations easier, astronomers have been predicting eclipses long before computers came on the scene. That's because the sun, Earth and moon follow precise, trackable patterns in what is called the Saros Cycle. This is a period of 223 lunar months in which a lunar and solar eclipse occur. When a lunar eclipse occurs, exactly 9 years, 5.5 days later, a solar eclipse will occur, and vice versa. NASA says, "Approximately 6,585.3211 days, or 18 years, 11 days, and 8 hours after one eclipse, the Sun, Earth, and Moon return to about the same relative geometry, and a nearly identical eclipse occurs."

We accept these facts and figures as absolutes because we trust the research and expertise of scientists who have studied the subject. But apply the idea of absolutes to morality, and the world gasps in horror. For some, the idea of moral absolutes is considered as dangerous as looking directly at the sun without eclipse glasses.

The 2024 solar eclipse proved our need for absolutes in science and all other areas of life.

Why We Need Absolutes

It's true that during the cosmic event, there was an absolute risk of eye damage for anyone who viewed the sun directly without eye protection. This absolute served as a warning. At the same time, would-be observers of the eclipse knew well in advance the absolute locations where it would be visible, its absolute timing, absolute length, an absolute method to prepare safely for it (eclipse glasses) and even [the number of visitors expected at each totality location](#). These absolutes served as signposts which provided direction and helpful insight. Both types of absolutes — the warning and the informing — gave eclipse viewers clear boundaries and expectations to make the most of their experience.

As we can see, absolute truth is not an enemy, but a friend.

Moral Absolutes Matter

God designed the moral absolutes in the Bible to serve a similar purpose as NASA's science-based eclipse guidelines. Through them, we receive warning of life's dangers and instruction to guide our decisions. The absolute truth of Scripture gives us clear boundaries for our conduct so we can experience life to its fullest potential. Psalm 119:93 says, "I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life."

Besides preparing us for an abundant life, the absolute truth of God's Word also prepares us to face eternity. It tells us of our absolute sinfulness (Romans 3:23) and God's absolute holiness (Exodus 15:11). It warns us of sin's absolute penalty (Romans 6:23) while offering us God's absolute grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). It presents the absolute reality of Heaven (Deuteronomy 10:14) and Hell (Luke 16:19-26). It presents the absolute way to Heaven (John 14:6) and the absolute means to receive eternal life (John 3:16).

Once presented with these absolutes, each of us must decide how we will respond. One thing we cannot do is remain neutral. An event much bigger than the solar eclipse is coming: Our appointment with God. Our response to the absolutes in Scripture will determine where we spend eternity — and allow us to make the most of our remaining time on earth. - *Cam Edwards*

