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## Viewpoints

*Viewing life as Christ's cross-scarred hand points out the blessings he's overseeing.*

### Murphy's Law Vs. God's Word ~ May 16, 2013

Earlier this month, five women perished when a limousine crossing San Francisco's San Mateo Bridge burst into flames. Learning of these deaths was shocking. But then to learn that the limo was carrying nine women, all in their 30's and early 40's, to a bachelorette party—and the bride-to-be was one of the dead—rips your heart apart.

While investigators are still working to determine the cause of the tragedy, at least one owner of a similar transportation company believes that the limo's child safety locks were engaged. Designed to prevent doors from accidentally opening, this safety measure may have prevented the women from escaping the fire. If so, this would be a horribly tragic example of Murphy's Law: "What can go wrong, will go wrong."

I recently cited Murphy's Law in a sermon. I explained how in the 1940's the Air Force was conducting tests to determine how well the human body can endure gravitational forces. A man would ride a rocket sled that would be abruptly stopped, exerting tremendous G's on his body. An engineer by the name of Murphy attached devices to the man's body that were to measure the G's. The devices failed because a technician wired them backwards. In response to this failure, Murphy uttered a criticism of the technician that would become Murphy's Law: "If there are two ways to do something, and one of those ways will result in disaster, he'll do it that way."

Oh, wait. What I didn't tell you when I preached the sermon, is that history is not completely sure that Murphy spoke those words. Other sources quote Murphy as saying instead: "If that guy has any way of making a mistake, he will." Oh, wait again! Still another account explains that it wasn't from Murphy's mouth that the phrase originated, but rather from a discussion among team members. And from the group this phrase emerged: "If it can happen, it will happen."

Are you OK to discover these discrepancies about the origin of Murphy's Law? Probably yes, since there are so many imperfections and failings in this sin-cursed world, we've become complacent with inaccuracy. Yes, we've learned to satisfy ourselves with only approximations and perhaps. This is why we won't be surprised if investigators fail to determine with 100% certainty why the limo burst into flames while trapping the majority of women. Probably the best we can do is to apply Murphy's Law to other limo companies, and institute new safety measures to hopefully cover the imperfections and approximations of life. This, in fact, is what one limo company has already by disabling the child safety locks and installing smoke detectors and window hammers.

How miraculously different the Bible! While there are hosts of scoffers who make claims that the Bible is a human-authored document that contains approximations and inaccuracies, every detractor has failed to offer a timeless case. Just the opposite. As time passes, these scoffers die off even as new discoveries offer a growing body of evidence for the reliability and authenticity of the Bible. For example, my students in confirmation class are annually given an online assignment asking them to study how the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls has authenticated the reliability of the Bible. And there's so much more that could be cited.

Bottom line? While Murphy's Law describes a sad truism that invades all aspects of life—from Air Force experiments to a bachelorette party—the validity and accuracy of the Bible stands impervious. And while we must learn to be satisfied with approximations and inaccuracies in this sin-scarred life, we're free from these dreadful nuances as we read and study the Bible. Murphy's Law has not, does not and never will apply to the reliability of the Bible. This is because the Bible was breathed into existence by the will and workings of God himself. The Bible is the Word of God. It's error-free and completely word-for-word true. “The Holy Scriptures... are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed... so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:15-17). †

*Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)*

[Calif. limousine fire spurring Atlanta carriers to make changes](#) @ cbsatlanta.com

[Murphy's Law](#) @ sermon page (May 5, 2013 | “Ascended on High” from Revelation 19:11-16)

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*Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz*

