

Morgan's Moment...

The Starbucks barista is busy
shortening the waiting line
and I think.

She came in at 4:30
to open the place
get things brewing.

People soon came out of cars
carrying their cups
blinking their way inside.

She's the first live face of their day
the first voice they hear
as morning dawns.

I look to see what everyone sees
a smiling face
bright eye contact.

I listen to hear what everyone hears
a human voice
good morning.

Coffee is happily poured
a cheerful interest
how's your day going?

She sends each one off
cup in hand
have a good day.

Blessed are those who meet and greet
noticing and welcoming us
into a new day.

— Art Morgan

A NANO-BIBLE?

Haven't you always wanted to show your belief in the Bible to the world—just like people who show their patriotism by wearing an American flag lapel-pin? Now there is a nano-Bible all on a miniature computer chip.

You can buy the 24 book version of the Hebrew Bible in original Hebrew or the entire New Testament Christian Bible in Greek—on a necklace or lapel pin in a simple box. Ear rings too, I presume. From \$25 in the box to \$150 for the necklace with either a cross or a Star of David.

You would also need an electron microscope to magnify it a thousand times in order to read this nano-technology Bible.

I tried to treat this seriously. After all, it came from the Religious News service and was reported in the "Christian Century,"* the magazine widely read by professional clergy. It claims "*Thinking Critically, Living Faithfully*" as its mission.

I knew you would like to know.

I thought someone should say the obvious, that this is brilliant entrepreneurship. The Bible is an icon, the most printed book in the world. Almost everyone has one. I counted over 20 versions on my own shelves.

Political candidates almost always claim loyalty to the Bible. Now look for the American flag on one lapel and a nano-Bible on the other before you vote.

The Bible, like the flag, lends itself to exploitation. It is an idol, paraded piously down the aisles of some churches or waved by some preachers who proclaim "THIS is the word of the Lord!"

Those who wish to do so could sneak the Bible into schools or courtrooms or anyplace a Bible might be considered unwelcome. Who would imagine that your dangling ear-ring is a New Testament? Or imagine how many would be attracted to it as a necklace dangling in deep cleavage?

So, while it is idolatry we are seeing here, I don't see the harm. Most people who have a Bible swear belief but rarely read it or practice it. Imagine what might happen if politicians read what it said about treatment of hungry and poor and sick and widows and children and immigrants? Or wealth?

Relax. If those who pledge allegiance to the flag can't remember that the pledge ends with "liberty and justice for all," there's little worry that anyone will notice what the Bible of either Jews or Christians really says. Besides, it's all printed in Hebrew or Greek.

As they say, "It's all Greek to me."

— Art Morgan 4/17

9/16

*Christian Century" April 13, 2016, p. 19

BOOK CORNER

I read this book during and following the Easter season. "*THE GREAT TIDE RISING — Towards Clarity and Moral Courage in a Time of Planetary Change*" by Kathleen Dean Moore.

She has been a Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Oregon State University in the same department with the renowned Marcus Borg.

She is poetic, practical, passionate, philosophical and perplexed at the low priority humans seem to give to preserving a living planet.

If you love the world and good writing, this is your book.