



Quote of the Day

Hope itself is like a star- not to be seen in the sunshine of prosperity,
and only to be discovered in the night of adversity.
Charles Spurgeon – www.Spurgeon.us



***Fearfully and Wonderfully Made* —
Saturday 3-14-15 Was Pi Day**

by Michael G. Maness

Last Saturday was Pi Day. One day in 100 years, this year on 3-14-15 at exactly 9:26:53 a.m. and p.m., Pi came twice. The infinite number Pi is 3.14..., the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. Pi or π is the 16th letter of the Greek alphabet and used for the ratio since 1638. Never mind that 3-14 was Albert Einstein's birthday.

Pi's remarkable properties have proven invaluable with some scientific uses requiring calculation to the 40th digit.

More remarkable, Pi is ever-expanding without a repeat in the sequence. With the aid of computers, in 1949 scientists were able calculate Pi past 1k digits after the decimal, then 7k in 1957, 10k in 1958, 100k in 1961, and then a million in 1973! At PiDay.org you can see the million digits of Pi and find other celebrations of this unique calculation.

The farther one looks, the more of Pi there is to see. Even to infinity. There is no end to Pi; it is unique in an everlasting way. Every time you see a new digit, Pi changes into another unique form and precision is increased toward perfection. Oh, yet it is not that hard to see perfection in a circle. What a wonderful mystery exists in that circle's simplicity and at the same time knowing there is no end to that circle or an end to Pi in calculating that simple circle's precision. A child can make a perfect circle with a compass while calculating Pi past 100k digits is used to measure the speed of modern computers—simple and mind boggling.

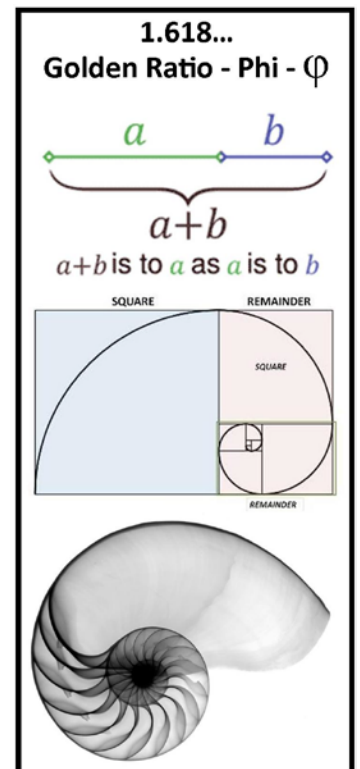
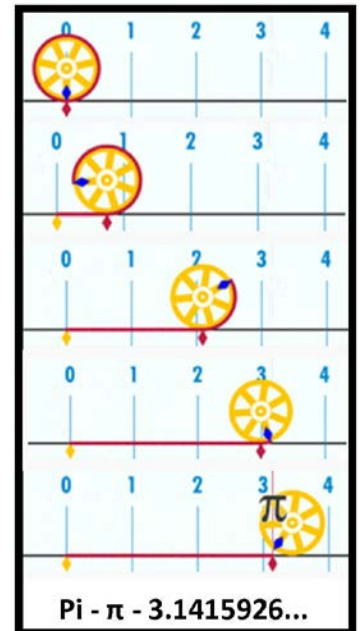
If you mark the bottom of a wheel, and role it one time, the outer circumference will pass at exactly Pi – the space of 3.14... times the diameter. So, Pi is both an infinite number and a simple finite fact, an infinite that can be touched and watched in a simple wheel, every wheel all over the world in trillions of uses, every second of every day, wherever there is a "circle." Marvelously mysterious, Pi gets more precise as one travels pass the decimal to incalculable infinity, to the millionth digit and beyond, and yet Pi is also so very simple with respect to the spin of any wheel, even the spin of an apple pie.

Part of God is seen on earth, who is infinite and eternal, who came to us in His son Jesus, and we beheld Him, touched Him, and heard Him speak. The only people who had trouble with Jesus were the "intelligent" experts. For us, the Word was made flesh and we saw Him ... even though through Him ALL the world was made.

Similar in amazing traits and revealing God's creation like the circle, the Golden Ratio or Divine Proportion is seen everywhere. Represented by the Greek letter Phi, ϕ , the ratio is 1.618.... The Golden Ratio is seen when the long side of a divided line is 1.618 times longer than the short side, and then the length of both sides is 1.618 times the longer side—harder to describe than Pi, but easier to see. Much beauty in music, art and architecture depend upon the Golden Ratio. The human form, veins in leaves, and the ascending circles in nautilus shells are all in the Golden Ratio. The water swirling down a drain too. It's golden because it is *everywhere*, yes, seen even in the spirals of galaxies in the night sky.

See the Cross of Christ, elegant and touching eternity.

As Psalm 139:14 says, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.



See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pi, www.PiDay.org/million, www.GoldenNumber.net/golden-ratio.

P.S. See also how the **Golden Ratio** is also related in the Fibonacci Series, a number that is the sum of the previous two numbers: 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, and so forth. Look at the number of flower peddles in whatever flower, and see the number as one in the series, be they 5, 8, 13, 25 or more.

Opinion Section, Beaumont Enterprise, Sunday, March 15, 2015

Michael G. Maness

No, I did not write this small piece. Did you see it?

Mark your calendars, it will take a miracle, it seems to me.

If the court weighs in favor of same-sex marriage, the world culture will take an irreversible turn in June 2015. There will be no going back, and, perhaps, by 2025 anyone voicing a contrary opinion to the “normality” of gay marriage will be viewed much like we today view the slave holders of old or the ISIS fruitcakes of today. Fearful times.

Pray. Pray for the meaning of equality and the future of the definition of “marriage” by the most important court in the history of the world.

See www.SupremeCourt.gov/opinions for more ... or less.

Gay marriage ruling

While more than 70 percent of U.S. states now allow same-sex marriage, the waves of change have yet to reach any of America's socially conservative territories in the Caribbean and Pacific. Yet all five territories would be covered by a possible U.S. Supreme Court ruling establishing a constitutional right for same-sex couples to wed.

What ISIS Really Wants

The Islamic State is no mere collection of psychopaths. It is a religious group with carefully considered beliefs, among them that it is a key agent of the coming apocalypse. Here's what that means for strategy—and for how to stop it.

by Graeme Wood, *The Atlantic* (March 2015), and becoming the article on the meaning of ISIS today – **the 12th, 13th and last paragraphs of 20-page article.**

Full Article: www.TheAtlantic.com/features/archive/2015/02/what-isis-really-wants/384980

The reality is that the Islamic State is Islamic. Very Islamic.... But the religion preached by its most ardent followers derives from coherent and even learned interpretations of Islam.

Virtually every major decision and law promulgated by the Islamic State adheres to what it calls, in its press and pronouncements, and on its billboards, license plates, stationery, and coins, “the Prophetic methodology,” which means following the prophecy and example of Muhammad, in punctilious detail. Muslims can reject the Islamic State; nearly all do. But pretending that it isn't actually a religious, millenarian group, with theology that must be understood to be combatted, has already led the United States to underestimate it and back foolish schemes to counter it. We'll need to get acquainted with the Islamic State's intellectual genealogy if we are to react in a way that will not strengthen it, but instead help it self-immolate in its own excessive zeal.... ..

Fascism, [George] Orwell continued, is

psychologically far sounder than any hedonistic conception of life ... Whereas Socialism, and even capitalism in a more grudging way, have said to people “I offer you a good time,” Hitler has said to them, “I offer you struggle, danger, and death,” and as a result a whole nation flings itself at his feet ... We ought not to underrate its emotional appeal.

Nor, in the case of the Islamic State, its religious or intellectual appeal. That the Islamic State holds the imminent fulfillment of prophecy as a matter of dogma at least tells us the mettle of our opponent. It is ready to cheer its own near-obliteration, and to remain confident, even when surrounded, that it will receive divine succor if it stays true to the Prophetic model. Ideological tools may convince some potential converts that the group's message is false, and military tools can limit its horrors. But for an organization as impervious to persuasion as the Islamic State, few measures short of these will matter, and the war may be a long one, even if it doesn't last until the end of time. [Printable copy here: www.PreciousHeart.net/CLC/ISIS-2015.pdf.]

BGCT Christian Life Commission, ChristianLifeCommission.org – SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, ERLC.com – Texas Legislature, www.capitol.state.tx.us – US Houses www.Senate.gov – www.House.gov.

Who represents you? > www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm. Supreme Court Opinions: www.SupremeCourt.gov/opinions.