

# REASONS

Reasons to Believe Newsletter | July/August 2019

## A Life Transformed

By Reasons Editors

**"I was in a really rough spot and was thinking about hurting myself."**

Jeff found himself on a path of self-destruction and recalls a pivotal moment in his journey that helped him find hope.

By God's grace, instead of acting on this self-destructive impulse, Jeff called his aunt.



She mentioned some "amazing and profound YouTube videos."

After catching Hugh Ross's name, Jeff

looked him up and ordered his book *Hidden Treasures in the Book of Job*.

Reading this book convinced Jeff to read the Bible for himself. "I read it from cover to cover and it blew my mind," he said.

Three months later, Jeff gave his life to Christ and was baptized. Today, in his career

as a traveling nurse, he looks for every opportunity to share with others God's transformative work in his life.

**"I've used books like *Improbable Planet* and *The Creator and the Cosmos* to show people how specific everything is. . . . and how hard it is to deny the existence of God."**

You helped bring light into Jeff's darkest moment, providing the right resource at the right time. Thank you for being there for him and for countless others, giving them an opportunity to find life worth living in Christ!

For more encouraging and equipping resources, visit [shop.reasons.org](http://shop.reasons.org).

# Ready for a Posthuman Future?

Interviewed by Joe Aguirre



Can technological advances usher in a posthuman future? In *Humans 2.0*, Fazale Rana and Kenneth Samples explain and assess the implications of transhumanism.

## Q: What is transhumanism?

Transhumanism is a philosophical movement with religious overtones that advocates for the transformation of humans through the use of technology to correct our biological flaws and redesign humans for the technological age.

Transhumanists believe that we have a moral obligation to pursue biotechnological advance to enhance our capabilities with the hope of extending life expectancy and perhaps attaining a kind of immortality.

## Q: What problem are advocates seeking to address? Will transhumanism get us there?

Transhumanism's ultimate goal is to use science and technology to bring an end to human suffering and to promote human flourishing. In this respect, transhumanists and Christians share common ground. But, transhumanists want to go further by using science and technology to create a utopian future.

We reject the notion that emerging biotechnology can ever accomplish these goals. But, given that we live in a time when people turn to science and technology to solve humanity's problems, we anticipate that more and more people will find transhumanism appealing.

## Q: What is your scientific assessment of transhumanism?

Biotechnological advances are taking place at a breakneck pace. These technologies are already being pursued in biomedicine, potentially revolutionizing the treatment for numerous diseases and debilitating injuries. We are excited and hopeful to see these advances matriculate into clinical use.

These same technologies can also be deployed to enhance human beings beyond our natural biological limits. It won't be long before science fiction becomes reality.

## Q: What is your philosophical assessment of transhumanism?

Humanity has had a long, complex history with technology. Technology defines us as human beings and has played a central role in our success as a species. But technology is a double-edged sword. It can improve the quality of our lives, but also create new problems.

Careful reflection on technology's history should make us hesitant about placing humanity's hope in the transhumanist vision. It's a counterfeit gospel—destined to disappoint, while also potentially leading to the greatest existential risk we have ever faced as human beings.

## Q: What hope does the Christian faith offer?

Christians need to be prepared to engage our culture regarding the use of human enhancement technologies and the transhumanist movement. Even though many Christians are quick to condemn transhumanism, we think that the growing appeal of this idea provides a golden opportunity to share the gospel.

The transhumanist movement exposes the need that every human being has for hope, purpose, and destiny. While technology will never satisfy this need, the gospel uniquely can and will.

## RESOURCE

As our thank-you for your gift support in July/August, you'll receive a copy of *Humans 2.0*, an easy-to-read study on the topic of transhumanism—one of the biggest challenges to the gospel today. If you haven't already sent your gift this month, visit [give.reasons.org](http://give.reasons.org) or use the enclosed form to make your gift today!



## STEWARDSHIP CORNER



"RTB is performing a vital purpose for the Christian community, especially for those interested in STEMM concepts and studies. God has blessed us with every good thing in our lives, and when we depart Earth, I believe it is natural and appropriate to leave assets God has given us, both to our loved ones and to ministries that promote the gospel of Jesus Christ." –Ron and Judy Sisel

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# A Stark Beauty

By Sandra Dimas



July 20 marks the 50th anniversary of the Apollo moon landing.

Upon taking his first step on the Moon's surface, Neil Armstrong uttered the now famous words,

“One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” But what he said next seems just as profound: “It has a stark beauty all its own.”

We can all appreciate the Moon's magnificence, but this heavenly body provides much more than a scenic backdrop. The Moon slows the Earth's rotation to a comfortable (for humans) rate, influences ocean tides, and stabilizes Earth's axis tilt—all because it possesses the just-right mass to accomplish all this.

And without the Moon-forming collision event, our planet might look (and feel) much like Venus does today. The Mars-sized collider that slammed

into the Earth about 4.5 billion years ago wiped away our planet's toxic atmosphere and seeded Earth with extra radioactive material (the primary energy source for plate tectonics).

Astrophysicist Jeff Zweerink notes, “between NASA's Apollo missions and other research efforts we've learned so much about how the Moon came to be and why it's unique, as moons go.” These unique features point to a Creator who fine-tuned all of creation—even that stark beauty in the night sky. So, when we gaze up at the Moon, we can bask in the glow of God's great love in creating a home for humanity.

For more on this topic, visit [reasons.org/thank-god-for-the-moon](https://reasons.org/thank-god-for-the-moon).

Have a question?  
Connect with us at



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