

# Animal Rights & Christianity

## Proverbs 12:10

Systematic Theology Series

01.04.12

# Phenomena?

- There has been an increase in the value placed upon animal rights as well as a devaluing of human life.
- The existence or non-existence of the Judeo-Christian God sets the plumb line for the value and distinction of animal life and human life.

# Rise of Animal Rights

*PETA*

***PeTA***  
***PEOPLE EATING***  
***TASTY ANIMALS***

# Rise in Animal Rights

- PETA Facebook Page (1,348,696 fans).
- Animal Liberation Front (ALF):  
Defenders of Animal Rights or Eco-terrorists?
- Animal Rights Militia (ARM)



# ARM - Animal Rights Militia

The Animal Rights Militia (ARM) first started in England over ten years ago, with a similar philosophy shared by The Justice Department. While supporting the Animal Liberation Front and other strategies, ARM believes that the Animal Liberation Front does not go far enough with regards to direct action. More effective victories can be achieved with poisoning hoaxes, and other such strategies.

# ARM - Animal Rights Militia

Early victories began in the eighties with two successful destructions in San Jose, California. The first on Sep.1, 1987 in California cost \$100,000 damage to the San Jose Valley Veal Inc. A paper products warehouse was burned down causing major financial loss.

The second action was even more costly, with \$230,000 damage to Ferrara Meat Company on Nov.26, 1987. A barn containing hay and grain was destroyed.

<http://www.animalliberationfront.com/ALFront/Actions-UK/alfarm.htm>

# PETA's stance on abortion?

“PETA does not have a position on the abortion issue, because our focus as an organization is the alleviation of the suffering inflicted on nonhuman animals.”

<http://www.peta.org/about/faq/What-is-PETAs-stance-on-abortion.aspx>

# Deceptive terminology: “Animal Rights”

What does the word “Rights”  
communicate?

What must exist in order for “Rights” to  
exist?

# Animal Rights or Animal Welfare?

Wesley J. Smith, "But Shouldn't We Be Nice to Puppies?" (Discovery Institute)

"So what's the difference between animal welfare and animal rights? Animal welfare acknowledges that humans have unique dignity and value. In direct contrast, animal rights denigrates human exceptionalism as "speciesist," that is, discrimination against animals...the ultimate goals of animal welfare and animal rights are in direct conflict: The former seeks to improve our use of animals, the latter, to end it altogether." <http://www.discovery.org/a/14431>

# THE MAIN QUESTION OF ANIMAL RIGHTS

Q# What makes the difference between  
human and animal life?

...If God does not exist then there is no  
ultimate, transcendent, moral difference  
between a snake and a person.

# Of Kids & Pigs

“In 1989, Ingrid Newkirk, the head of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) stated the matter very clearly and succinctly in *Vogue*: "Animal Liberationists do not separate out the human animal, so there is no rational basis for saying that a human being has special rights. A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy. They are all mammals.”

<http://www.discovery.org/a/14431>

# If humans are merely higher animals...

- Cattle ranching = Slavery
- Lab research on rats = Auschwitz

<http://www.discovery.org/a/14431>

"He [Dr. Fox] begins with the incredibly cruelty-filled field of farm animals and makes clear why, to so many of us, vegetarianism has become 'the ethical imperative.'...My own suggestion is...read this book."

—Cleveland Amory

# INHUMANANE SOCIETY

*THE AMERICAN WAY  
OF EXPLOITING  
ANIMALS*

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***DR. MICHAEL W. FOX***

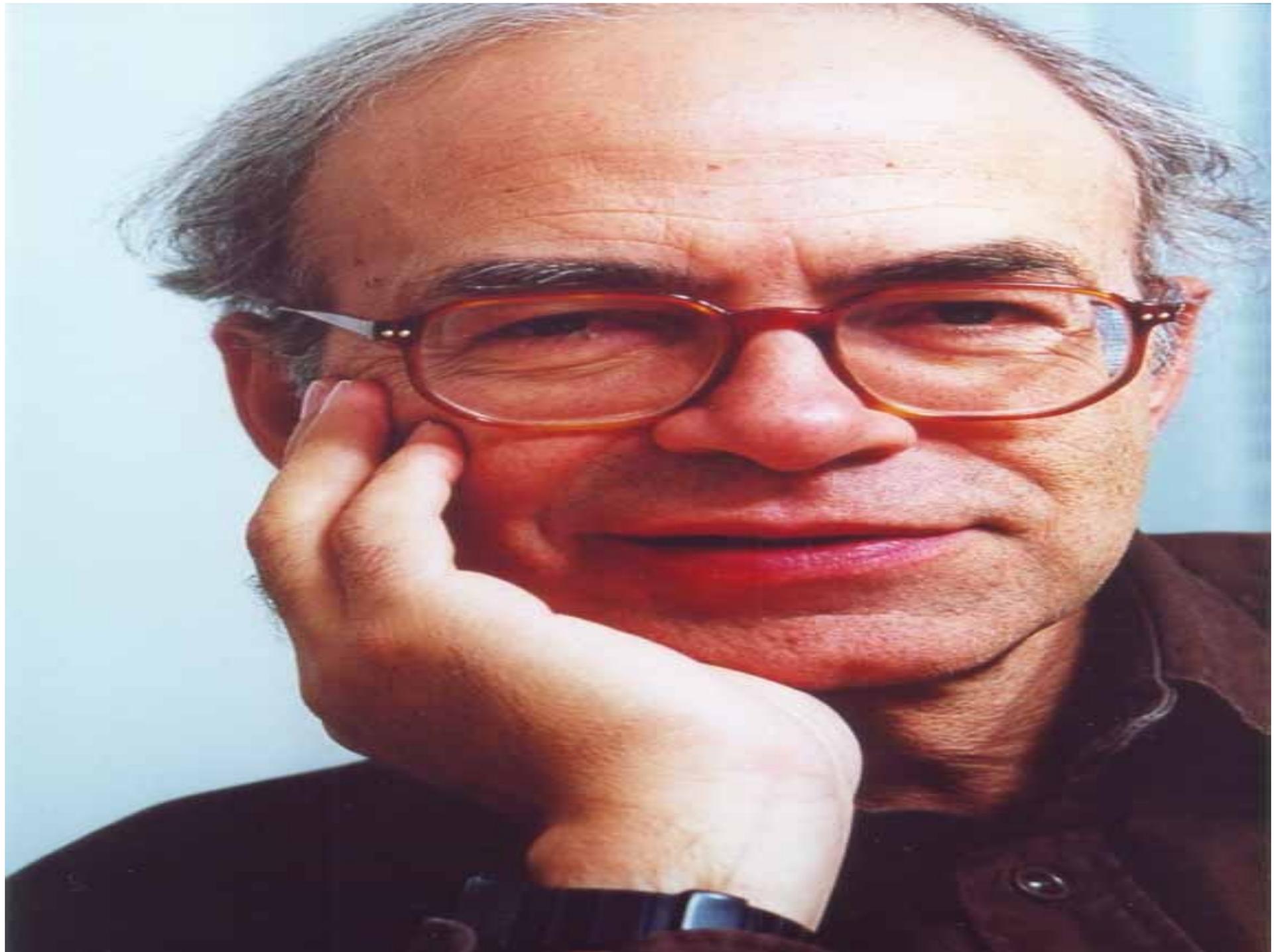
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*Nationally syndicated  
"Animal Doctor" columnist*

# Michael W. Fox

"We are not superior. There are no clear distinctions between us and animals." -

(Washingtonian Magazine, February 1990)



# Peter Singer

“Surely there will be some nonhuman animals whose lives, by any standards, are more valuable than the lives of some humans.” (Animal Liberation: A New Ethic for Our Treatment of Animals, 2nd edition, 1990.)

## “Christianity harmful to animals, animal rights ‘godfather’ says”

“Singer rejected what he termed “the standard view that most people hold” -- that “just being human makes life special.” He told one questioner from the audience, “I hope that you don't think that just being a biological member of the species homo sapiens means that you do have a soul and being a member of some other species means they don't. I think that would trouble me.” I am an atheist, I know that is an ugly word in America,” he added.”

<http://www.bpnews.net/bpnews.asp?id=13754>

OBJ: Reason is the difference!

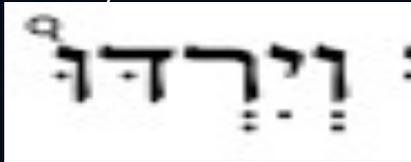
Response: If God does not exist then what is “Reasonable” ultimately rests upon personal opinion and if God does not exist then who is to say that one opinion is better than another? What is reasonable for one may not be reasonable for the other and in the view of Solomon in Ecclesiastes the fool and the wise man are ultimately, in the end, one in the same.

# Biblical View on the Proper Treatment of Animals

- 1) In the beginning there was no conflict between humans and animals – Gen. 1:31
- 2) In the beginning, God instituted man as a steward of animals and the earth – Gen. 1:26-30

# Biblical View on the Proper Treatment of Animals

3) Dominion does not automatically mean exploitation. Rather, it refers to authority & leadership.



v.26 '*dominion*' is a 'jussive' = command

- Dominion is neutral: It's goodness or badness depends upon who is exercising the dominion.
- \*Gen. 1:27 'Image of God' = Man's dominion of the earth should reflect God's character and nature.
- \*Key verse: Proverbs 12:10, "*Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.*"

# Biblical View on the Proper Treatment of Animals

\*Key verse: Matthew 10:29 “*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.*”

# Biblical View on the Proper Treatment of Animals

4) Dominion includes the proper care for animals

- Deut. 25:4 “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.”

= Working animals should be properly fed

- Deut 5:14 Animals are to have a day of rest

= Animals are not to be worked to death

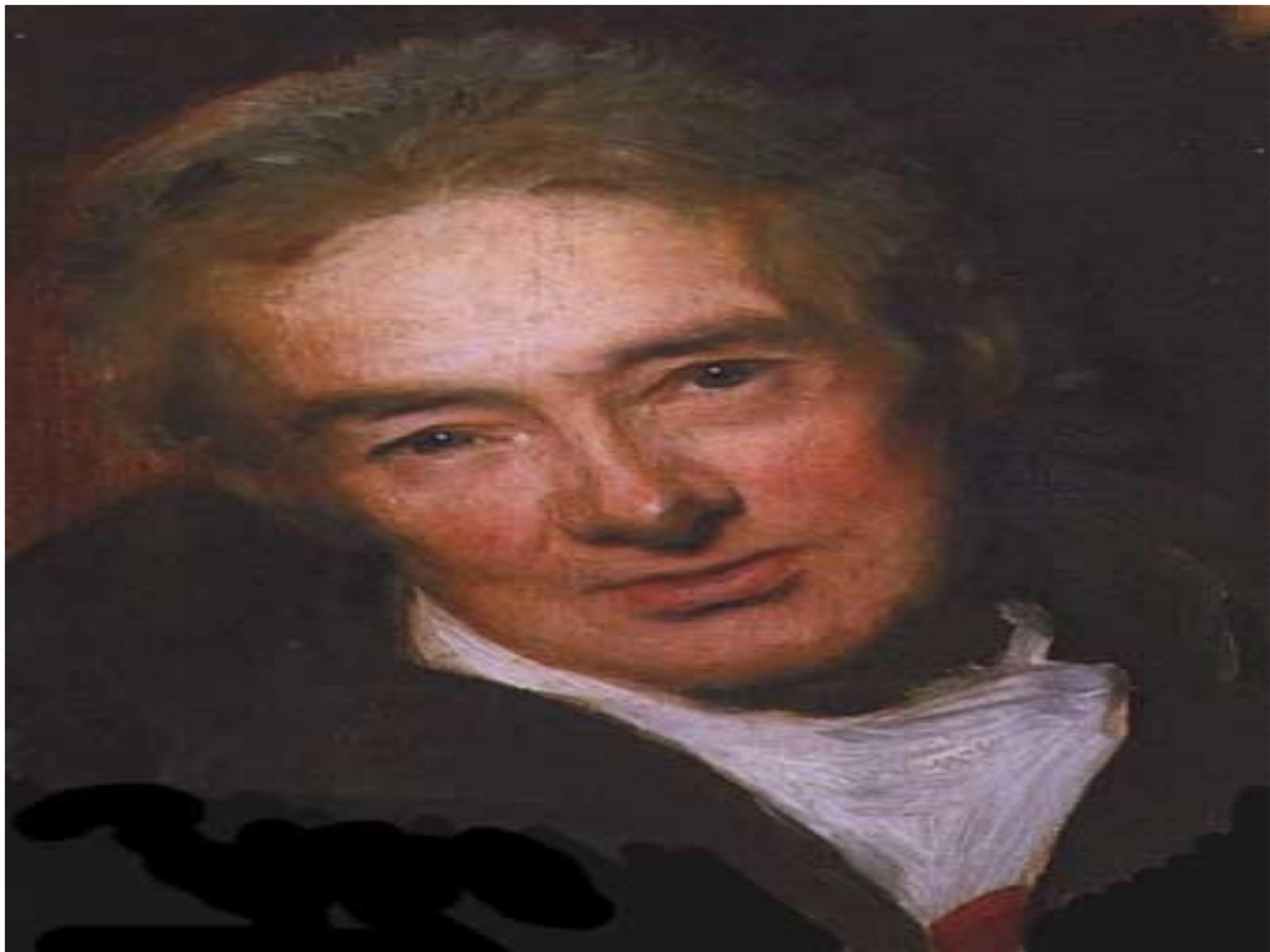
- Psalm 23:1-4; John 10:1-15; Luke 15:3-7

= Jesus models Himself as the Good Shepherd

# Biblical View on the Proper Treatment of Animals

5) Proper care for animals reflects our future redemption - Isaiah 11:6-9

“The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”



# Animal Welfare & Christianity

- William Wilberforce & Reverend Arthur Broome: “Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on 16 June 1824” <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/5822>

It was *because* of Wilberforce’s Christianity that he pushed for the abolition of slavery and animal cruelty. Let our compassion for animals be like a flare that ignites the Christmas tree bonfire that ignites for compassion for the souls of men and women who will suffer God’s rightful judgment.

“Would you ask the Lord to use you to lead someone to faith in Jesus this year? Let's be disciples who make disciples.”

(David Platt, Twitter, 01.04.12)

# William Wilberforce

“Accustom yourself to look first to the dreadful consequences of failure; then fix your eye on the glorious prize which is before you; and when your strength begins to fail, and your spirits are well nigh exhausted, let the animating view rekindle your resolution, and call forth in renewed vigour the fainting energies of your soul.”

# Q# What about sport hunting?

Proverbs 12:27 *“Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.”*

Hunting has always been a way of life for virtually every society in the past

- Proverbs 12:27 teaches that it is good and right for hunted game to be eaten
  - Hunting (even for sport), is necessary to control animal population. Otherwise, disease and malnutrition will devastate animal populations.
  - In ancient societies, hunting was necessary for the preservation of humans. In contemporary, American culture, hunting is necessary for the preservation of animals.
- Ducks Unlimited brought back ducks in the millions
  - Deer are now plentiful in areas of the U.S. where they were once scarce because of Conservationists = AKA “Hunters” not to be confused with “Poachers.”

<http://www.gotquestions.org/hunting-Christian.html>

<http://www.gospelway.com/religiousgroups/animals-people.php>