

About the Author

My theological background incorporates an upbringing in the Episcopal Church, study with Catholic Franciscan Monks, and over 47 years of service in Christ involving the Christian Church Disciples of Christ, which has involved preaching, over 40 years of weekly adult Bible teaching, and leadership roles on the Board of Elders and the Regional Church Board.

Along with my life as a follower of the LORD Jesus Christ, I am a stone mason, cabinetmaker, and exotic hardwoods craftsman. I am also an architect with 44 years of experience, and as such, an observer and thinker. I understand how things cohere and the very nature of design, composition, strength, structure, and systems. I have a deep comprehension of aesthetics, physics, and mathematics, and an appreciation for biology, chemistry, hydrology, sociology, and psychology. I have three university degrees and am self-taught in historical theology, particle physics and cosmology. I have taught college level classes on creativity and the environment, as well as lectured at the college level on architecture, creativity and construction.

Along the way of my spiritual walk, I have written scholarly articles, among them are *"The Trinity"* and *"The Elements of Holy Communion."* I have also written an E-book entitled *"11:11, the Importance of Putting Jesus Christ First in Your Life."* These documents are all available for free download at Muskrat Books. My first book published by Muskrat Books in 2010 is titled, *"I Am, the Great Creator God."* A 20 year-long project from 1990 to 2010 that answers many of the great questions of the ages, this meaningful and thought-provoking book teaches how to have the eyes to see...really see, who God really is.

My second book published by AuthorHouse in 2014 is titled, *"A Different Kind of Tree"* which is about MY growth story, my "changing" story, from selfish sinner to a child of God. It is a spiritual growth journey, roots seeking nourishment from the surrounding "ground of life"...will you grow straight or grow crooked? To what are you connected to gain nourishment? Will you produce good fruit? Everyone is on this journey. Find your way to the good life, a life of "Living Water" (John 4:10). This book is your pathway through life's

obstacles, the deadness of dry soil and the burdens of life as we all search for meaning. Follow me...you too can come to know Christ, who has already given you a precious gift you cannot buy nor work for nor deserve, if you will receive Jesus in your heart. Only the peace of God that passes all understanding can remove your obstacles; this is done by changing your heart and your mind in Christ (Philippians 4:7). The more you fight against Jesus, reject God and worship at the altar of the “stuff god”, the more you desire and strive for what the world is selling. It is a dead ended killer. You will not have peace! You will have more obstacles in your path, your roots will be in rocky ground. Learn a different way to grow; turn to your only Savior - Jesus Christ and become...“*A Different Kind of Tree*”.

This book you are holding should not be considered a sequel to “*A Different Kind of Tree*”; however, there is indeed movement from there to here. From “*A Different Kind of Tree*”, you are either connected to the “Jesus Trunk” or the “Satan Trunk”. Pending your attachment, you will either follow The LORD Jesus or YOU will try to be God yourself. As I noted above, I am an architect and I know that for fine architecture, there is a spiritual connection between the architect and the architectural work of art. This is a metaphor for the spiritual connections have either with Jesus Christ or ourselves as we “play God”. An example of this type of connection can be found on a plaque in the Boston Avenue Methodist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma; as it reads:

1925, Pastor John A. Rice of Boston Avenue Methodist Church wrote: “Our new church must be a creation, not just a building.” He wanted to be free to build one church before which he could stand in the rain and let it talk to him. He wanted an interior that would impel him to worship whether he wanted to or not. In 1929, when complete, “this is a splendid building, with marvelous appointments and exquisite art. Yet a word of solemn warning, all this cannot make a church. Here then is the thing that we are set to do in these beautiful surroundings...witness to Him. Toward the deeper meanings of Jesus, every stone, appointment, line and color leads.”

Pastor Rice knew there was a connection between spiritual architecture and the worship environment that could/should connect to those in the space. The architect of this kind of church architecture is only a puppet, standing in the breach ready for the guiding hand of God. You see, there are things much deeper and richer in their truth; look only on the surface, you see the superficial...look deeper and see the relationship. In some ways the ability to have the eyes to look at the deeper connections was my first book's attempt to actually reveal who God really is. This lack of understanding who God is has led many to take matters in their own hands. This failure has empowered many to take over for God, for now they are *"Trying to be God"*.



Haven Dawson Mankin, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA

May God bless you and grant you peace!

*Unfortunately, in the age of political correctness, we have completely lost the actual meanings of words in favor of words that evoke feelings based on political agendas, rather than accuracy of the true meaning which has held up for two millennia. The word "man" when used in the Bible refers to all humanity, to "mankind". "So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them (Genesis 1:27 NIV). "He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind" when they were created (Genesis 5:2 NIV). Webster's Dictionary notes the meaning of "man" to be "the human race, mankind". Use of the term "humankind" is fabrication based on political correctness and lacks accuracy. It is my purpose to remain Biblical and accurate to the proper use of the word "man" and "mankind"; it is not to offend anyone.