

March 3, 2022

Are We Alone?
[2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10](#)

²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us;

Recently I heard a radio program about UFOs (“unidentified flying objects,” more recently referred to as “unidentified aerial phenomenon”). A caller asked the radio speaker why he believes there is a fascination by the public with the idea of extraterrestrial life.

I admit. Sometimes watching a meteorite plunge towards earth during the annual Geminid or Perseid “meteor showers” has left me wondering, briefly, whether I was seeing a UFO.

My strongest connection to a meteorite-or-UFO came via a great uncle. Around 1930 my great-uncle Vinceon was plowing a field when he felt the plow blade hit something and heard a sound of metal striking metal. The plow blade had hit an unusually heavy rock that seemed to be made out of metal. He was curious and dragged it back to his barn. Over the years he used it many times as an anvil. Around 1968 Uncle Vinceon was reading John Deere's magazine *The Furrow* when he noticed a description of a meteorite. He contacted the author, Glenn Huss, who later visited him and confirmed that, yes, Uncle Vinceon’s unusual rock/foundation stone/anvil was a meteorite.

The results were the scientific description of the unusual “rock” and its sale for enough money to pay for a remodeling project in my uncle's nearby farmhouse. The meteorite is officially known to astronomers as the Landes Meteor for its place of discovery. (The August 2011 issue of *Wonderful West Virginia* contained an article on the meteorite.)

The radio speaker suggested that our culture’s concern with meteorites or UFOs might be deeper than scientific or monetary. It might be due to a sense of loneliness, a deeply seated belief or fear that in this universe of perhaps 100 quintillion stars, we are the only form of intelligent life.

In the past two years many of us have experienced an unanticipated form of isolation. We've been prevented from visiting out-of-state family members and restricted from participation in worship and other Christian activities in ways we never expected.

Yet even if the radio host is right, or almost right, that we as humans are alone in the created universe, we are not alone. We are given several glorious titles in today's passage.

We are: Christ's ambassador; God's co-workers; servants of God. God, the Creator of the Universe, exists and has given us specific tasks to represent Himself to others of His Creation on this planet. What a glorious, responsible task!

Prayer: *Creator of the Universe, we are awestruck that in a universe the size of your creation, you care about us individually and have specific tasks for each of us. In this season of Lent and beyond, help us experience the reality of our connection to you. In the name of your Son, we pray. Amen.*

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