



December 10, 2017

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

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Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

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If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see the Pastor after the service, drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with the Pastor, or call the church office.

Announcements

Poinsettias

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary, please call or email the office and let us know. If you have had a poinsettia in the past and would like to place one again, please tell us. You can make a contribution towards them by putting your gift in an envelope and plainly marking it for poinsettias. We also need to know who you would like to remember for the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, **December 12**, 7:00 p.m.

Church Wide Christmas Banquet

Our annual Christmas Banquet is this Wednesday, **December 13**. Sign up in the hall!

Continued on p. 5

This Week at FABC

Today

Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Christmas Choir Practice	4:00 p.m.
Adult Choir Practice	4:45 p.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Christmas Banquet 7:00 p.m.



Annual Christmas Banquet

**Wednesday,
December 13
7:00 p.m.**

Menu will include
Prime Rib, Barbecue, Ham,
Vegetables and Desserts.
\$7.00 per adult,
\$4.00 per child over 3,
and no family need pay
over \$25!

FABC Deacons

Shawn Champion	433-0098
Bobby Deloach (CH)	667-8867
Mickey Fell	920-4557
Ron Fowler	901-409-8628
Jimmy Kicklighter	355-5616
Jack Moore	547-5000
Billy Morris, Sr.	398-1038
Joe Morris	398-0125
Steve Posner	704-5617
Kelly Stanford	441-2151
Michael Walker	655-2497
Ric Zittrouer	210-0344

10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

* Opening Chorus & Greeting
“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”
Words are on the back of the bulletin

* Call to Worship
Luke 2:13-14

* Hymn #92
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Scripture Reading
Luke 2:1-20
Matt Coleman

Special Music
“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”
You can follow along on p. 11

Receiving of Tithes And
Offerings

* Hymn #101
“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

Message
Bob Dimmitt
*Metaphysical Longings, Part 3
Ecclesiastes 3:10-15, Ecclesiastes #16*

* Hymn, to right
“Doxology”

6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Announcements

* Hymn #93
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Prayer

Receiving of Tithes And
Offerings

Hymn, bulletin pp. 6-7
“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

Hymn, bulletin p. 8-9
“Exult in the Savior’s Birth”

Message
Bob Dimmitt
*You Are Light
Ephesians 5:7-14, Ephesians #96*

* Hymn, bulletin p. 10
“Doxology”

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings
flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

* All those who are able, please stand.

A.M. Notes

Metaphysical Longings, Part 3

Ecclesiastes #16

Ecclesiastes 3:10-15

Koheleth acknowledges that when we look at life it seems like a rich tapestry of contrasting colors; with every thread in place and everything seeming to fit. This by the way is fundamental to biblical wisdom and mankind is not able on his own to know this.

To know this order, mankind requires a sense of the origin and telos (ultimate end) of creation, but from an autonomous perspective humans lack this.

Genesis 1:1

This verse is foundational to our (the Christian) philosophy of history. This verse shatters the pagan conception of an eternal universe which is parceled out in an infinity of cycles.

One of the implications of the revelation of God in creation is that the creation order is knowable. That is also the significance of the call of Wisdom to all—she appeals to everyone to pay attention and learn from her, for insight and understanding are genuinely available to them if they heed her call.

To be human is to live in time. Time confronts us with the boundaries and limits of human existence.

I only have hope because I have:

embraced _____

embraced _____

embraced _____

embraced _____

embraced _____

P.M. Notes

You Are Light
Ephesians #96
Ephesians 5:7-14

In Ephesians 5:6-Paul had given a “negative” reason (future judgment of God) to motivate his readers to not be deceived but he now gives a positive reason (the

You were - This verb is emphatic (first in the Greek sentence for emphasis) to throw stress on the fact that all the horrible behaviors he had just described were now behind them: In darkness we chased sin, now sin chases us!

Remembering keeps us humble, thankful and re-kindles in our hearts an appropriately high view of our salvation.

But, when God saved us, He opened the eyes of our understanding

so that _____

we saw _____

We saw _____

we also saw _____

We had a new _____

We now hate _____

Continued from p. 1

Young Adult Christmas Party

The young adults will party at the Rowe's house on Thursday, **December 14**, at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School

Our Membership Conference being held during the Sunday School hour should finish up the morning of **December 17**. In the evening worship time that day, we will have our Question and Answer session. If you have any question you would like answered during this time, please write it down and place it in the box in the church foyer.

No After Church Fellowship

The Fellowship on the calendar for Sunday, **December 17**, is cancelled.

Youth Christmas Caroling

The youth will go caroling on Monday, **December 18**. Meet at the church at 5:30 p.m.!

Senior Saints Christmas Party

This party is scheduled for Tuesday, **December 19**, at 11:00 a.m. Come with an appetite and a gift for the Dirty Santa game!

Wednesday Nights

We will have prayer meeting and Bible study on **December 20 and 27**. There will be no meals, Youth, or Awana on those nights. Regular schedule will resume on Wednesday, **January 3**.

Christmas Eve

Sunday, **December 24**, we will have our normal Sunday morning activities. Sunday night at **5:00 p.m.**, our service will contain the Cantata, Candles, and Communion. Come join us!

Office Closed

The church office will be closed Monday, **December 25**, and Tuesday, **December 26**.

Weekly Catechism Question

Question #30:

How does Christ perform the office of a king?

Answer:

Christ performs the office of a king, in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Scripture:

Psalm 110:1-2; Matthew 2:6; Luke 1:32-33; I Corinthians 15:25

Food Pantry

This needs replenishing. A list of needed items is on the bulletin board! Thanks for the new stuff that has come in lately! We are nearly back to capacity.



Faith is understood in different ways in our culture today. One popular misconception of faith is that it has nothing (or very little) to do with reason or logic. Faith is seen as not something you seek to provide evidence for or view rationally; you are simply to accept it. This kind of faith sits well in our culture as it praises personal preferences. If faith is not grounded in reason, logic and historic realities, it is simply a personal preference. Thus many believe that faith and blind faith; are the same thing.

The Bible, however, never asks for blind faith, it calls for a reasoned faith. This kind of faith is honest about questions & even personal doubts and looks for real answers. It seeks the best possible explanation and then commits to the truth.

Music

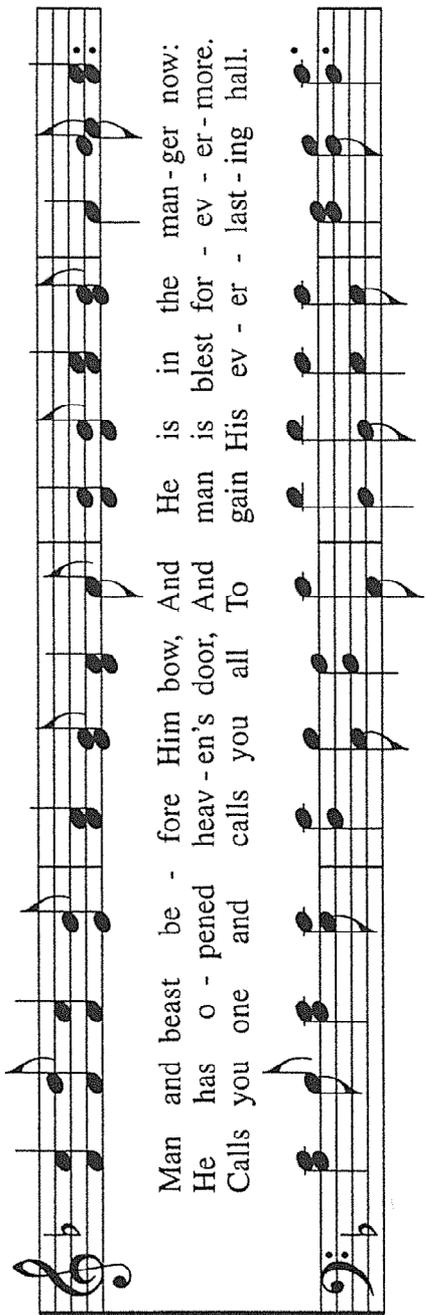
Good Christian Men, Rejoice

• 1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice!
• 2. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice!
• 3. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice!

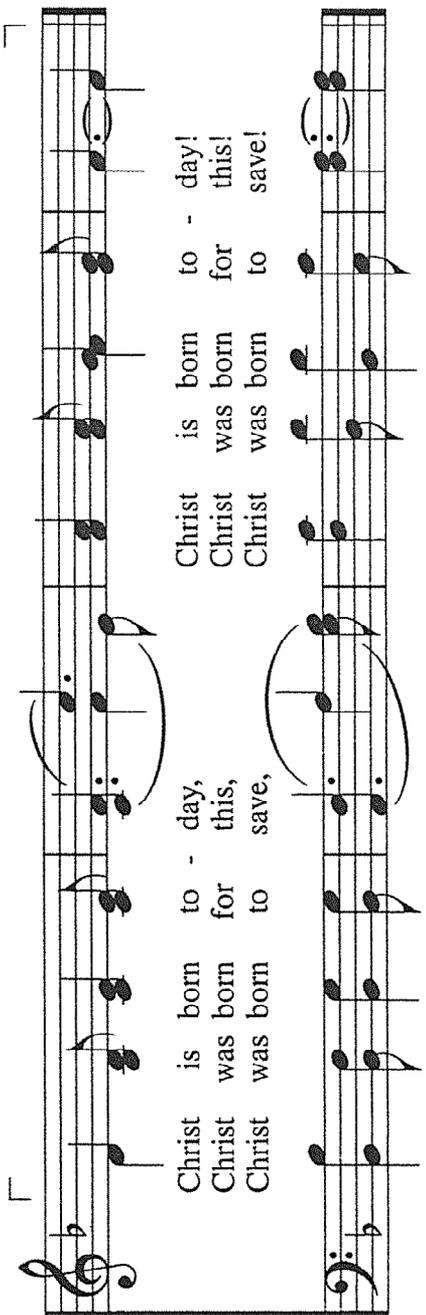
The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). It contains three vocal lines with lyrics and musical notation. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: '1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice!', '2. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice!', and '3. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice!'.

Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day!
Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

The second system of music continues the piece with two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). It contains three vocal lines with lyrics and musical notation. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day!', 'Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!', and 'Now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!'.



Man and beast be - fore Him bow, And He is in the man - ger now:
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, And man is blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all To gain His ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day,
 Christ was born for this,
 Christ was born to save,
 Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

Exult in the Savior's Birth

1. Shep - herds watched their flocks at night, at - tend - ing low - ly sheep.
 2. Pa - gan wise men from the East seek out the in - fant King.
 3. For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is giv'n.
 4. Scrip - tures say that Mar - y's boy was born that He might die.

8

Now with - in a cat - tle shed, a much strang - er watch they
 Track - less miles be - hind them lie and now all their rev - 'rence
 He shall reign in right - eous - ness, this Coun - se - lor King from
 An - gel voic - es burst in praise, their har - mo - ny fills the

3 3 1

keep. To - day, a Sav - ior has been born and He is

bring. The They have come to wor - ship Him with spic - es
 heav'n. The gov - ern - ment will rest on Him, He is the
 sky. Sing, "Glo - ry in the high - est heav'n." Sing, "Gra - cious

Christ, the Lord. Placed with - in a hum - ble trough, this
 and with gold. Count - less mil - lions seek Him still, whose
 might - y God. Prince of Peace, this gen - tle King, yet
 peace on earth." Those on whom His fa - vor rests, ex -

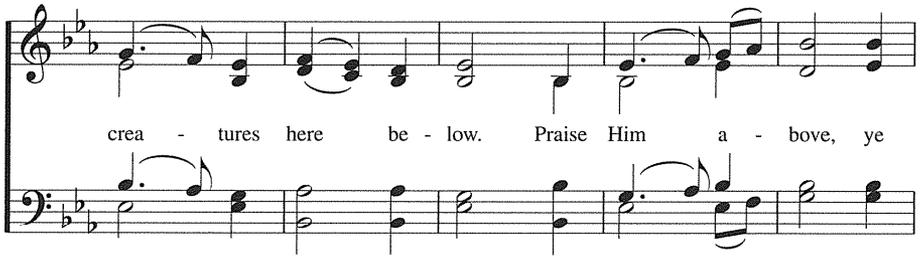
Last time to Coda Φ 1, 2, 3 4 D.S. al Coda Φ

ba - by must be a - dored.
 ad - vent was long fore - told.
 rules with a might - y rod.
 ult in our Sav - ior's birth. Sing,

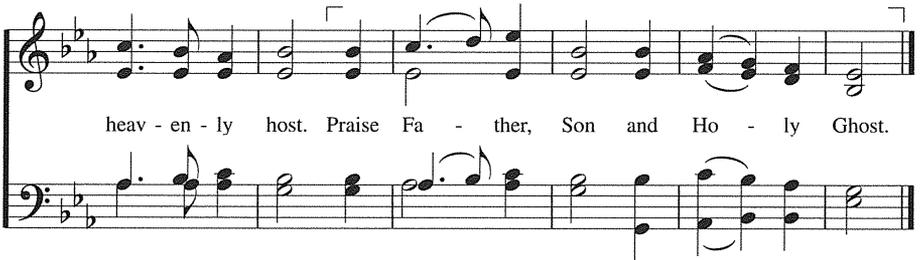
Doxology



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise Him, all



crea - tures here be - low. Praise Him a - bove, ye



heav - en - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Thomas Ken
Music: Jimmy Owens; arr. Mark Rice

Music © 1972 Bud John Songs (ASCAP) (adm. at CapitolCMGPublishing.com). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. Infant Holy, infant lowly. For His bed a cattle stall.
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of All.
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing
Christ the babe is Lord of All. Christ the babe is Lord of All.
2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the Glory, heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, Praises voicing, greet the morrow,
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!
3. He has risen! Sins forgiven! Made a way for us has He.
Conquered death and raised victorious, When He shed His blood for me.
The disciples gazing upward, Angels coming down to tell them,
He will come to earth again! He will come to earth again!
Christ the babe is Lord of All! He is Lord of All!

J.C. Ryle's Eight Symptoms Of False Teaching

1. *There is an undeniable zeal in some teachers of error*—their “earnestness” makes many people think they must be right.
2. *There is a great appearance of learning and theological knowledge*—many think that such clever and intellectual men must surely be safe to listen to.
3. *There is a general tendency to completely free and independent thinking today*—many like to prove their independence of judgment by believing the newest ideas, which are nothing but novelties.
4. *There is a wide-spread desire to appear kind, loving, and open-minded*—many seem half-ashamed to say that anybody can be wrong or is a false teacher.
5. *There is always a portion of half-truth taught by modern false teachers*—they are always using scriptural words & phrases, but with unscriptural meaning.
6. *There is a public craving for a more sensational and entertaining worship*—people are impatient with the more inward & invisible work of God within the hearts of men.
7. *There is a superficial readiness all around to believe anyone who talks cleverly, lovingly and earnestly*, forgetting that Satan often masquerades himself as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14).
8. *There is a wide-spread ignorance among professing Christians*—every heretic who speaks well is surely believed, and anyone who doubts him is called narrow-minded and unloving.

All these are especially symptoms of our times. I challenge any honest and observant person to deny them. These tend to make the assaults of false doctrine today especially dangerous and make it even more important to say loudly, “Do not be carried away with strange doctrine!”

Articles

Please Pray for Pastor Andrew Brunson

From Jim & Karan Romaine:

Pastor Andrew Brunson has been imprisoned on false charges in Turkey for over a year now. He's in a maximum-security prison and, reportedly, confined 24-hours a day to a cell with two other men also accused of being members of a terrorist organization. He's lost over 50 pounds. President Trump has asked Turkey's president for Andrew's release on two occasions when they met. The unfortunate result was that the Turkish president now sees



Pastor Andrew as someone he can swap for the Muslim cleric he wants the US to give him. Andrew's wife, Noreen, writes, "Your prayers have helped bring Andrew to the point of writing this song about a month ago. He sings it to the Lord all the time. Thank you for praying us through." I've copied the song below. Please continue to pray for Andrew. His family is hoping he will be released by Christmas.

Song written by Pastor Andrew Brunson

You are worthy, worthy of my all.

My tears and pain I lift up as an offering.

Teach me to share in the fellowship of your suffering (*Philippians*).

Lamb of God you are worthy of my all.

You are worthy, worthy of my all.

Adopted as a son, a brother to my King,

Indeed I will share in your glory if I share your suffering (*Romans 8*).

Jesus, you are worthy of my all.

You are worthy, worthy of my all.

But my heart faints, drowned in sorrow, overwhelmed.

Make me like you, Cross-bearer, persevering, faithful to the end,

To stand the trial and receive the crown of life.

You are worthy, worthy of my all.

This is my declaration in the darkest hour.

Jesus, the Faithful One who loves me, always good and true,

You made me yours, you are worthy of my all.

I want to be found worthy to stand before you on that day
With no regrets from cowardice, things left undone
(*that is, I want to complete what God has planned and not miss out because of fear*).
To hear you say “Well done, my faithful friend, now enter your reward!”
Jesus, my Joy, you are the prize I’m running for.
(*Joy - I say that with my will, not my feelings.*)

You are worthy, worthy of my all!
You are worthy, worthy of my all!
What can I give to the Son of God, who gave himself for me?
Here I am, you are worthy of my all.



Many question the justice of an eternal sentence meted out for the sins committed in a single lifetime. Surely the sins of 70 years doesn't deserve punishment that goes on forever. But the theological reason is that sin is not punished according to its breadth but its depth. It is not what sins you commit or how many you commit or for how long you commit them, but against whom you commit them. A single sin against an infinitely holy God earns an infinite punishment.

Source unknown

Perspective: The fact that God ordained our days for us give meaning to every day, not just the special or exciting days of our lives. Every day is important for us because it is a day ordained by God. If we are bored with life there is something wrong with our concept of God and His involvement in our daily lives. Even the most dull and tedious days of our lives are ordained by God and ought to be used by us to glorify Him.

This realization, that God has planned our days for us, should not lead us to a fatalistic acceptance of the status quo. If we have opportunity to improve our situation in a way that will honor God, we should do so. There is a delicate balance between godly efforts to improve our situation and godly acceptance of those situations that cannot be changed by us. For most there are many adverse details of our lives that will not be changed regardless of our efforts or our prayers. They are simply part of God's plan for us. Take comfort in Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

J.I Packer/Jerry Bridges (edited)

Apologetics and Your Family:

Part 6 - Do Facts Speak for Themselves?

By Paul Henebury

Now to the subject of evidence. Probably many of you have heard the old dictum that scientists “follow the evidence wherever it leads.” Often scientists themselves promote this idea, and others catch on and parrot it. It sounds very dignified—almost pious. and, as philosophers of science like Thomas Kuhn and Michael Polanyi have shown, it is almost totally false.

Several years ago, a well known, oft-published physicist named Robert V. Gentry published a book entitled *Creation’s Tiny Mystery*, which cataloged his research on Polonium 218 radiohalos. The book makes fascinating reading, and it has never been gainsaid. All the same, Gentry’s researched has been shunted to the side by evolutionists because, well, it provides compelling data for the assertion that the earth is young.

Gentry had a Seventh-Day Adventist upbringing, but was a committed evolutionist and believed in an old earth. He began his research into Polonium Halos to prove an old earth, believing these radiohalos were formed by secondary radioactivity. But his experiments proved they were *not* secondary, but were actually formed rapidly in the earth’s crust without any outside interference or cross-contamination. This showed that the granite rocks in which these halos were found were extremely young. The research has been caricatured and even lampooned by old-earthers of all persuasions, **but never scientifically refuted**. Instead, Dr. Gentry has been ostracized by the scientific establishment.

Gentry’s story is nothing new. The President of Ball State University, which has actively promoted atheism, has banned her professors from even discussing intelligent design with their students. There’s nothing like free speech! Ben Stein’s film “Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed” and the Discovery Institute in Seattle document many other cases of suppression of scientists who demur from the party line.

Meanwhile, more problems surface. For example, evolutionists have found soft tissue in a T-Rex skeleton supposedly 65 million years old. How can soft tissue survive for so long? Answer: it can’t. But there it is. Does this evidence persuade dinosaur experts that dinosaurs lived in recent times? That would be where the evidence led, right? But of course not. No more than ancient drawings of dinosaurs detailing even the patterns on the skin found all over the world influence them. Worldviews get in the way!

Think about it. Finding rapidly decaying (i.e. in 3 minutes) polonium halos in the foundational granite of the earth, which displays no traces of interference from outside sources, is a challenge to the standard models of geological formation. If Gentry is right these halos were made at the very time when the granite was formed—very very quickly! Hence, the age of the earth cannot be dated via any of the usual radiometric methods. It couldn’t be anyway, since these methods give notoriously varied dates. Moreover, *fresh lava flows* which have been subjected to radiometric dating produced results dating them as millions of years old!

What one does with this data depends upon the framework of interpretation permitted by the scientist. So evolutionary scientists ignore data which points away from their theories. Likewise with the dinosaur tissue, or the lack of fossil evidence

for intermediate forms; or the fact that the early development of cells is “locked in” and is not amenable to mutation.

Should a scientist *start* with the assumption that T-Rex died out 65 million years ago? If he does, he will be looking at animal soft tissue through lenses which automatically discount recent dating. The facts are in front of him, but his interpretation of the facts, which is determined by his worldview paradigm, force the evidence into an old age scenario which is never allowed to be questioned.

For many years biologists have been saying that there has to be a large amount of DNA which is “junk” DNA. Because they believe in the Neo-Darwinian model of evolution through natural selection and mutation, that system absolutely requires trial and error in cell formation, and hence a lot of useless DNA. By contrast, for over a decade, intelligent design theorists, using their information and engineering models, have been saying that since engineers design things from the top down, they build in to their designs only those things they need. This means that if DNA had a Designer, one would not expect to find junk DNA. The projection of the I. D. proponents has been shown to be right. There is no “junk” DNA (although this is still being taught in the classroom).

Saying this does not mean we must buy into everything I. D. theorists are saying. But they deserve a hearing: a hearing they are struggling to get.

Yes, we’ve all heard the phrase “the facts speak for themselves.” But I hope you are beginning to see that it is not so. Evidence “lays around” waiting for an interpretation to be affixed to it. Sometimes that interpretation is right, and sometimes it is wrong. In the Christian worldview the interpretation is right *if* it matches what God the Creator says about His world.

If God says, for example, that there was a worldwide flood, one would expect vestiges of truth to be handed down through many flood stories. and indeed, there are well over fifty such flood stories from the ancient world, or from people groups whose history goes back to ancient times. and the geological evidence for a catastrophic deluge is enormous—though unfortunately hidden from most students! No, the facts do not speak for themselves. They require interpretation. But interpretation can be an awkward thing if the interpreter is wearing the wrong lenses.

Self-seeking leads to the loss of real life, and our experience of this loss is often what we define as “there is something missing.” This is what sends us on a perpetual search for that one next thing. For many, that one next thing seems to lie in the relational arena. Single women want to be married. Married women want a better marriage. Childless women want babies. Mothers want happier children. Empty-nesters want grandchildren. For some it’s more meaningful work. There’s nothing wrong with these desires—we’re hard wired to want them. BUT at the same time, if we live to get them, we’re sure to find them hollow when we do.

Apologetics and Your Family: Part 7 - Is All Truth God's Truth?

By Paul Henebury

I want to take two common but deadly slogans which Christians use and look at them, for though they sound alright, they have been the cause of much confusion among Christians. The phrase I have in mind today is “All Truth is God’s Truth.”

An accurate view of Truth is essential to a correct Christian Worldview, and a correct Christian Worldview is necessary for the defense of Christianity. Thus, a clear idea of the character of Truth is of the utmost importance for our children to understand, and this motto, “All Truth is God’s Truth” requires careful handling.

For some people—and that number sadly includes some Christian apologists—the slogan could be paraphrased as, “All that the experts *call* truth is God’s truth.”

In such a scenario it ought to be clear that it is not what God says that is of first importance, but human estimations and perceptions of what is true that matters. We think it’s true so we lumber God with it. Then it is easy to pronounce the Big Bang as God’s truth, or theistic evolution, or the most recent “findings” of archaeologists or Semitic experts, whether they believe the Bible or not. What this approach asserts is that we decide what is true and then piously say that God did it. This will not do.

So is there another view? There is. It interprets “All Truth is God’s Truth” within the strict parameters of the Bible. A paraphrase of this position would be, “All that really is true according to Scripture comes from the God of Truth.”

This way of looking at it comports well with the authority we are all supposed to be under: the authority of Scripture. It automatically has no truck with human assessments of truth, which are always changing anyway. What is true and what is not true is not ours to decide about. Our opinion, or the opinions of those we esteem and listen to are irrelevant if they cross what God says about it in the Bible.

What I am saying is that if the phrase “All Truth is God’s Truth” is to be of any acceptable use to us it has to bear a meaning which we can take to God as in agreement with His Word. We must not let our kids leave our homes with the slippery notion that we can decide what is true and then expect the Lord to place His Divine imprimatur on our assessment.

Apologetics and Your Family: Part 8 - Another Slogan

By Paul Henebury

In the last article we were looking at a motto which is often misused by the Christian community, and which could mislead young people if not carefully explained. That motto was “All truth is God’s truth.” This time I want to take a look at another slogan; a slogan which should not be adopted by Bible believers, even though some prominent and respected authorities use it.

The phrase I have in mind is this: “The Bible tells us how to go to heaven; science tells us how the heavens go.”

On the face of it, this legend might seem non-objectionable. We are all aware of the fact that the Bible is not, nor does it ever claim to be, a textbook on Science. It doesn't inform us about botany or biology or chemistry or physics. Science does—so what's the problem?

To put it simply, the trouble is that this slogan says far too much about the competence of science, and far too little about the scope and authority of Scripture. It is quite subtle, yet the problem is acute. As it sits, saying "The Bible tells us how to go to heaven" is like saying "Jesus teaches us how to be nice." A gospel tract can tell you how to get to heaven! But the Bible is the Word of God. It is the only "word" from the outside. That is to say, it is the only word which is not fashioned by the finite and fallen ingenuity of man. As such, the Bible is the final court of appeal on God-made reality. To confine it within the bounds of a rather thoughtless jingle is to treat it with dishonor.

Yet that is just one part of the problem. The catchphrase goes on to assert that "science tells us how the heavens go." To this we may reply, "Only if that science agrees with the Bible!" To create an artificial divide between the Bible and science like this is disastrous. In point of fact, the Word of God tells us how the heavens go (to the extent that they speak of the heavens), and we would be well advised to accept no "scientific" statement which contradicts the Bible's teaching on this or any other subject.

If "science" tells us we evolved from cosmic dust, or we came from apes, or that there is no God (or no way to know there is a God), and a thousand other pronouncements besides, then "science" isn't true knowledge (which is the meaning of the Latin term *scientia*). In fact, it isn't even science. It is "science (or "knowledge") falsely so-called".

Do the problems end there? I wish they did, but there is more to say, because this way of putting things leads to thinking that the Bible only touches upon the thin aspects of living which we call "spiritual"; all the rest of reality is then thought to be open to independent reasoning virtually unrelated to the pronouncements of Scripture. Once this thought enters the Christian's mind it acts like a cancer, and very soon what we proudly call "the Christian worldview" becomes a small timid thing, with little relevance for most of the "non-spiritual" spheres of life. It is not surprising that our youth are leaving the faith in droves if they are being fed such a paltry diet of the biblical viewpoint.

So why do some respected Christian leaders (like Norman Geisler and Bruce Waltke) make use of this slogan? There is a clear reason, and it highlights the problem of what I might call "intellectual schizophrenia." This problem comes about when a person does not have both eyes and ears on the text of Scripture, but has one ear open to another authority—usually if not always the pronouncements of modern science.

Of course, these leaders do not sense any competition between these two authorities. But that is because they have accepted the forced interpretations of the Bible in order to include statements from scientists which would otherwise contradict the clear statements of the Word of God. When defending their embrace of "scientific" opinions seemingly at variance with the Bible these writers are often led into affirming positions which neither the Bible *nor* secular science agree with.

Missionary of the Week

Kendra Stanford World Horizons - India

After a five month exploratory trip to India, Kendra Stanford is pursuing long term work there. World Horizons starts businesses in order to employ local residents and to interact with and serve the community, and to reach them with the gospel of Christ. Kendra is in Lucknow as a student to study the Hindi language at the school her mission operates. She is continuing relationships with both Hindus and Muslims she ministered to during her trip last summer, and is meeting new people, also. She goes to a nearby village a few times a week and teaches English to some schoolteachers there.



From her most recent letter:

- Pray for God to work through me and my friends here to share the hope that the birth of Jesus brings to us. Pray for lives to be changed and transformed as a result of hearing about Jesus.
- Pray for my language to continue to go well even though my schedule will be much busier with Christmas events happening. Pray for me to continue to grow in confidence and knowledge in language.
- Pray for financial support. Going into the new year, I'm needing to raise an additional \$350 per month to be able to pay all of my monthly bills. Please pray about whether God might use you to help me continue to do my work here through becoming a financial partner with me in the ministry that I'm doing.
- Pray for God to provide one-time financial gifts to cover the cost of my travel expenses for the conferences and mandatory rest period over the next two months.

As difficult as it is to trust God in adversity, there are other times when it may be even more difficult to trust Him; such as when circumstances are going well. During times of prosperity we are prone to put our trust in those blessings or in ourselves as the providers of those blessings. At these moments we show our trust by acknowledging God as the provider of those blessings. It is the Lord that provides the regular paycheck, and the full refrigerator. We should express heartfelt acknowledgment and genuine gratitude to God in our prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 7:14

Sunday School Classes & Descriptions

3rd Grade to Adult

“Church Membership Conference”
Sanctuary: Various Teachers

Young Children

Babies - Room 3: Kay Stanford & Sandra Bridges

1s & 2s - Room 24: Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter/Danny & Kamee Roberson

3s & 4s - Room 25: Emily Wise, Susan Su, Donna Martin

Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade - Room 200: Jimmy & Angie Creech

Save the Date Reminder!



Our Women of Light Retreat at Epworth by the Sea is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, January 26 & 27, 2018. Linda Brucato is our speaker. Make a note of it! Sign up sheet will be up soon!

The Bible never asks for blind faith, it calls for a reasoned faith. Remember that if there is no God and we live in a strictly material, evolving universe, violence and suffering are just a part of the natural world with no inherent morality attached to them. In this case violence would not be evil; it would simply be a part of the evolutionary process. Without God compassion for others is nothing but chemical changes in the brain. Suffering is meaningless, violence is meaningless.

Bible Reading Schedule

December 2017

	1	Psalms 120-130
	2	Psalms 131-135
	3	Psalms 136-139
	4	Psalms 140-144
	5	Psalms 145-150
	6	Proverbs 1 & Eccles. 1
	7	Proverbs 2 & Eccles. 2
	8	Proverbs 3 & Eccles. 3
	9	Proverbs 4 & Eccles. 4
	10	Proverbs 5 & Eccles. 5
	11	Proverbs 6 & Eccles. 6
	12	Proverbs 7 & Eccles. 7
	13	Proverbs 8 & Eccles. 8
	14	Proverbs 9 & Eccles. 9
	15	Proverbs 10 & Eccles. 10
	16	Proverbs 11 & Eccles. 11
	17	Proverbs 12 & Eccles. 12
	18	Proverbs 13 & Eccles. 1
	19	Proverbs 14 & Eccles. 2
	20	Proverbs 15 & Eccles. 3
	21	Proverbs 16 & Eccles. 4
	22	Proverbs 17 & Eccles. 5
	23	Proverbs 18 & Eccles. 6
	24	Proverbs 19 & Eccles. 7
	25	Proverbs 20 & Eccles. 8
	26	Proverbs 21 & Eccles. 9
	27	Proverbs 22 & Eccles. 10
	28	Proverbs 23 & Eccles. 11
	29	Proverbs 24 & Eccles. 12
	30	Proverbs 25 & John 1
	31	Proverbs 26 & John 2



Come Christians Join To Sing

1. Come, Christians, join to sing—
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King—
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice:
Alleluia! Amen!

2. Come, lift your hearts on high—
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky—
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend,
To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end:
Alleluia! Amen!

3. Praise yet our Christ again—
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain—
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore,
"Alleluia! Amen!"

Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from
www.fabchurch.com/sermons

For Hearing Impaired

If you have difficulties hearing, we have listening aid devices available. Ask any of the ushers, or the technician in the sound booth, if you are in need of one of these devices.

Nursery December 10

10:30 A.M.

Babies:

Donna Martin, Kirsten Jones

Toddlers - 4 year olds:

Karrie & Lindsey Walker/
Steve & Linnea Posner

6:00 P.M.

Sona Bailey, Cindy Dimmitt/
Linda Walker, Shawn Champion

Nursery December 17

10:30 A.M.

Babies:

Mary Fowler, Kay Stanford

Toddlers - 4 year olds:

Jimmy & Tammy Kicklighter/
Mike & Elinor Morris

6:00 P.M.

Janice Donaldson, Ceci Sheffield/
Sharon Boaen, Kathlyne Creech

Ushers December 10

10:30 A.M.

Danny Roberson, Kelly Stanford,
John Sumner, Michael Walker

6:00 P.M.

Kelly Stanford, John Sumner

Ushers December 17

10:30 A.M.

Billy Waters, Buddy Bacon,
Johnny Bridges, Reggie Brown

6:00 P.M.

Joe Morris, Jay Rowe

Sunday Greeters - December 10

Janice Donaldson, Leasa Brown

December Lock-Up Deacons

Jimmy Kicklighter, Jack Moore