

MAN—NO LONGER ENDOWED BY A CREATOR?

Brad Harrub, Ph.D.

“In the beginning was matter, which begat the amoeba, which begat the worm, which begat the fish, which begat the amphibian, which begat the reptile, which begat the lower mammal, which begat the lemur, which begat the monkey, which begat man, who imagined God.” This, according to atheist Charles Smith, is the genealogy of man. Sadly, he is far from being alone in his views of man’s origin. In fact, a vast majority of modern-day scientists cling vehemently to this Darwinist view of origins as “gospel” on the matter. It has become the light under which all new data is examined. It has become their religion—one for which they will fight in order to secure its place in academia. And it appears that they are winning.

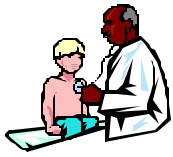
While you may find the concept of men evolving from some primordial slime repulsive or sickening, the reality of the current politically climate is far worse. For in our country, the **only** theory about man’s origins allowed in the classroom is this fallacious concept of organic evolution: amoeba to man. And although our country declared its independence with these words: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are **created** equal, that they are **endowed by their Creator** with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” (emp. added), we now live in a land where we can no longer discuss that Creator in the classroom. When Thomas Jefferson penned those famous words, he illustrated that from the very beginning, America recognized human rights as a gift of God, not something created by government.

This war to erase God has taken place in every form of media. If this movement had a special forces unit—such as the Navy Seals or Army Rangers—it would most surely be called evolution or neo-Darwinism. The belief of a special creation has been discounted in magazines, on the television, and has now fallen under attack within the Church. The atheists and agnostics of the world have been effective at casting doubt on the very first verse of the Bible, where it clearly states: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth” (Genesis 1:1). These words are no longer viewed as the words of Almighty God, but rather as a nice introduction to a fable or myth. Day-after-day our children sit at the feet of professors who, using fancy words and scientific theories, teach that man’s origins are the result of some Big Bang or Punctuated Equilibrium. And thus we find ourselves in a nation that has outlawed God from the classroom, and who now believes their own origin can be explained by some cosmological accident.

But that is not the most heartrending part. The truly tragic part is that Christians are now clinging to this fictitious theory of how man arrived on the Earth. People who have confessed the name of Christ are suddenly giving more credence to a CNN news report, than to the inspired, God-breathed, Holy Bible. They, too, are willing to toss aside those powerful words—“In the beginning God created...”—in favor of man’s latest scientific theory. Sadly, in the process of discounting the first few chapters of Genesis, these Christians are undermining the very foundation of their own religion. If they question the way the Bible explains how man arrived on this Earth, then what makes them think they can believe what it says regarding salvation and the afterlife? If God did not do it the way He said He did, then why should we believe He sent His only Son to die for our sins? Have Christians not realized the embodiment of all that they are compromising when they buy into evolution and the idea of a six billion year old Earth? If we are to believe and protect the rest of the Bible, then we must be ready to believe and defend that God created the world around us the way He said He did—in six literal days.

[Brad Harrub is a professional apologist who works with Focus Press. www.focuspress.org]

Sick



Continue to remember in prayer:
**Marguerite Charles, Lyn Anderson,
 Martha Keith, Miriam Majors,
 Betty Jenkins, WJ Wood, Steve
 Harrah, Margaret Kratz, Sandra
 Wood, Amanda Brown, Huck
 Walker, Dee House, Jonnie Charles, William Shuf-
 flebarger, Maria Cleaver, Buddy Martin, Nelson
 Gabbard, Joanne Paul.**

Glann Lee had heart surgery on Thursday in Nashville.

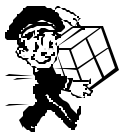
Several are out with the usual illnesses.

Sympathy is extended to Dotty Collins in the death of her brother. His viewing is today from 7-9 at Valley Funeral Home on Peters Creek Road. Funeral will be Monday at 1:00.

Happy Birthday this week to:
Emmalynn Whitlow—2/17
Willard Campbell—2/20
Jason Oldham—2/21
Tanner Reed—2/22



Happy Anniversary this week to:
Bob & Sandy Garby—2/17
Don & Mitzi Pettit—2/18



FEBRUARY ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Meringue powder and Sweet 'n Low packets. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

MILITARY

In Iraq: Aaron T Stricklin



Upcoming Events:



Team 1 (Durham) will be having Le Evening with the Leplantes on Feb. 28 at 5:00. Sign up sheet is located on the board.

Teens

February Dates
2/22—BB Study



Mark your calendars now for March 7. We will also be having the Biddy Bible Bowl for the kids ages 5-8.

Congratulations to Sam Valentine for winning for the second time the City of Salem Spelling Bee.

WOW



Please sign up on the WOW board for the video auto-biographies being done by Richard Simms.

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10, at 10:30.

Sign up on the board for the bus trip to the Maple Festival on March 14. Cost is \$10. Sign up by Feb. 15. See Don or the board for details!!



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For Your Information

Weekly Reminders

EDUCATION BANQUET

ATTENTION ALL Bible class teachers, education workers, elders, spouses and friends of teachers and workers! Our annual education appreciation banquet is Saturday, February 21st at 5:45. PLEASE sign up by no later than Feb. 15th so I can give the caterers a count! EVERYONE PLEASE come! Thanks Danny!

Also NEEDED: In order to add to the enjoyment of the evening, a "blast from the past" photograph of all who will be attending the Education Banquet at West Side on February 21 is needed. Please email or otherwise provide a photo to Eddy of yourself in "former days" (preferably of grade school). If you provide a picture, please put a post-it note on it identifying yourself so that the photo can be returned. Please get these to Eddy by Sunday, February 15. Thanks.

POWER POINT TRAINING SESSION

There will be a Power Point Training Session for all song leaders on Feb. 22 at 4:30. See Eric for details.

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Fellowship will be on Feb. 25 at 5:45. Ham dinner will be served. Sign up and pay your \$5 at the door.

MEN'S RETREAT

The 20th Annual Men's Retreat will be on March 20 & 21 at the 4-H Conference Center at Smith Mountain Lake. Registration forms are located in the tract rack in the foyer.

Spring Quarter Classes and teachers:

Primary Teachers: Kristie Jearls, Amanda Brown, Jessica White, Kim Brown, Lisa Valentine, Shree Lowe, Michelle Earnhart.

Middle School: AM: NT - Elders; Wed.: Marc Laplante

High School: AM: NT — Elders; Wed.: Jeremy White

Ladies: Wed.— Fellowship Hall: Heirlooms by Jeanny Gilpin

Auditorium: NT - Elders; Wed.: Eddy Gilpin

Fellowship Hall: AM: Men's Leadership - Elders

(The elders will be rotating between the Men's Leadership Class, the Auditorium New Testament Class and the combined Middle & High School New Testament Class.)

Prayer list:

Lyn Anderson
Marguerite Charles
Steve Harrah
Dee House
Betty Jenkins
Martha Keith
Martha Keplinger
Margaret Kratz
Miriam Majors
Buddy Martin
Amanda Brown
MT (Huck) Walker
Jonnie Charles
Nelson Gabbard
Joanne Paul
Maria Cleaver
William Shufflebarger
Glann Lee
Dotty Collins

Activities:

Education Banquet—2/21



“If Any Man” (2)

Words and phrases that are repeated in Scripture provide us an abundance of readily available study material and much interesting insight. One such phrase is “*if any man*,” which is found 62 times in the New Testament. Let’s continue our examination of this phrase.

Feb. 15 (Acts 18)

- Read Acts 18 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 18—Paul at Corinth
- Paul’s 3rd missionary journey begins
- Apollos taught the word of God more perfectly by Aquila & Priscilla
- Write a note or card this week
- *Increase your contribution by \$1 today

Feb. 16 (Acts 19)

- Read Acts 19 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 19—12 Ephesian men rebaptized by Paul
- Ephesians burn their sorcery books
- Ephesian uproar (goddess Diana)

Feb. 17 (Acts 20)

- Read Acts 20 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 20—Lord’s Supper at Troas
- Eutychus falls; Paul brings him to life
- Paul speak with Ephesian elders at Miletus

Feb. 18 (Acts 21)

- Read Acts 21 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 21—Agabus warns Paul not to go to Jerusalem
- Paul goes to Jerusalem
- Paul’s vow
- Jews of Jerusalem attempt to kill Paul
- Paul arrested by the Romans

Feb. 19 (Acts 22)

- Read Acts 22 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 22—Paul relates his conversion to the Jews at Jerusalem
- Paul brought before the council

Feb. 20 (Acts 23)

- Read Acts 23 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 23—Council divided by Paul’s comments
- Plot against Paul’s life revealed
- Paul’s journey to Rome begins (taken to Caesarea)

Feb. 21 (Acts 24)

- Read Acts 24 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 24—Paul’s defense before Felix
- Festus replaces Felix

Jesus often made the statement, “*If any man* have ears to hear, let him hear” (Mk. 4:23; 7:16), with slight variations in other passages (Mt. 11:5; 13:9, 43; Mk. 4:9; 7:16; Lk. 8:8; 14:35; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 13:9). The statement was obviously a common idiom in His day. We have similar expressions in our modern language (i.e. “Do you hear what I’m telling you?”). Even those who do not possess the ability to hear audibly still have means of communicating. (Those who do not possess the mental capacity to communicate are not responsible for their actions.) Thus, even though the statement mentions hearing in particular, it excludes no one who has the ability to understand. Each has the responsibility to listen to God and obey what His Will says (Heb. 5:8, 9). Faith, after all, comes in no other fashion (Rom. 10:17). Every man must hear, believe and obey. No man is excluded.

To His disciples who were arguing about who would be greatest in His kingdom Jesus said, “*If any man* desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all” (Mk. 9:35). He was not revealing to them a consequence of such a desire, but rather a means of obtaining it. He that would be first gets there by being last (Mt. 19:30; Mk. 10:31; Lk. 13:30). The way up is down. The way to be great is to be a servant. Jesus demonstrated this attitude when He took a towel and washed His disciples’ feet (Jn. 13). He followed His action with His words, “If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet” (Jn. 13:14). Later He would follow that by surrendering His life for all humanity, the greatest of all demonstrations of humble service and sacrifice. Humility brings honor and quiet service brings the approval of God. Such great traits are sorely needed in our world and in the Lord’s church.

-Eddy

Those to Serve in February

Announcements: Charlie Gwaltney

Preside at Communion: Don Pettit

Opening Prayer: Jerry Anderson

Next Week: Bobby Martin

PM Song Leader: Adam House

Opening Prayer: Jim Harrington

Next Week: Squeaky Valentine

Serve Communion: Garrett Durham, Shawn Simms

Wednesday Song Leader: Josh Whitlow

Open/Close Bldg: Jerry Anderson

Ushers: Norris Gearhart, Curtis Oakes

Greeters: Peverall/Hartman

Song Leader: Eric Earnhart

Serve Table: Glenn Gabbard, Jim Bush

Herb Baker, Bradford Durham

Closing Prayer: Tom Rogers

Next Week: Collin Gregory

Scripture Reader: Ethan Rogers

Closing Prayer: Jeremy White

Next Week: Eric Earnhart

Prayer: AC Janney

Prepare Communion: Crowe/Garby

Cards/Pencils: Jimmy & Caroline Harrington

Nursery Attend: T. Gibson, Melissa Oldham

Last weeks attendance (2/8&11/09)

Bible Class: 150 Worship Service: 183

Sunday Evening: 147

Wednesday: 137

Contribution: \$5474

February 15 2009

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