



# The Voice of Truth



November 22, 2009

## "In The Beginning God..."

By Jimmy Pettigrew

The Word of God teaches that everything was created (earth, universe, mankind, animals, etc..) within the six days of the creation week, as first recorded in **Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11** and **31:17**. God *"hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things that are thereon, the seas and all that is in them, and thou preservest them all"* (**Nehemiah 9:6**).

Those who hold to the theory of evolution claim that man has evolved from some lower (non-human) form of life. Those who hold that man owes his origin to the creative act of the infinite God agree with the Biblical account, *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"* (**Genesis 1:1**).

The Evolutionary theory is faulty at every turn, but is relentlessly held to in spite of the fact that it cannot be observed or proven in the laboratory. Dr. Duane Gish has commented: "Evolution in this broad sense is unproven and unprovable and thus cannot be considered as fact. It is not subject to test by ordinary methods of experimental science-observation and falsification. It thus does not; in a strict sense even qualify as a scientific theory" (*Evolution: The Fossils Say No!*, Creation-Life Publishers, San Diego, California, 1979, p 21).

If evolution is true we should find a multitude of living forms which shade one into another; monkeys for example into men? One evolutionist says he rejects the concept of creation because it cannot be verified scientifically. Therefore, he automatically rules out the very possibility of creation. It could not have happened because he cannot subject it to scientific tests. Oh really; if that be the case, then the believer in evolution that stays with the scientific tests principle, he must abandon evolution. Dr. Robert A.

Millikan, Nobel laureate in physics, has well said: "The pathetic thing is that we have scientists who are trying to prove evolution, which no scientists can ever prove" (Quoted in: *Nashville Banner*, August 7, 1925). Organic evolution is not a "fact" of science. It is no wonder that evolutionists admit that evolution is a matter of faith which cannot be scientifically proved. God asked Job: *"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth"* (**Job 38:4**)? No scientist was there to observe the origin of the universe, the solar system, and our earth. Therefore, it is impossible for any statement concerning ultimate origins to be based on observations by a scientist.

The General Theory of Evolution teaches that the living evolved from the non-living by natural processes. Dead matter created living matter. The evolutionist John Tyler Bonner acknowledged that there is no scientific confirmation of the origin of life. People, there is no scientific evidence which proves that non-living created the living. Evolution can give no answer to the question of how matter came to exist in the first place. The General Theory of Evolution cannot be established scientifically.

Man has existed from the beginning of the creation (**Genesis 1:26-27**). Jesus Christ Himself confirmed this truth in **Mark 10:6** and in **Matthew 19:4**. He taught that Adam and Eve were made; they were made male and female; and they existed "from the beginning of the creation." This is the true view of man's origin!

Isaiah understood that man had been on the earth from the beginning, as he put it, *"from the foundations of the earth"* (**Isaiah 40:21**). Paul stated, *"For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are*

clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, (even) his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse" (**Romans 1:20**). The apostle stated that since the creation of the world the invisible things of God have been: clearly seen; and perceived. Please tell me, who has clearly seen and perceived the things that were made from the beginning of the creation, if no man existed on this planet for billions of years? Paul in this passage without a doubt was teaching that man has existed since the creation of the world.

Now in **Luke 11:45-52**, the account is recorded of the Lord rebuking the rebellious Jews of His day. But the thing I want us to notice is this; Jesus, in these verses, placed the murder of Abel near the "foundation of the world." Yes, Abel's death occurred some years after the initial creation, but it was close enough to that event for Jesus to state that it was connected with "the foundation of the world." Now, if the world came into existence several billion years before the first family, how could the shedding of human blood be declared by God's Son to extend back to the "foundation of the world"? Man is not billion years younger than the origin of the universe. Man has been on the earth "from the **beginning** of the creation" (**Mark 10:6**); "since the creation of the world" (**Romans 1:20**); and "from the foundation of the world" (**Luke 11:50**).

The Bible is not silent regarding our origins. God Almighty created the universe (and everything in it) simply by speaking it into existence. He said, "Let there be light; and there was light" (**Genesis 1:3**). By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth ... Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast (**Psalm 33:6, 8-9**). The Bible plainly teaches that God, by the word of His mouth, spoke the universe and everything in it into existence in six days! "O Lord, thou that didst make the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that in them is" (**Acts 4:24**). "I will give thanks unto

thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (**Psalms 139:14**). Therefore, man is not the result of evolution; man is the result of creation: "whom I have created for my glory, whom I have formed, yea, whom I have made" (**Isaiah 43:7**). "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God" (**Psalm 90:1-2**). •

## "Does It Matter What I Believe?"

By Jarrod Jacobs

Many ask this question in reference to religious matters. Some will try to say that it does not matter what we believe as long as we are honest and sincere about religious issues. Let us look to the Bible and see the consequences of that reasoning.

If, in religion, it does not matter what you and I believe, why did God say, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (**Ex. 20:3**)? Why did God not allow those Jews to worship the "god of their choice"? Isn't it possible that there were some Canaanites and heathens that were sincere and honest in their infant sacrifices, mutilation of their bodies, and other forms of "worship" to their gods? Yet, God did not allow such a thing (**Josh. 24:20**). Why would that be unless God expected worship to be to Him and Him alone, no excuses and no exceptions?

If, in religion, it does not matter what you and I believe, why did Jesus condemn the Pharisees and the Sadducees for their behavior? Let us notice **Matthew 15:9**. There Jesus said, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Does this sound like Jesus does not care how we worship him? Is there a possibility that some may believe that they are truly worshipping God, but in reality it is "in vain"? Yes!

Another passage we ought to look at is found in **Matthew 22:29**. Jesus condemned the Sadducees at this time, and said, "Ye do

*err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.*" How could these people "err" if it does not matter what you and I believe on religious matters?

Let us look at an early teacher and preacher of the gospel. A man by the name of Stephen. This space will not allow us to print the entire text, but please read **Acts 7** so you can understand the entire context. Toward the end of **Acts 7**, Stephen condemns the Jews for refusing to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Please notice what happened, *"When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth...And cast him out of the city, and stoned him"* (**Acts 7:54, 58**). Does this reaction sound consistent with people who have heard words to the effect, "I'm O.K. and you're O.K. -- There are many roads to the same goal"?

Many times, Paul would cause a riot in the cities he visited. Why was this? This was because he taught *"THE gospel of Christ"* (**Rom. 1:16**)!! He taught that there was not another gospel of Christ. Therefore, you will follow the one true gospel, or a perverted gospel, period (**Gal. 1:6-9**). Paul caused a stir among the Philippians because he was accused of teaching *"customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans"* (**Acts 16:21**). Does this sound like Paul taught that there are "many ways to serve God"? In Ephesus Paul, *"hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands"* (**Acts 19:26**). Why would he say this to such an honest and sincere group of people who were just trying to worship their goddess the best way they knew how? How do we know that these people were honest and sincere in their beliefs about the goddess Diana? For one thing, they shouted *"Great is Diana of the Ephesians"* for two solid hours to show their devotion to that idol (**Acts 19:34**). Paul did not teach these things in Ephesus alone, but everywhere that Paul went he taught the same gospel (**Acts 19:26; I Cor. 4:17**).

If it is true that God will accept you as long as you are honest and sincere in what you believe, then why was Paul converted in the first place? He was the epitome of an "honest and sincere," "religious" person, fully persuaded in his own mind (**Acts 22:3, 23:1, 26:9-10; Gal. 1:13-14; Phil. 3:4-6**). But it was not enough, was it??

My friend, what we believe religiously, matters! What we believe concerning religious matters will determine whether we go to Heaven or Hell! This is how serious it is. We are not on "different roads to the same goal"! Now, we may be on different roads, but rest assured that one road leads to Heaven and the other road leads to Hell (**Matt. 7:13-14**). These are our choices!! When people declare that it does not matter what you believe as long as you are honest and sincere, they are teaching something completely foreign to the Scriptures. We must follow what the Bible and the Bible alone says on matters of religion, as well as in every other area of our life (**Col. 3:17**)!! If people will not give us book, chapter, and verse for their actions, we need not listen (**I Pet. 4:11**). The next time someone asks the question "Does it matter what I believe religiously...?" How will YOU answer them??

Credit: [www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com) ♦

## **"Dynamic Worship"** By Jonathan L. Perz

A sign advertising a local church's worship service read "Two DYNAMIC Worship Services." While it is not uncommon nowadays to see such words used to describe a worship service, should such even be a consideration for our worship to God?

Does God want "dynamic worship" or does He seek spiritual and true worship? The Lord directly answers this question when He says, *"But the hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"* (**John 4:23-24**).

“Dynamic worship” is obviously being advertised in contrast or comparison to some other kind of worship. Typically, those who desire “dynamic worship” are tired of what they consider boring, dull or “old-fashioned” worship. They want energetic, contemporary worship that they can relate to. They want exhilarating worship that is in keeping with the times. They want emotion filled worship that appeals to them. They want uplifting worship that makes them feel good. So, local churches are making changes to provide such worship for their worshippers. The problem with this is two-fold.

First, such worship is worshiper-oriented, not God-oriented. Is not our worship for God and to God? Why then are we innovating our worship to God to meet the desires of the worshiper? Should not the worshiper’s concern be for the desires of God (cf. **1 Thess. 4:1**)? Are not God’s ways of worship satisfying enough for us? Are not the approved methods of worship demonstrated by the first century Christians good enough for us? Are we not to imitate them (cf. **1 Cor. 11:1**)?

Second, such worship might engage a man’s spirit, but it fails in regard to truth. Is not God’s word truth (**John 17:17**)? Should

not God’s word be our authority in all spiritual matters, to include worship (cf. **Col. 3:16-17**)? Should not our worship then resemble and conform to first century worship? It can be confirmed that apostolic worship was approved worship, spiritual worship and truthful worship (cf. **Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 1:21; 11:23-27; 16:1-2; Eph. 5:19**). Can we prove that “dynamic” worship rises to that mark established by the Lord (**1 Thess. 5:21**)?

You see, we can have spiritual and truthful worship that is “dynamic.” However, not all “dynamic worship” is in spirit and truth (cf. **Rom. 8:8**). The dynamics of worship are not based on externals that appeal to the flesh. The dynamics of worship are based on internals that appeal to the spirit and truth. Thus, when worshippers emphasize spirit and truth in their hearts, the dynamics will be where God expects them to be.

Most who desire “dynamic worship” would argue that their worship is in spirit and in truth. If such is true, then why not simply advertise your worship as such? Can there be any higher type of worship than true worship? *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦*

## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

**Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

**Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

**Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

**Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

**Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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#### Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am  
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am  
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

[www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com](http://www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com)