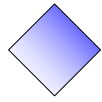


The Voice of Truth



March 30, 2014

“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

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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**" (**Psalms 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" (**Psalms 90:1-2**). ♦

"What Will You Do With The Truth?"

By Jarrod Jacobs

Truth is something that demands a response. Every time we are faced with the truth of God's word (**Jn. 17:17**), we must do something with it. I imagine no better example could be given of the various responses man has to the truth than in the events recorded in **Acts 17** when Paul preached at Mars Hill. Let us study the book of **Acts 17**, and ask what ourselves what we will do when we hear the truth. When you hear the truth...

Do You Consider It Babbling?

When Paul entered Athens and saw all the idols in that town, "his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there" (**Acts 17:16-17**). When the Epicureans and the Stoics heard Paul, they asked, "What does this babbling wish to say?" (**Acts 17:18**). A "babbling" literally was a man, "lounging about the marketplace and picking up a subsistence by whatever may chance to fall from the merchandise; a parasite; getting a living by flattery or buffoonery; an empty talker" (Thayer's, p. 584). These Athenians looked to Paul and thought he was some kind of fool, a bum, or someone simply speaking for entertainment purposes. That is why there was so much interest in him at first. "All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new" (**Acts 17:19-21**).

The world at large considers the truth of God nothing more than foolishness. Paul wrote, "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of their discerning I will thwart. Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God by wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe" (**I Cor. 1:18-21**). It is a tragedy to see people who think the Bible is nothing more than "myths" or "stories." Is this your attitude?

Do You Mock When The Truth Is Preached?

In **Acts 17:22-31**, we read the most profound treatise on God from the creation to the second coming. When the Athenians heard this sermon, "some mocked" (**Acts 17:32**). The implication from this passage is that they mocked so much that Paul stopped preaching (McGarvey, Original Commentary on Acts, p. 223-224)! These people spent all their time either hearing or telling some new thing, but when it came to listening to the Truth, they could not bear it, and mocked the preacher (**Acts 17:21, 32**).

Are you one who would mock God's word? First, let us

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define what it means to mock as they did. To mock at God's word is to, "to jest, jeer at" (Vine's, p. 528). Mr. Thayer adds the word "deride" to his definition (p. 669). After we hear someone preach, do we say, "That is just his opinion," or "He gets paid to say that. If he didn't say that we would fire him"? When we say things like this about the Bible and those who proclaim the truth, we are mocking at the truth as they did in Paul's day, and that is sinful.

Do You Want To Hear It Again?

Some who heard Paul speak about the resurrection said, "We will hear you again about this" (**Acts 17:32**). This was not something negative, but it was something hopeful. Some wanted to hear more about God and the resurrection.

I am afraid that people forget that the command to hear God's words is just as binding as the command to preach! God commands us to "hear" Jesus (**Matt. 17:5**). When Peter preached on Pentecost, he told the people to "hear these words" (**Acts 2:22**). While Jesus was upon this earth, He said, "My sheep hear my voice" (**Jn. 10:27**). Literally, Jesus was saying that His sheep "keep on" hearing His voice, or continue to hear His voice. It is not a one-time thing! Therefore, it is a good thing when we see those wanting to hear God's word more and more.

These men wanted to hear Paul again so they could weigh God's word against man's word. That is what God

wants all of us to do (**I Thess. 5:21; Rom. 12:2**). However, friend, do not put off obedience to this word until it is too late (**II Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7-8, 15**)!

Do You Cleave And Believe?

A small group of people were impressed by the Truth so much that they decided right then to obey God. **Acts 17:34** says, "But some men joined him and believed, among whom were also Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them." How great it is to see people that will decide right away that they want to obey the truth!

We should take time to study and examine God's word, but we must not wait too long! We have no lease on life, so we must take advantage of the time we have now (**II Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7-8, 15**). Christ calls people today to come and "learn" of Him, but the call will not last indefinitely (**Matt. 11:28-30**).

Too many want to hear about God, but do not want to hear what God says! The only way that we can know the Truth is to listen to His words (**Jn. 17:17**)! What kind of person are you when you are presented with the truth? Do you consider the preacher a man who is saying nothing? Do you mock at the truth? Do you seriously consider and study what has been said? Do you believe what you have heard and obey it? Let us seriously think about this because our answers to these questions will determine where we spend eternity! *Credit: The Old Paths - 12/16/12* ♦

THE ONE BODY

The church is the body of Christ, "And he is the head of the body, the church (**Col. 1:18**). There is only one body, one church. "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (**Eph. 1:22-23**). The New Testament teaches that there is only one body; this one body is the church. We are "fellow heirs of the same body" (**Eph. 3:6**). We are "reconciled to God in one body" (**Eph. 2:16**). Christ is founder of only one church. "Upon this rock I will build my church" (**Matt. 16:18**). Jesus did not say that we would build a church, His church or one of His churches. He said, "I will build my church." The word "church" signifies singularity. Jesus did not build many different churches, but one! None should encourage any to seek the church of your choice, but the church of Christ's choice, that is, the one that is Christ-built, blood-bought (**Acts 20:28**), the one in which He is the Saviour of (**Eph. 5:23**).

Since there is one, and only one church and since Christ saves only those in that one church; thus, if one living today is not a member of that church (**Rom. 16:16**), then he is not saved. ♦

THINK ABOUT IT!

When a farmer stops plowing his land, stops planting seed, and stops harvesting his crops, he has stopped doing those things that identify him as being a farmer. When a Christian stops attending worship services regularly, stops studying, stops giving as he has been prospered, and has stopped working for the Lord, he has stopped being a Christian because he has stopped doing those things that identify him as a Christian. "By their fruits ye shall know them," (**Matthew 7:20**). ♦

THE SIN OF DOING NOTHING

He made no mistakes and took no wrong roads;
 He never fumbled the ball;
 He never went down beneath the load.
 He lost no hard fights in defense of the right;
 He never bled with his back to the wall.
 He never fell faint in his climb to the light;
 He simply did nothing at all.
 So death came nigh, for life slipped away,
 And he feared for the Judgment Hall.
 When they asked him why, he said with sigh:
 "I simply did nothing at all."
 So, God will pardon your blunders, my friend,
 And regard with pity your fall.
 But the one big sin that surely means Hell,
 Is simply to do nothing at all. ♦

HOW TO TELL WHEN YOU ARE SLIPPING

If you were closer to God than you are right now, you have slipped. A man doesn't slip all at once. Usually it is quite gradual and unnoticed.

- 1) He forgets to read his Bible, cuts himself off from the spiritual nourishment. He is too busy.
- 2) He ceases to pray. He no longer asks God to supply wisdom and guidance, bless others, and forgive sins.
- 3) He begins to criticize others. He tries to ease his conscience by making others as he is. He finds fault with the preacher, and criticizes the elders.
- 4) He no longer feels he should win people to the Lord. He talks of wasting money on missionary work.
- 5) He becomes irregular in attending church service. The preacher affords him no comfort in his downward walk.
- 6) He stops giving. Things have tightened up as he has to meet his bills. ♦




A pint of example is worth a barrel full of advice. ♦

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

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us	Our Address	Schedule of Assembly
<p>Telephone: (920)499-5677 E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div>	<p>1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*</p> <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</p>