

THE LEXIA EDIFIER

ROMANS 14:19 ...Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

DECEMBER 2, 2012

WHY THEISTIC EVOLUTION?

Jim Stauffer

Though it has been taught accurately for years on end that the Bible states its case unequivocally, some are looking elsewhere for confirmation or contradiction.

There is no question Genesis 1 states each day is bracketed by an evening and morning. When the law was given, the six days of creation served as the calendar for the observance of the Sabbath.

It seems clear God saw His creation as mature and complete. **Gen. 1:31** *And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

This theory claims God is involved in the creation of life but that His role was more passive than the Genesis account calls for. And yes it is a theory, just like atheistic evolution. It does not believe God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them in 6 literal 24 hour days. It does not believe He created life in its mature stage but rather started life at a very basic level and then allowed life to evolve into what we

see today, guided by His hand in some way.

The clear reason of this is an attempt to reach a compromise with the world of science over the age of the earth.

Which comes first, the chicken or the egg? Which comes first in the mind of a man, modernism or theistic evolution?

Most seem to assign theistic evolution as an outgrowth of modernism based on history, however, many today are fascinated by the thought of theistic evolution who do not consider themselves modernists at all.

What does this tell us? Simply that when our expressed thoughts and ideas on a subject begin to change there is an underlying reason whether we are aware of it or not.

Modernism is generally defined as one's thoughts and beliefs about a subject being framed or altered by modern concepts. Specifically as we apply modernism to religion it tends to search for rational explanations for the miraculous actions of God in heaven.

Theistic evolution is an enticing first step for a Christian inclined to compromise for the sake of modernism. It allows one to keep God involved in the creation process but also grants credit to the evolutionary theories that claim an old age for the earth.

One must realize, however, that this first step in the compromise has two very important parts. First, it never occurs because of one's study of the Scriptures. It occurs because of modern ideas that are contradictory to the Scriptures leading one to search for harmony between the two. Second, once you have made this compromise, you no longer hold a pure position regarding the Bible.

Let me illustrate this with a couple of secular analogies. Once a politician who has long held the position that life is sacred begins to negotiate reasons that justify aborting a healthy pregnancy, he loses his pro-life stance and will never be able to reclaim it without a complete reversal of his compromised position.

Again, consider a Christian who is opposed to the immoral life of his friends who go bar hopping at night. He cannot agree to go along for the social aspect (refusing to drink) only and still retain his opposition to that lifestyle. He has compromised his original position.

Those who believe in theistic evolution have compromised what the Bible says in Genesis 1 concerning the creation. Now, why have they made that choice? Not because of what the Bible says. They have done so based on what science says.

Brethren, when we accept the word of men over the Bible we are close to *'worshipping the creature rather than the Creator'*. **Rom. 1:25**

Consider scientists and the knowledge they represent. They have discovered a small percentage of what God has created. It is similar to a six year old telling his father about the experiences of life. The father knew these things long ago and has told the child if he had only paid better attention and taken instruction to heart.

The same is true with God and science. God has created it all and the scientist has

learned a small portion of it. He is extremely proud because his knowledge compared to his counterpart 100 years ago is far greater. He should at the same time be humbled because his knowledge of what God has created is miniscule.

My encouragement to brethren is not to fall for the stories of the created, but to accept the account given by the One Who created it.

1Cor. 1:22-25 Seeing that Jews ask for signs, and Greeks seek after wisdom: but we preach Christ crucified, unto Jews a stumblingblock, and unto Gentiles foolishness; but unto them that are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

I've Been Thinking About Those "Memory Verses"

Warren Berkley

Have you ever wondered why we stop doing certain things? I mean, as a people – in society, in families, in local churches. Do you sometimes remember things we used to do that we no longer do anymore? And why did we stop?

I grew up in the 50's and early 60's. In my family and in the Bible classes I attended in my youth, a vital part of our learning was Memorizing Scripture. In Bible classes in those days, we used lesson booklets called "Quarterlies." There would be a subject or passage developed, followed by question and answer exercises. But at the top of every lesson, a memory verse. The Bible class teacher would often call upon students randomly to recite their memory verse; recitation was a valued tool in those days.

In the public schools you memorized and recited your multiplication table and the alphabet. When I got into music we committed to memory the lines and spaces on the music staff. Even in my college days in history courses, dates and events would be memorized (even if you did this the night before the exam.)

Memory work was a prominent feature of children's Bible classes. Preachers in those days would memorize whole sections of Scripture, and I remember as a child being mesmerized when preachers would quote the entire second chapter of Acts. In Vacation Bible School in the 50's everybody learned the 23rd Psalm.

Why did we stop? There was a time in my life when I was tempted to think – Well, we stopped doing those things because we have learned better methods; we are smarter now. But today I don't think that's the right answer. I'm afraid so many things we used to do in local churches we simply don't take time to do anymore and to our fault. Ladies Bible Classes. Vacation Bible Schools. Gospel Meetings. And Memory Verses. Perhaps there can be value in re-visiting things we used to do.

Memorizing Scripture is a valuable legacy of my childhood. Oh, I didn't always enjoy it then; sometimes, I had to say my memory verse before I could go out to play. Tree houses awaited my constructive skill. There were crawdads to be caught; bikes to ride and balls to throw. But I would have to say my memory verse before any of that. I know the value of it now and appreciate my mother's diligence.

The case for memorizing Scripture can be initiated in **Psalms 119:11**. "Your Word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against you." I do not argue this is specifically and only about memorizing Scripture. But I think it obvious, memorizing scripture will facilitate and expedite the application of this.

If I need to have the Word of God in my heart to defend myself against sin - - one thing I can do is memory work. It is not the only thing, but let us not exclude this time-honored method. I must read the Word. I must seek to study and understand it within the context. I must make an application of the Word in my daily life – All of this is essential. But one step in this total work can be, memorizing Scripture. "Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." If this is my pledge to God. If I want to take every step I can, away from sin – One thing I can do is, memorize portions of the word.

Don't do this to impress others by your recitations (**see Matt. 6:1-18**). Don't do this as a substitute for reading and study.

Do it to help put the Word in your heart. Do it for ready use when talking to others (**1 Pet. 3:15**). Do it to defend yourself against temptation (**Matt. 4:1-11**). Do it for recall and reference. Involve your children; join with friends in a team effort. It will be a task to never be regretted.

Maybe we quit asking our children to memorize verses in our Bible Classes because we wore down from the resistance offered. Like walking into a stiff wind, at first our resolve is firm but when constantly rebuffed, we finally begin to lose that resolve. Many times students refused to learn and their resistance wore us down.

editor's note.

Practical Rules For A Happy Married Life

1. Never both be angry at once.
2. Never talk *at* one another, either alone or in company,
3. Never speak loudly to one another unless the house is on fire!
4. Let each one strive to yield more often to do the wishes of the other.
5. Let self denial be the daily aim and practice of each.
6. Never taunt with a past mistake.
7. Neglect the whole world rather than one another.
8. Never make a remark at the expense of one another.
9. Never part for a day without words to think of (kindly) during absence.
10. Never meet without a loving welcome.
11. Never let the sun go down on any anger or grievance.
12. Never forget the happy hours of early love.
13. Never forget that marriage is ordained of God, and that His blessings alone can make it what it ought to be.

by Johnny Ramsey

In marriage, there is an enemy of love far greater than hate. That enemy is *self*. It stands as a roadblock to all these expressions of love when we allow the “what’s in it for me?” attitude, or just plain laziness, to dominate our personal lives.

Which points us to one of the most important keys to mutual fulfillment in marriage: *giving*. Considering.... basic needs more important than our selfish desires. And the spirit of continual giving - of our time, our selves, our understanding - requires an unabashed brand of love (p. 140)

Dan Benson *The Total Man*
From *Family Life, A Biblical Perspective*
by L.A. Stauffer

1Cor. 13:4 Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
Jim Stauffer

News and Notes: Let us remember the instruction of our Lord by visiting in whatever way we can, **Jan Patrick, Mary Czirr, Terry Czirr, Gladys Martinez** and **Candiss Cason**. Especially remember sister **Irene Hurd** during her recent medical procedure.

Matt. 25:40 *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me.*

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We recommend to you the following websites:

**facebook.com/lenexachurchofchrist/
thelenexaedifier.com
lenexachurchofchrist.org**

Our Meeting times are:

Sunday Bible Classes: 9:30 AM
Worship Services 10:20 AM&5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:00 PM

The Church at Lenexa is a congregation of brethren who have been “justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” **(Romans 3:24)**

As a result of this justification we have been “delivered out of darkness and translated into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” **(Colossians 1:13,14)**

We therefore respect the inspired word of God that will completely furnish us unto every good work by speaking only as the oracles of God. **(2 Timothy 3:16,17; 1 Peter 4:11)**

What must one do to be saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Christ - Heb. 11:6

Repent of sin - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be baptized for the remission of sins - Acts 2:38