

## Trends

According to a 2006 survey, 42% of Americans reject the notion that life on earth evolved and believe instead that humans and other living things were created in their present form. In the same poll, 21% of those surveyed say that although life has evolved, these changes were guided by a supreme being. Only a minority, about a quarter (26%) of respondents, say that they accept evolution through natural processes or natural selection alone.

- via the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

**Exodus 20:11:** "In six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is..."

## Sentence Sermons

"There are only two possible explanations as to how life arose: Spontaneous generation arising to evolution or a supernatural creative act of God...There is no other possibility. Spontaneous generation was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others, but that just leaves us with only one other possibility...that life came as a supernatural act of creation by God, but I can't accept that philosophy because I do not want to believe in God. Therefore, I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation leading to evolution." (Dr. George Wald, Nobel Prize recipient, 1967; emp. mine)

## News & Notes

**Pray for one another:** "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please pray for the success of our upcoming gospel meeting with Ron Halbrook (Oct. 1-7). Also, take some flyers and invited relatives, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. Your attendance at every session is IMPORTANT! Support the meeting by being there!

Please pray for one another! "comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Please pray for Ryan & Jennifer and the brethren of the Northern Michigan church of Christ. They are now meeting in their newly purchased building in Roscommon, Michigan.

Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets a great example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).

Pray for all the lost souls, especially those in the greater Bloomington area. Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

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Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

# Words of Life

Westside  
church of Christ

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You  
have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



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## The Evidence of God

Kyle Campbell

There are a lot of people who believe that Darwinism completely justifies atheism. They believe they have investigated the issue sufficiently by studying biology, chemistry, geology, anthropology, and other sciences. They have no doubt that natural selection trumps the creative power of God (cp. Acts 14:15). However, the facts of science, properly examined, points toward the existence of a Creator. Simply put, Darwinism is too far-fetched to be credible. Darwinism demands that you believe that nothing produces everything, non-life produces life, randomness produces fine-tuning, chaos produces information, unconsciousness produces consciousness, and non-reason produces reason.

Based on this, Darwinism would require quite a blind leap of faith. Would you be willing to make it? The central pillars of evolutionary theory quickly rot away when exposed to scrutiny. For example, naturalistic processes have utterly failed to explain how non-living chemicals could somehow assemble themselves into the first living cell.

In addition, the overall fossil record has stubbornly refused to confirm the grand claim of Darwinian transitions. The majority—or, according to some experts, all—of the world's 40 phyla, the highest in the animal kingdom, virtually sprang forth with unique body plans more than 500 million years ago. The sudden appearance of these radically new life forms, devoid of prior transitions, has turned *Darwin's Tree of Life* on its head. In the next article, we will consider the alternative of design by God.

One has to consider a wide range of issues to see whether Darwinism or design is correct. There are great evidences which show the existence of God.

## The Evidence of Cosmology

As described by William Lane Craig, the argument is simple yet elegant: first, whatever begins to exist has a cause; second, the universe had a beginning; therefore, the universe has a cause. You need something transcendent that is beyond the earthly domain in order to explain how the entire domain came into being. Because the cause of the universe transcends time and space, it cannot be a phys-

ical reality. Instead, it must be nonphysical or immaterial. Even once-agnostic astronomer Robert Jastrow conceded the essential elements of the gospel and modern cosmology are the same: "The chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharply ..."

### The Evidence of Physics

One of the most striking discoveries of modern science has been that the laws and constants of physics unexpectedly conspire in an extraordinary way to make the universe habitable for life. For instance, physicist-philosopher Robin Collins has said, "Gravity is fine-tuned to one part in a hundred million billion billion, billion, billion, billion." Though man is not at the physical center of the Universe, he appears to be at the center of its purpose. The coincidences are simply too amazing to have been the result of happenstance.

### The Evidence of Astronomy

Scientists have postulated that we are nothing special as we live off the beaten path in a nondescript suburb of the vast Milky Way. But, similar to the fine-tuning of physics, Earth's position in the universe and its intricately choreographed geological and chemical processes work together with exquisite efficiency to create a safe place for humans to live. Astrophysicist John A. O'Keefe said, "If the universe had not been made with the most exacting precision, we could never have come into existence."

### The Evidence of Biochemistry

Darwin said, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down." Biochemist Michael Behe has demonstrated this through "irreducibly complex" molecular machines. These complicated, microscopic contraptions are extremely unlikely to have developed through Darwinian processes.

### The Evidence of Biological Information

The six feet of DNA coiled inside every one of our body's one hundred trillion cells contains a four letter chemical alphabet that spells out precise assembly instructions for all the proteins from which our bodies are made. Scientist Bill Dembski has observed that even a simple protein molecule, or the gene to build that molecule, is so rich in information that all of time since the Big Bang would not give you the probabilistic resources needed to generate that molecule by chance. This kind of complex, independent pattern or function always implies an intelligent source.

### The Evidence of Consciousness

Many scientists are concluding that the laws of chemistry and physics cannot explain our experience of consciousness. Professor J. P. Moreland defined consciousness as our introspection, sensations, thoughts, emotions, etc. that make us alive and aware. If the universe began with dead matter having no conscious, then how do you get something totally different from materials that do not possess those characteristics?

Each of the six scientific principles contribute clues to His existence.

Physics suggests the Creator is intelligent and involved. Astronomy shows the Creator is incredibly precise, implying care, concern, and purpose. Biochemistry and biological information demonstrate the Creator is independent and creative. Consciousness shows the Creator's rationality, which suggests omnipresence and the credibility of life after death.

These characteristics do not describe the god of deism, who supposedly formed the universe but then abandoned it. Nor is it pantheism, the idea that the Creator and universe are co-existent. Polytheism with its multiple gods falls short, as does the impersonal force of New Age beliefs. In contrast, however, the portrait of the Creator that emerges from the scientific data is uncannily consistent with the description of the God whose identity is spelled out in the pages of the Bible (Psalm 19:1-6). The question of whether these qualities might also describe the deities of other world religions is irrelevant once one considers the evidence of ancient history and archaeology.

With Darwinism, someone's faith would have to swim upstream against the strong current of evidence flowing the other way. Putting your trust in the God of the Bible is nothing less than the most rational and natural decision you could make. But faith goes beyond merely acknowledging that the facts of science and history point toward God. Faith is responding to those facts by obeying our Lord.

## Finding A Faithful Man

Larry Hafley

"A faithful man who can find" (Prov. 20:6)? We are always looking for good and faithful men. We need faithful craftsmen, honest laborers. As someone said, if we tolerate thoughtless philosophers and shoddy plumbers, neither our ideas nor our pipes will hold water. We must have good and honest men who will tend to their assigned tasks with care and skill.

Repairmen of ingenuity and integrity are never out of work. Those who seek victims to "rip off" are despised worse than a thief. At least a thief does not pretend to be something he is not. He steals. The unfaithful man steals while lying to you about what he is doing. (Believe me, I know whereof I speak. Many times I have felt like the fellow who said he was afraid his mechanic was going to take advantage of him when he took his car in to be repaired. However, he was relieved when the man said that all he needed was blinker fluid.)

The church needs "faithful," reliable men, men who can be counted on during good times and bad. "Success has many fathers, but defeat is an orphan." So it is in the church. We can sing in a crowd and pray amidst a throng, but "faithful" men sing and pray when there is little cause for either--"and at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them" (Acts 16:25). Lord, give us men who will both sing and pray when lacerated backs beg for comfort and incarcerated feet plead for freedom.

Of what sort are you? Do we hear you singing and praying, but only in the congregation of the righteous? We need to hear the sweet harmony of your prayers and rejoice in the lovely melody of your songs when we are weak and weary. Finding you, have we found "a faithful man"?