

Trends

A recent Harris poll found that belief in Darwin's theory of evolution increased to 47%, up from 42% in 2005. It also showed that absolute certainty that there is a God is down to 54%, versus 66% in 2003.

- via CNSNews, 12/17/2013

Psalm 19:1: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork."

Sentence Sermons

"We are the representatives of the cosmos, we are an example of what hydrogen atoms can do, given 15 billion years of cosmic evolution."

—Carl Sagan, scientist and atheist

Romans 1:20: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

"My personal feeling is that understanding evolution led me to atheism."

—Richard Dawkins, scientist and atheist

Psalm 14:1: "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

News & Notes

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

Please pray for Ron Halbrook. He arrived home safely from his 72nd preaching trip to the Philippines. If you would like to contribute to the Philippine effort see brother Craig.

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.

There are many needy saints, including preachers! Can you help?! Let me know.

If you know of any in need of our prayers please let us know!

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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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Naturalism Violates the Basic Laws of Physics

Craig Thomas

How did the Universe come to be? Is it eternal? What was its cause? When you think about it there are only three alternatives when it comes to the existence of the Universe: 1) It is eternal; it always was and always will be; 2) It spontaneously generated itself; i.e., created itself from nothing; or 3) It was created by a vastly superior mind or intelligence that exists independent of time, space and matter.

One does not need a doctorate in physics, or even much formal education at all, to determine which is correct. A good dose of common sense will do the trick. Enough common sense to apply the three most basic laws of physics which are the *Law of Causality* and the *First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics*. Sound complicated? It's not.

The *Law of Causality* (aka *Law of Cause and Effect*) states that every material effect, must have an antecedent or simultaneous cause. In other words, something cannot come from nothing. Something cannot create itself. What is "nothing"? Aristotle described it best when he said, "Nothing is what rocks dream about." Empirical evidence throughout man's history has established the *Law of Causality* as an absolute truth. This law is the very foundation of ALL the sciences. Without this law all the sciences would crumble into irrelevancy. Why search for causes if "nothing" can cause something?! "Nothing" causes defy empirical study, for they are "nothing"; they don't exist! "Nothing" causes are "what rocks dream about."

The *First Law of Thermodynamics* states that matter and energy can neither be created or destroyed. We see this law in action, for example, in the burning of a log in a fireplace. When burned, the log turns into ashes, carbon dioxide and water; plus, energy is released as heat. The matter in the log is "conserved" in the form of the ashes, water and carbon dioxide released. If you could gather them, they would weigh exactly what the log weighed before it was burned. Potential energy stored in the log is released as heat. But it is "conserved" be-

cause it does not simply cease to exist; it merely dissipates into less useable forms. So, the matter and energy are both “conserved.” Upon burning there is still the same exact amount of both; albeit in less useable and more dispersed forms.

The *Second Law of Thermodynamics*, or *Law of Entropy*, states that everything in the Universe tends to become more disordered. We are very familiar with the *Law of Entropy* whether we know it or not. Clocks wind down, they don’t wind up. Metal rusts, wood decays, automobiles wear out, clothes wear out, people wear out, etc. As the second law works, matter becomes more disordered and energy less useful. Back to the log burning in the fireplace. As the log burns, its matter is less ordered (e.g., wood versus ashes, water and CO₂) and its heat energy is lost to its surroundings and becomes less useable, less recoverable. Soon, after the fire goes out, the room cools as the heat energy released does not cease to exist; but is widely dispersed and less useable. When this happens the log’s “entropy” is said to increase.

Is the Universe eternal? Think about it: If the Universe were eternal the *Law of Entropy* would long ago have converted all the useable energy in the Universe into a non-useable form. Thankfully this hasn’t happened. The Sun still shines bathing the Earth in its warm glow allowing plants and animals to live and thrive. So, an eternal Universe is impossible due to the *Second Law of Thermodynamics*. If the Universe were eternal its entropy would have increased in an eternity passed and no useable energy would be left available now. As late as the mid-20th century most scientists believed the Universe was eternal. However, for the most part, the eternal Universe has been abandoned due to the unavoidable implications of the *First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics*.

Well, perhaps the Universe came to be through spontaneous generation? Uhm...don’t think so! First, this notion violates the well-established *Law of Causality*. Every material effect, in this case the Universe, must have an adequate antecedent or simultaneous cause. In other words, the Universe cannot come from nothing. It’s impossible for the Universe to create itself.

Naturalism is by far the predominate “world view” today. According to naturalism the entire Universe; the Sun, Moon, Earth and stars; owe its existence to natural forces. In cosmology, naturalism asserts the Universe came into being with the “Big Bang.” The “Big Bang” theory claims the Universe once consisted of an infinitely small sphere, the so-called “cosmic egg”; where space-time were infinitely curved (BTW: If something is “infinitely curved,” how can it exist? Something “infinitely” small does not exist!) “Big Bang” theorists claim all the matter and energy in the Universe today was contained in that “infinitely small” “singularity.” Then “13.799 ± 0.021 billion years” ago (*Wikipedia*) this “cosmic egg,” or “singularity,” exploded giving rise to the Universe we know today. But, hold on a minute...where did the “singularity” come from? No rational explanation is given. We are led to believe it just popped into existence

from nothing! Thus, naturalists are left explaining that the Universe came into existence via spontaneous generation. The Universe created itself! This flies in the face of both the *Law of Causality* and the *First Law of Thermodynamics*!

That leaves us with only one alternative: The Universe had to be created by something outside of and independent of the Universe itself. Something independent of time, space and matter. The obvious and correct answer is the one, true and living God created the Universe! The very first sentence in the Bible tell us this: “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” (Gen. 1:1)

Who created God? God is the great uncaused Cause! He is a spiritual being (Jn. 4:24); the *Law of Causality* is only applicable to “material” things. Only “material” effects require an antecedent or simultaneous “cause.” As a non-material being God requires no cause. Furthermore, He is an eternal being; placing Him outside the realm of the *Laws of Causality* and *Thermodynamics*. Moses wrote, “*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.*” (Psa. 90:2)

God is the great Cause and controller of the physical and spiritual realms (Col. 1:15-18). The famous naturalist and atheist Carl Sagan once said, “The Cosmos (i.e., universe, cvt) is all that is or was or ever will be.” Despite Dr. Sagan’s great intellect; despite his multiple university degrees; despite his scientific awards and achievements; he was wrong! There is more to life than what we can feel, taste, touch, see, smell or hear. Man is a unified being created by God with a *body* and a *spirit* (Jas. 2:26). God our Creator gave us both and that puts us under obligation to Him. Paul summed it up this way: “*For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.*” (1 Cor. 6:20)

Naturalism will accuse Bible believers as being “unscientific.” I’ve read and heard them compare Bible believers as being intellectually on par with those believing in a flat earth or the Loch Ness monster. However, who is really “unscientific”? By believing in the spontaneous generation theory for the origin of the Universe, naturalists deny the mountain of empirical evidence proving the *Law of Causality* and the *First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics*. Bible believers wholeheartedly believe in the absolute truth of those laws. I ask you: “Who’s being ‘unscientific?’”

Are you wiser than Carl Sagan? Do you realize that “The Cosmos is NOT all that is or was or ever will be”? Someday God will hold us all accountable before the judgment seat of Christ. That being true, follow the advice of one much wiser than Carl Sagan. After searching for the meaning of life Solomon came to this conclusion: “*Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.*” (Eccl. 12:13-14) Who’s advice will you follow?