

The Evolution Question (concluded)

by Leonard White

Fourthly, while fully aware of the tremendous advances that have been made in our understanding of the universe in modern times, we must still be a bit cautious about assuming that all views currently held by scientists are infallibly correct. History records many “established facts” which were later discovered to be in error. Are we to assume that nothing held to be true by today’s scientific community will later prove to be inaccurate?

Lastly, we must remember that these “experts” are still just human beings, susceptible to the same foibles as the rest of us -- including bias and prejudice. It is certainly true that many subscribe to the theory of evolution as much out of academic pressure and intimidation as for any other reason. Surely no one wishes to be branded as a naive, backwoods yokel who places more confidence in an ancient book of Jewish folklore than in the findings of modern technology. Assertions are frequently made that are either false or which cannot be proved, all because of zeal to defend a cherished belief. Not all, but many, of the world’s so-called intellectuals reject creationism because they do not wish to believe in the existence of God. Like those of whom the apostle Paul spoke: “They do not like to retain God in their knowledge.” It is often with this anti-theistic bias that the question of origins is approached by evolutionists.

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The Lord’s Church

by Wayne Goff

If you had to start a scriptural congregation of God’s people tomorrow, could you do it? Where would you start? Assume that you have no prior knowledge or information to guide you. How would you discover the Lord’s church for yourself? If you really want to challenge yourself, then go about establishing a scriptural body of believers from scratch!

Naturally, we would say that one must begin with the pattern revealed in the New Testament by our Lord Jesus Christ. Data for that pattern would include such things as a name, terms of entrance, organization, work, and worship. You would have to identify Jesus as the Founder of this group from the New Testament.

So what would be the point of this exercise? For one thing, it would help you separate the scriptural essential items from things which are expediencies for any particular congregation. For example, we know the Bible requires saints to assemble every first day of the week for communion and giving. But what about assembling for a midweek service on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday? Would that be essential or expedient? And so the exercise would go.

Secondly, it would help you to understand how the church where you worship came to be, and why we meet for worship, what we do in worship, and why this particular group meets three times per week instead of one or five!

Brethren, I am afraid that we have gotten complacent in regards to the importance of the church of Christ. We either mindlessly assume that we are doing the right thing, or else we criticize all the good things the church is doing because we have not really thought out such matters. It would be good for each one of us to research these things again in the New Testament. Having done so I think we would appreciate more the simple pattern for the church established by God and how effective it works. We would appreciate the elders and deacons more, understanding what they are supposed to do and why. So give it a try sometime. I think you’ll be surprised at what you learn.

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