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# CHRISTIAN ARRAY

RESTORING THE RESTORATION  
IN OUR GENERATION

NUMBER 7

JUNE, 1990

## FOOLISH WISE MEN!

"because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. for since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they know God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools... (Rom. 1:19-22 NASV)

These verses teach that God can be clearly seen thru what has been made. The proof is so obvious that someone has to be a fool not to see it. It even states that some people so foolish as to not see the obvious will profess themselves to be smart.

What are these proofs that are so obvious? We hear all about the proofs of atheistic evolution in school and in the papers. Why do we so frequently hear about their "proofs" and not God's proofs.

### THERE IS NO PROOFS OF EVOLUTION

The first point we will make is that there is no proof of evolution over creation. None. You can make that statement confidently.

There are two common explanations of how things came into being. We shall refer to creation by God as simply Creation. The alternative of the non-divine process will simply be referred to as Evolution.

There is no proof of Evolution which can not be as readily be used as a proof of Creation. None. What does this mean. Let's look at a couple of examples:

1. Progressive development: Proposed as a confirmation of the theories of Evolution, however, what else would you have expected God to have done. Could God not have started with smaller and/or less complex beings and progressed to larger and/or more complex ones? Progressive development does not favor one theory over the other.
2. Common design: Common design components of various animals would be a confirmation of Evolution, however, what else would you have expected God to have done. When He created complex living mechanisms required for one living thing, would it have not been logical to reuse, common design components. Common design does not favor one theory over the other.

No matter what alleged proof you consider, all alleged proofs for Evolution are at least as good a proof for Creation (and usually better).

### THERE ARE PROOFS OF CREATION

The Bible tells us that we can look around and see evidence of creation (God). What are some of these:

1. IMPROBABILITY OF ANYTHING ELSE:  
Atheistic evolutionists proudly give the claim that there is one chance in ten zillion that life could have accidentally happened, therefore it must have happened. In any other "science", such probabilities would be laughed at.
3. THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED:  
It is inherently true that the universe must have been created. The universe is constantly running down. No matter how much energy it had when it began, if it was an infinite time ago, it would be inherently run down now (an infinite time later). The fact that it exists today proves that it was created, rather than having always existed.
3. LAWS OF THERMODYNAMICS:  
Some of the best established laws of nature are the first and second laws of thermodynamics. These generally say that something is not created in nature from nothing and that all systems run down. There are no known exceptions to this rule. As it is inherently true that the universe was created and that something is not created from nothing within the laws of nature, the creation of the earth had to have been an unnatural (supernatural) event.
4. NATURAL THINGS WHICH CANNOT BE EXPLAINED BY CHANCE:  
There are many things in nature which cannot be logically be explained by a mere chance event in nature. The sheer improbability of these things are a proof of God. It seem like in some cases that God said I will do something that would clearly demonstrate to anyone that I exist, and people still are blind. If there were only one, you might say we just don't understand it. There are hundreds. Some of my favorites are:
  - a. CICADA OR HARVEST FLY: The Dog-Day Cicada has a 2-5 year life cycle and the Period Cicada has a 17 year life cycle. It is the bug that makes all the noise in the South during July and August. Their eggs are laid and hatch into nymphs. The nymphs go into the ground for most of their life. They emerge from the ground years later as a beetle looking thing and climb some object. Their exoskeleton cracks open and a new form of life crawls out. In an hour or so its wings unfold and dry and it flies off. As an adult it lives a few weeks, mates, lays eggs, and dies. The transformation from a

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crawling beetle to a flying insect is truly amazing. It defies any evolutionary explanation or logic.

- b. LIFE CYCLE OF A BUTTERFLY: Imagine the programming it takes for an ugly caterpillar to become a beautiful butterfly. You might imagine an ugly caterpillar becoming a bigger ugly caterpillar, however, to accidentally become a butterfly which flies off? How much more clear a proof could God have given you?
- c. THE INCREDIBLE ORDER OF THE PLANETS: It is assumed by atheist that some 4.5 billion years ago that a massive accident caused the miraculous order of the planets. A slight mistake in the gravitational pull of any of the planets would cause the entire system to come crashing in like a house of cards. Atheists consider it a realistic chance event.
- d. YOUR EYES: Our very complex eyes focus by having a clear lens and a retina, separating the lens from the retina by a clear liquid called the vitreous humor, circling the lens with a contracting muscle to change the focus of the lens, and focusing the incoming light on the retina. The retina is able to accept incoming light and translate it into an electric signal which the brain can interpret as a picture. Truly amazing. Only recently have we been able to duplicate this with sophisticated equipment. Atheist must believe this happened by accident in the mud. It would indeed take a foolish man to think this was an accident and consider himself wise.
- e. RESORPTION OF ROOTS: Teeth in themselves are an amazing concept, however, the roots of baby teeth are progressively dissolved as the adult teeth are formed and move forward in small children and animals. That took planning.
- f. LIFE SPAN: Logic would say that the a strong being which could reproduce forever would be best suited for survival of the fittest. As it is, even the fittest get old and die.
- g. GROWING OLD: It takes a lot of DNA coding to program a individual to grow old. Your are programmed to look different that you did when you were young. What evolutionary reason is there for growing old.
- h. BISEXUAL REPRODUCTION: The wisdom of cross pollination by bisexual reproduction is clear, but can you appreciate that the female and male halves of reproduction must have begun within a single generation. Both the male and female components are complex and unlikely to happen, but if either happened alone, they would have just died.

That seems so simple that anyone could understand that God exists. The Bible itself in Romans predicts that there will be those who refuse to accept the obvious. They are effectively preferring something that will

elevate their personal conception of self worth by denying the existence of God. So we know that we must defend the scriptures and truth, but we should not expect to win everyone over.

Why have we lost so much ground if creation by God is correct? One of the main reasons is that we do not debate the word of God against the evolutionist. We debate personal interpretations of the word of God against the evolutionist. As evolutionists have accumulated excess baggage along the way, creationists have accumulated excess baggage along the way also. Next month we will discuss one of these excess baggages. That is the concept of all the creation days being exactly 24 hours. We will discuss if that concept is taught in the Bible or if it is a personal interpretation of what the Bible says. If the Bible teaches it, we must defend it. If the Bible doesn't teach it, we must not attempt to impose it on others.

## SECRET MEETINGS

Many of our congregations have assumed a board of directors style of management. Although efficient in the short run, this operating style is deadly to the long term life of a congregation. Consider:

PRINCIPLE 1: You cannot preach personal commitment, you must show it.

The most difficult time to show the members that you are committed is when the leadership is unseen in closed meetings. Long, regular closed meetings are what bureaucracies are built upon. Can you imagine any necessity in an established congregation for dedicating more than one hour per week of limited leadership time in regularly scheduled closed leadership meetings.

If your leadership has allowed so many time consuming details to occupy their meetings that it prevents them from shepherding, they need to stop and smell the roses.

PRINCIPLE 2: Long closed meetings by the leadership gives the leadership a feeling of justification by self sacrifice; do little to inspire the congregation to follow the leadership, and tend to isolate the leadership from the congregation.

When details are handled in secret meetings, what happens to the congregation. Sincere leaders disenfranchise the deacons and members by secret votes for unknown reasons. Instead of deacons and members maturing by handling physical problems, they are given only the milk of secret answers.

PRINCIPLE 3: Only legitimate secret matters should be handled in secret. Temporary efficiencies from handling non-secret matters in secret yields long term damage on the development process of the future leaders.

Can you imagine a congregation that gets so far down the bureaucratic road that they eliminate open business meetings altogether. I have seen it and I still can't imagine it.

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## QUESTION CLASS?

Characteristically, there are considered to be 2 types of classes in adult Bible class programs. These are lecture and discussion classes. Lecture classes are easy to understand, only the teacher talks.

Discussion classes should be easy to understand also. Questions for discussion are given; and the class and teacher discuss them. The teacher wraps the class up to make sure everyone has a clear understanding.

This article is to suggest that there is really another type of adult class. It is a Question Class. The teacher in the Question Class considers himself to be a discussion leader. He is not. Symptoms of a Question Class are:

1. Everyone already knows the answers, although most won't talk.
2. Many questions can be answered by one word, frequently yes or no.
3. The answer is often a fact which is not subject to discussion, i.e. where was Jesus born.
4. The teacher talks for a while, stops occasionally, and asks if anyone has anything to say.
4. The answer is in the next verse (book study format)
5. Christians of all maturity level can attend without study.

The Question Class seems innocent enough. It is not! Consider the following:

1. Little teaching is done, the answers are characteristically known and obvious. It is often justified by saying "it is good to review". Members may forget more Bible knowledge that week than they learn.
2. It takes the place of a learning class. Assume that you might otherwise have been able to attend a learning class. You would have learned something, been inspired to study more, and been spiritually matured as a Christian.

The Question Class cost you learning, study, and maturity. The member who assumes the role of "teacher" in the Question Class will be judged for depriving you of learning, study, and maturity. The Education Minister will be judged for depriving you of learning, study, and maturity. The eldership will be judged for depriving you of learning, study, and maturity.

Any teacher, Education Minister, or eldership should make sure that the time they oversee for study is learning time, not recycling the known. You can criticize membership non-attendance as "forsaking the worship". They have an obligation to be there. If the membership shows up to a selection of "mil' classes, they will be deprived of learning, study, and maturity. James 3:1 says that you had better do your part.

If your Bible school program doesn't have a class that members can't keep up in without outside study, write and we'll send you a Milkman Certificate.

## THE PECAN TREE

The burlap wrapped roots of the 6' Pecan tree were planted in the back yard. Wind promptly blew the tree over. To assist the small tree, a piece of 1/2" galvanized pipe was driven into the ground and the tree was tied to it. The problem was solved for 2 years.

Two years later, the tree was 10' tall and looked good. Yet when the wind blew hard enough to break the old ropes, the tree was so limber that it bowed over until the top of the 10' tree touched the ground.

The pipe installed to help the tree had ultimately hurt the tree. The artificial support had prevented the tree from developing the strength necessary to stand up. In the short term there was no choice but to re-tie the weak tree to the strong pipe. The tree has not been allowed to progressively be tested and strengthened by daily winds.

Do we tie church members to figurative galvanized pipes? Any teaching we have which goes beyond the scriptural teachings is such a false support:

1. If we avoid class discussions in which there is disagreement, we protect our beliefs from being tested. If your class members don't have to go home to study and confirm the teachings, they are not being tested.
2. Are our teachings so watered down that even denominations can listen without conflict?

If we want strong members, they must be tested. We are doing no one a favor to pasteurize their religion. If our classes are so watered down that members are not challenged to study, we will all pay for it.

Incidentally, the Pecan tree situation was solved by waiting until the leaves fell off in the winter. The ropes and pipe were removed and the leafless tree could stand alone. Progressive strengthening occurred as wind blew the leafless tree, then the tree with new leaves, and finally the tree with a full growth of leaves. The next year we had a full strength tree.

In like manner, we need to begin a plan to restrengthen many of our members. It won't be done overnight.

## DOES QUIET MEAN HARMONY?

I want to make you 2 personal guarantees:

1. If the members of your congregation are doing effective personal work, resultant questions will be discussed in your Bible classes.
2. If the members of your congregation can sit thru Bible classes without discussing current questions, they are not doing effective personal evangelism.

Quiet doesn't mean harmony, it mean lukewarmness. When members quit discussing the Bible, it means that they have quit discussing the Bible.

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## SANTA CLAUS COMES TO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

At the close of the worship service, the closing prayer also served to ask for a blessing on the party meal. In another room after the meal, Santa Claus came to the congregational party. A good time was had by all.....

Twenty years ago it was taught that to observe religious holidays was a sin (i.e. Gal. 4:10). A generation later, the congregation supports Christmas parties.

Were the brethren 20 years ago sinning by adding to the restrictions of the scriptures, or we sinning now by taking away? There are no other choices? Has the last generation found the truth, or lost it? The Christians at Galatia were criticized for observing days & seasons. Does that not apply to church sponsored Christmas parties today? If the church hosts a seasonal party and claims that it is not religious, does that make it "not religious"?

At the very least we know that the world considers Christmas to be a religious holiday. What happened to our old standby "abstain from the appearance of evil" which we use so freely otherwise? If you know of any scriptural justification for Christmas parties becoming a regular church program, please write. I will pass them along next month.

If you are an elder who has comfortably led your congregation from teaching Christmas parties as a sin to Christmas parties as O.K., should you not need to publicly confess faults for at least one of your erroneous teachings?

## MAILING LISTS

We would appreciate the bulletins of additional congregations receiving this newsletter as a means of collecting calendar events and other information.

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## WHO IS THE MILKMAN?

Bruce Chisolm, an elder at Memorial, undertook teaching an adult class on the subject of faith. He had been presented with a conventional type brochure on teaching "faith", and was not inspired. He made a personal decision to have more pointed discussions with greater depth. Certainly a commendable goal.

Not far into the quarter, attendance appeared to be dropping off. Possibly class members were leaving because they did not want to discuss a deeper subject. Bruce didn't know for sure so he faced a decision. Lighten up and keep the class or maintain depth and educate the class members that would stay?

I am happy to tell you that Bruce made the decision to keep the "meat" in the discussion. Not only the depth remained in the class, but the class remained as large as ever. Bruce is certainly not a "milkman"; Bruce delivers the bacon. We need more Bruces.

## EVENTS CALENDAR:

### AREA WIDE CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS

Sept. 21-23, 1990: Creation Evolution Seminar, Memorial, 464-0271

### AREA WIDE YOUTH EVENTS:

July 2	Area-Wide Devo @ North Wayside
July 9	Area-Wide Devo @ Clear Lake Hi. Sch.
July 16	Area-Wide Devo @ First Colony
July 23	Area-Wide Devo @ Westbury
July 30	Area-Wide Devo @ Lindale
Aug. 6	Area-Wide Devo @ Bammel Road
Aug. 13	Area-Wide Devo @ Kingwood