

Romans 1:18-20 6/3/12 (The Reason for God #7) **HAS SCIENCE DISPROVED CHRISTIANITY?**

Let's start today with a picture of the "Flying Spaghetti Monster."

Slide: Flying Spaghetti Monster pic

The Flying Spaghetti Monster is the god of the "Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster," the religion being "Pastafarianism." The central belief is that an invisible and undetectable Flying Spaghetti Monster created the universe.

Slide: Touched by His Noodly Appendage

Pirates are revered as the original Pastafarians and the steady decline in the number of pirates over the years is said to have resulted in global warming.

Slide: Global warming pastafarian pic

Now, obviously the Flying Spaghetti Monster is a made up god. Skeptics use it against the Christian faith to make the following statement: You can't prove the Flying Spaghetti Monster doesn't exist – in the same way that you can't prove God doesn't exist. In other words, they are both just as believable... or (what they really want to say) unbelievable. It's really a cop-out and an excuse to not examine the claims and evidence of the Christian faith. But it's also another example of why we need to develop our apologetics in the Christian church. Again, apologetics is simply obeying God's word to...

Slide: "...Always be prepared to give an **answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have..." (1 Peter 3:15 NIV)

Paul says it in a similar way in Colossians:

Slide: "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to **answer** everyone." (Colossians 4:5–6 NIV)

Apologetics is about providing answers (*highlight "answer"*) to the tough questions that people have about the Christian faith. Now, all of the objections we're dealing with in this series are big, but the one we start today is probably the biggest when it comes to how it has affected the Church, particularly our young people. That's why I'm going to take two weeks for this one. The charge is:

Slide: Science Has Disproved Christianity

And I'm going to do my best to make this apologetic simple and understandable, but it's not always a simple subject, so I hope you won't be like this guy:

Slide: "You made me think, pastor" cartoon

You are going to **have** to think a little bit today. We've got to go a little bit beyond the bumper sticker wars, right? You've got the Christian Fish and the Darwin fish, and Christian fish eating the Darwin Fish (and many other take-offs on that I couldn't show you here), now we've got the Flying Spaghetti Monster.

Slide: Christian fish

Slide: Darwin fish

Slide: Christian fish eating Darwin fish

Slide: Flying Spaghetti Monster

Folks, this discussion needs to run deeper than a bumper sticker... And I would say, as we have these discussions between skeptics and Christians, it would be helpful as try to reason with one another, if the different sides would recognize their logical fallacies. A "logical fallacy" is an

argument that doesn't logically follow. It doesn't prove your point. For instance, the topic for the day, as it is stated, is an example of the logical fallacy of "bald assertion."

Slide: Science Has Disproved Christianity

In other words, just because you say it, it must be true. Richard Dawkins of course is one of the best examples of this out there. He doesn't want evolution to be just a theory, so he says it's a fact.

Slide: Dawkins, "evolution is fact" (looped video)

And he says it over and over 'till you're sick of it. In fact this fallacy is also called "argumentum ad nauseum", which sounds exactly like what it means. And of course we know that just because somebody says something over and over doesn't make it true.

Evolutionists should recognize that with statements like: "Science has disproved Christianity." And Christians should recognize the same thing if they would say something like: "The Bible proves God created." See, with both evolution and creation we are studying the matter of "origins." And when you study origins a good question to ask is: "Where you there?" And both sides have to say "No." Now Christians believe God was there and God inspired the writers of the Bible to record what happened and it's written down in the book of Genesis. And we believe the Bible can be trusted. We'll get to that in the last message of this series. But of course, skeptics don't believe that, so if we're going to have an apologetics discussion, we're probably going to have to do that on the basis of science. And I believe Christians today should be able to get to the point where they are absolutely comfortable doing that. In fact, our first point in your outline today is:

Slide: I. SCIENCE is Very Compatible with the Christian Faith.

Very. Folks, science is not a threat to the Christian faith. Science is simply a study of the physical world: God's world. And a study of God's world should naturally lead to a discovery of it's Creator and it does. But we need to recognize that...

Slide: A. Observational science is different from Historical science.

And we could come at this in a variety of ways, but I like the way the guys at the Veracity project handle this. Again, they're quick, so pay attention:

Slide: Observational vs. Historical Science – Veracity Project:

<http://www.theveracityproject.com/store/index.php/check-this-out/check-this-out-science.html>

Lots of stuff in there. It certainly does a good job of describing the important difference between Observational science and Historical Science. And it also makes a good beginning on our next point:

Slide: B. The Biblical model of the universe fits the evidence.

We would **expect** that observational science would support the historical model of Creation as we see it in Genesis. And it does – in more ways than we have time to list this morning... But we'll present a few today. First of all...

Slide: 1. It explains the Beginning.

Again, when we talk about origins, we're not just talking about the origin of life, but the origin of matter itself... where did any-thing come from. And there are only two possibilities. Either it came from nothing and suddenly became something... in other words, it had a beginning, or the stuff of the universe has always existed. Both of those answers present problems. The first one is outside of our experience and it requires a supernatural answer. And that's what we

believe. An Almighty God spoke the universe into being. The uncreated Creator made it. The Bible says:

Slide: “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” (Hebrews 11:3 NIV)

As it says in Genesis, “God said... and it was so.” But what about the other option? What if the cosmos has always existed - it never had a beginning, it just always was? Well there’s a huge problem with that theory – because it doesn’t match what we actually see. If the universe always existed, according to the laws of science, what should it look like? Cold and dead, right? If the stuff of the universe has been floating around forever and forever, all the usable energy would have been used up. Our sun and every other sun in the universe would have burned up. There would be no heat, no light, no life. But that’s not what we see, is it?

Slide: Milky way pic

In fact, we see the exact opposite everywhere we look, and today and everyday, our God is asking us to open our eyes to it all – to it’s order and it’s wonder – and to what it all means. One obvious meaning comes in the next point. When there is design, you know that there must have been a designer. And the Biblical Model of the universe explains that:

Slide: 2. It explains Design.

And again I wish I had time to get out the telescope and the microscope today to look deeper into that truth and get more technical. But for now I’ll keep it real simple with an illustration I use in the Fit for Life in Christ class. Some years ago, the American Magazine published an article giving a simple business man’s account of why he knows there is a God. He had been contemplating the wonders the stars and the planets, their system and order, and he said: “It takes a girl in our factory about two days to learn to put the seventeen parts of a meat chopper together. Now it may be that these millions of worlds, each with its separate orbit, all balanced so wonderfully in space – it may be that they just happened. It may be that by a billion years of tumbling about they finally arranged themselves. I don’t know. I am merely a plain manufacturer of cutlery. But this I do know. You can shake the seventeen parts of a meat chopper around in a washtub for the next seventeen billion years and you’ll never have a meat chopper.”

It’s true, isn’t it? When you see design you instinctively know there must have been a designer. But isn’t it interesting that folks will apply common sense to every other arena in life, but then imagine that some other sense applies to the existence of God and the creation of the world. And so we end up with statements like these from people who should know the truth but are determined not to see it:

Slide: “Biology is the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose.” Richard Dawkins

Slide: Francis Crick (the discoverer of DNA) “Biologists must constantly keep in mind that what they see was not designed, but rather evolved.”

Why? Because it all looks designed That’s where the evidence logically points. Crick goes on to say:

Slide: “An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going.”

And Crick considers himself an honest man so he no longer believes that there is any way that DNA could have evolved. But He doesn't want to submit to God as the creator, so his theory is **Slide:** "Directed Panspermia: the Theory that the first living cell must have been transported to earth from some other planet outside our solar system."

Folks, do you understand the desperation of that theory? I like the way Ben Stein puts it in his movie "Expelled."

Slide: Aliens clip from Expelled 35:55 - 36:28

Folks, how an otherwise intelligent person could come up with that "B-movie" theory, of life somehow clinging to a meteorite as it floats through space at -454 degrees Fahrenheit, is absolutely beyond me. I can understand how God can get a little frustrated when the very people he **designed** everything for, refuse to see that **design**. He says through the apostle Paul:

Slide: "18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." (Romans 1:18–20 NIV)

So Keller in "The Reason for God", says what's wrong with believing in miracles?!

Slide: "If there is a Creator God, there is nothing illogical at all about the possibility of miracles. After all, if he created everything out of nothing, it would hardly be a problem for him to rearrange parts of it as and when he wishes." - Timothy Keller

Coming back to your outline, the Biblical model of the universe also:

Slide: 3. It explains Fossils.

And the fossil record. As Ken Ham is fond of saying, the fossil record shows:

Slide: "Billions of dead things buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth."

We have an explanation of how that happened. In a world-wide flood. We have things like polystrate fossils that show trees upside-down and upright all the way through dozens of layers of sedimentary rock.

Slide: Polystrate fossil slides

The fossil record and the geological record and hundreds of other records of observational science are very consistent with a Biblical model of the earth. It fits the evidence perfectly, but the fact is that

Slide: C. An Evolution model does not fit the evidence.

It doesn't fit the world that we actually see. And I would contend that's because

Slide: 1. Evolution is laid on a bad Foundation.

Part of that is simply because of ignorance. Darwin had his theories, but he was ill-equipped to do much in the way of checking them out. For instance to Darwin and his colleagues, a living cell seemed at the time no more complex than a blob of Jell-o, and that all you would have to do to make life would be to throw the right chemicals together, mix it up and "presto", you'd have a blob of life. Now we know better. Now we have a better tools... For instance, this is Darwin's microscope:

Slide: Darwin's microscope pic

He took it along on board the Beagle during his famous voyage in 1831. It was capable of magnifying things about 100x. Compare it to the...

Slide: The Titan 80-300

Which can magnify objects by 30 million times and can see all the way down to the individual atom. So we now know that the cell is vastly more complex than anything we could have ever imagined.

Of course, **ignorance** is one thing, **fraud** is something else. And fraud is something that has characterized the evolutionary community right from the start. A partial list would include the now discredited horse evolutionary tree:

Slide: Horse slides

Haekel's doctored pictures of animal embryos supposedly showing an embryonic evolution similar to man.

Slide: Haekel's embryos

Supposed missing links like the Piltdown man

Slide: Piltdown man

Trotted out as a proven missing link between man and apes and proven only 50 years later to be an obvious forgery that combined parts of the jawbone of an orangutan with parts of the skull of a man.

A more recent forgery was a supposed missing link between dinosaurs and birds called

Slide: Archaeoraptor

Which turned out to come from a farmer in China who glued a dinosaur tail onto the body of a bird. A little embarrassing for National Geographic - again. And there are literally hundreds of these types of frauds created by those with an agenda to advance this theory. And millions of people came to believe in that theory through those fakes, leading to another logical fallacy embraced by evolutionists, something called "**argumentum ad populum**." If enough people believe it, it must be true. And by the way, you must be an idiot if you don't believe it.

Slide: Emperor's New clothes pic

That's what got the Emperor to try on the invisible clothes and parade around in his underwear and what led everybody to say what wonderful clothes they were, until the little boy said what everybody was thinking, "But he has no clothes on!" Folks, we need more of those little boys today. Unfortunately even Timothy Keller fell into that **argumentum ad populum** a little bit in his book "The Reason for God". He does what many Christian people do who don't want to seem ignorant. He tries to make room for evolution and somehow fit it into the Bible. And it doesn't fit, but we'll talk more about that next week. Moving on...

Slide: 2. The Laws of Science contradict evolution.

Again the Veracity Project does a good job of describing two of those laws, the Law of Biogenesis which states that life can only come from life, and the Mendel's laws of genetics. They keep it simple and I would be tempted not to, so let's roll it.

Slide: Veracity Project evolution:

<http://www.theveracityproject.com/store/index.php/check-this-out/check-this-out-evolution.html>

Folks, we don't deny Natural selection. Natural selection works – to select characteristics that are already in an organism. So creatures change, but only by losing genetic information. They don't become better, they become less of what they once were. In fact, Richard Dawkins was asked about this and check out his response:

Slide: Dawkins stumped clip

When he finally did answer it had nothing to do with the question. Moving quickly now on other ways an evolution model of the universe does not fit the evidence

Slide: 3. The fossil record has no Missing links.

None. Not just between monkeys and man, but between anything and anything. Dr. Colin Patterson, a senior paleontologist at the British Museum of Natural history, was honest enough to admit, “There is not one such fossil for which one could make a watertight argument.”

Slide: 4. Evolution cannot explain the Origin of life.

We’ve already talked about this under the beginning, so I’ll resist going further with that here.

Slide: 5. Evolution cannot explain the Complexity of life

Folks, a one-cell organism

Slide: Cell pic

...is more complicated than anything we’ve been able to recreate through supercomputers. In fact, the single-cell organism has been described as a “high-tech factory, complete with artificial languages and decoding systems; central memory banks that store and retrieve impressive amounts of information; precision control systems that regulate the automatic assembly of components; proof-reading and quality control mechanisms that safeguard against errors; assembly systems that use principles of prefabrication and modular construction; and a complete replication system that allows the organism to duplicate itself at bewildering speeds.”

Folks, just look once, really look at the complexity of life. Take the life cycle of the butterfly from an egg to a caterpillar to a cocoon to the flying butterfly... During every stage its appearance changes drastically and it leads a completely different kind of life. Trout swim upstream, swallows fly 7,000 miles without a chart, compass or radio beam and land to build their nest in the same garage they left six months before. Evolution has no answer, folks, to that kind of complexity. But God does.

Slide: “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20 NIV)

Finally,

Slide: 6. Evolution cannot explain the INTER-DEPENDENCE of life.

For instance, there are countless examples of plants and animals, or plants and insects, which have a “symbiotic” relationship. In other words, they need each other to survive. Pollen bearing plants and the honey bee is one of my favorite examples.

Slide: bee on plant pic

Which came first, the pollen bearing plants or the honey-bee. If the plants came first there would have been nothing to pollinate them, so they couldn’t reproduce and the first one would have been the last one. (I don’t want to embarrass you, but this is a birds and the bees discussion.) If the bee came first, it would have flown around looking for nectar to turn into honey, but sorry, there’s none around, and the first bee would have been the last bee. Answer: they both had to be in place at the same time. (In the same week) Folks, I know how that could have happened. And so do you, if you read Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning, **God created** the heavens and the earth.”

Well folks, you have soaked up a lot this morning and I’m proud of you for staying with me. Next week we’ll talk about how important this discussion really is and what an evolutionary model of the origin of life has been doing to our country and to our world. But I want to close

this morning by saying very clearly, this discussion is not just about sticking information in your head and learning stuff. Yes, we believe that science is very compatible with the Christian Faith and I've shown that this morning, but...

Slide: II. God Wants More For You Than Science.

He doesn't want you just to know **stuff**. He wants you to know **Him**. In other words...

Slide: A. God wants a Relationship with you.

Folks, it's important to know God as the Maker of the heavens and the earth, and to be able to give some answers about that. But if you don't know God as your Savior, none of that is gonna matter. God wants a relationship with you and He loves you so much that He gave His one and only Son that if you believe in Him, You will not perish, but have eternal life. Jesus bore on His back, the sins of the world, your sins and mine, took them to the cross and was punished for them so that we could be forgiven and set free from them. And when you trust in Him as your Savior, you are. And some of you are going to struggle with these evolutionary ideas for some time. I just want to let you know, God can handle those struggles, as He continues to draw you closer to Him.

In His High Priestly prayer to God the Father, Jesus said something remarkable. We didn't have time to get into the Triune nature of God on this Trinity Sunday, but you see some of it reflected here. Jesus said:

Slide: "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:20-21 NIV)

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, wants us not just to be close, but to be one with Him. That's pretty cool stuff. God also...

Slide: B. God wants you to know life has a Purpose.

If you're an evolved accident, than you are truly adrift in the cosmos without any real reason for being. But if you're created and the Bible is true, then it's very clear that God made you to use your gifts to love and serve Him and to love others to Him. And finally, God doesn't just want you to know stuff...

Slide: C. God wants to spend Forever with you.

Again, Jesus prayed to God the Father:

Slide: "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world." (John 17:24 NIV)

May God the Father, our Father, grant that request and bring us in His time, to our Savior Jesus, and to our true home with Him in heaven. Amen.