

## SummerSalon14 – Theology Proper

We turn now to the study of Theology Proper. *We must know* that God *exists*; that we can recognize His divine attributes and the work He's *done* in the world. The nature of the Bible's triune God — the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit — continues to be debated —although the arguments are the same they've been for thousands of years. All arguments are handily diffused if the Bible student will consult the Bible itself as well as teachers who effectively refute the many false explanations Trinity-deniers pose.

Bible believers are accused of privately believing polytheism while outwardly preaching monotheism. But evidence of monotheistic unity and mutuality of distinct persons of Father, Son, and Spirit is replete in Scripture. Beyond the ability of humans to understand, the unity in diversity of the triune Godhead can somewhat be described by a simple object lesson. An example even children understand helps to demonstrate by use of water. If one boils a pot of water and waits for steam to be produced, and then places ice cubes in the water, for an instant there appears to be three distinct elements: water, steam, and ice. But in reality we know only water is present because the cooling water stops steaming and the ice cubes melt upon immersion. The reality of water alone indicates the unified nature that manifests in three diversities. Not a perfect example but one that should convince a skeptic that *three* can be *one*. Also, *echad*, Hebrew for composite unity in Gen 1:9, is seen in the example of one cluster of grapes. The cluster is one, at the same time it is individual grapes.

Regarding the attributes of the Triune Godhead, God is self-existent, infinite, eternal, immeasurable, all knowing, all powerful, and everywhere at the same time. The true God of the Bible is merciful, gracious, longsuffering, perfect, holy, just, righteous, loving, and true. The doctrine of the triune Godhead is the foundational basis of our faith. Without confidence in the existence and divine attributes of the Bible's triune God, a Bible student will not advance or spiritually mature in their faith.

Next we turn to the *work* of the triune God. God has revealed to man two divine works: the work of creation as taught in Genesis and the work of Christ on the Cross as revealed throughout the New Testament. The cross of Christ is God's greatest work —even greater than that of creation.

A survey about faith and science conducted in May of this year reported that “the explanation of creation science is still preferred by most respondents compared to explanations that the earth is 13.8 billion years old.” But I wonder if these are the same polls that report the majority of Americans identify as Christians —stating this is their preferred belief and practice. Any Sunday morning ought to show us those statistics are false —unless of course they refer to *cultural* Christianity (See “Unique American Idol” elsewhere in this Forum.) What I have found is that there are a lot of what I call closet evolutionists in the professing church. Instead of literal Genesis creation, many of these actually believe in some version of quantum speciation, transpermia, pangenesis, punctuated equilibrium, micro or macro evolution, the Gen 1:1, 1:2 Gap theory, or *theistic evolution* —the belief that the God of the Bible used evolution to create. The most sophisticated false teaching believed by those with itching ears is *progressive creation* —which is nothing more than evolution —*in drag*. It is deceptive to try and make God’s work *appear* as something other than it is. Equally false is Intelligent Design. Intelligent Design *winks* at theism but never agrees that Designer is the God of the Bible.

I gained a new perspective a few years ago regarding how I should train myself *out of* a subtle form of idolatry. Here is an example: A personalized TN license plate reads “ART —creating the future.” Aside from the cosmic impossibility for art to do this, it reminded me of a change in my own speech habits. All my life I’ve heard, read, and used the word, create —to reference something we do. But I’m retraining myself to not use that word except in reference to God’s creation. Man certainly does: produce, innovate, replicate, imagine, fabricate, build, invent, fashion, originate, construct and copy. But in the Hebrew sense of the word, *man does not create*. He is not able to create *ex nihilo*, out of nothing.

Qualified scientists who are believers in the literal interpretation of the Bible refute evolution as a true science-based system (1 Tim 6:20). True scientific data comports with the creation account, but not junk science. Scientific study of the Bible reveals the earth is young; the gap theory is false; the days of creation were literal 24 hours; and the Flood was global —not regional. This is fact: Evolution is a *religion*; not a science. Because its claims cannot be proven the theory must therefore be embraced as a matter of faith.

**Paraclete Press Research Service, Inc.** recommends the teaching of Grady McMurtry of

**Creation Worldview Ministries.** Several of his scientific papers supporting Genesis creation are linked at **SummerSalon14**. In particular, Carbon 14 dating and paleomagnetism have been disproven. The article, “Rocks aren’t clocks” disproves the claims of the book, ***Rocks Don’t Lie: A Geologist Investigates Noah’s Flood***. Upside down mountains, living fossils, genetic entropy, as well as reliable history that some *dinosaurs and people lived together* as recently as 131 years ago —all disprove an old earth as well as disprove non-abrupt origins of life. (Remember —some dinosaurs were not very large at all —the size of large birds.) Finally, over 300 geochronometers prove that the earth is young. None of these can be disproved by evolution. One might ask, as I did when I met Dr. McMurtry twenty-six years ago, “Why in the universe would anyone believe in some form of evolution or anti-biblical theory if the science doesn’t support it? It’s actually as simple as realizing if one believes the God of the Bible made all things —this logically leads to that one knowing they are *accountable to that God*. But the god of evolution makes no demands on its subjects.

We address God’s greatest work, the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, in the Christology section.