

**Title: Intelligent Design**

**Scripture Reading: Acts 17:16-34; 1 Peter 3:15**

**Introduction:**

- I. The deck of cards seems to be stacked against Christianity -
  - A. Humanism in 21<sup>st</sup> century America - How are we supposed to react to such depravity?
    1. the breakdown of the individual - relative truth versus objective
    2. the breakdown of the family - divorce, homosexual marriage, pornography
    3. the breakdown of the nation - abortion, rampant abuses of authority
  - B. Despite the growth of these philosophies - Are we really so different?
    1. **Acts 17:16-34** - The apostle Paul and the philosophies of his day
    2. **1 Peter 3:15** - “<sup>15</sup> but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, **always being ready to make a defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;”
- II. The death of God from the world’s and man’s perspective -
  - A. 1874 - John William Draper - *History of the Conflict Between Religion and Science*
    1. “...Christianity and Science are recognized by their respective adherents as being absolutely incompatible, **they cannot exist together**; one must yield to the other; mankind must make its choice – **it cannot have both**.”
  - B. April 8, 1966 - TIME Magazine - *Is God Dead?*
    1. Theologians who have cried against the secularization of Christianity -
      - a. Søren Kierkegaard - “...the day when Christianity and the world become friends, Christianity is done away with.”
      - b. Dietrich Bonhoeffer - “We are proceeding toward a time of no religion at all.”
    2. TIME argued that the acceptance of evolutionary science had killed the need for an omniscient and omnipotent God.
      - a. David Brash - “the talk” - University of Washington - professor of evolutionary psychology
        - 1) “**As evolutionary science has progressed**, the available space for religious belief has narrowed: It has demolished two previously potent pillars of religious faith and undermined belief in an omnipotent and omnibenevolent God.”
  - C. Where do we find ourselves in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?
    1. Richard Dawkins - one of the leading atheistic voices of the 21<sup>st</sup> century -
      - a. “The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.”
- III. Thesis Statement:
  - A. My generation has been raised in an environment where science and religion are at the opposite ends of the spectrum. We must choose between God and Science – we cannot have both or can we?

## **Body:**

- I. A Brief History of Science and Religion - Why this is so important?
  - A. The birth of modern science and its originators -
    1. 1277 - Western Christianity of the Middle Ages is the first break away from the earlier centuries of Greek logic and influence. The Cosmos was no longer deemed eternal (Aristotle), but rather as having a beginning (Creation and Genesis 1).
      - a. The foundation of all Western Science - "...belief that the natural order is the product of a single intelligence from which our own intelligence descends."
      - b. 13<sup>th</sup> century - William of Ockham - Ockham's razor
        - 1) "For nothing ought to be posited without a reason given, unless it is self-evident or known by experience or proved by the authority of Sacred Scripture."
    2. The Reformation proved to be fertile ground not only in theological discussions, but also in the arena of science. Three keys to understanding theism and scientific discovery –
      - a. **The Book of Nature** -
        - 1) 1692 - John Ray (1627-1705) - *The Wisdom of God Manifested in the Work of the Creation* - Ray is the leader of modern biology/zoology
      - b. **The Clockwork of Nature** -
        - 1) Robert Boyle (1627-1691) - founder of modern Chemistry
          - a) "Tis like a rare Clock, such as may be that at *Strasbourg*, where all things are so skillfully contrived, that the Engine being once set a moving, all things proceed according tot he Artificer's first design."
            1. William Paley - 1802 - *Natural Theology; or, Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity*
            2. Paley is generally remembered as the originator of this great analogy - The Watchmaker - but we see that a couple of hundred years earlier this idea was already being taught and readily accepted among many of the earlier scientist.
          - b) "The Wise Author of Nature has so excellently Contriv'd the Universe, that the more clearly and particularly we discern, how congruous the means are to the ends to be obtain'd by them, the more plainly we discern the admirable wisdom of the Omniscient Author of things."
      - c. **The Laws of Nature** -
        - 1) 1571-1630 - Johannes Kepler - laws of planetary motion
          - a) "God wanted us to recognize" natural laws and that God made this possible "by creating us after His own image so that we could share in His own thoughts."
        - 2) 1642-1726/7 - Sir Isaac Newton - founder of modern physics
          - a) "In him (God) are all things contained and moved." -

1. Newton is the first scientist to explain gravitational force and how massive bodies (such as the earth and its moon) exert a force on each other that is proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them.
- B. 19<sup>th</sup> Century - the major shift and the demise of the Theistic approach to science -
1. Charles Darwin (1809-1882) - *Origin of Species* - 1859
    - a. Darwin viewed any scientific explanation pointing to an immaterial mind, idea, or plan did not - in principle - qualify as proper scientific explanation. What he questioned in his attack against his rivals was not their ability to explain the evidence, but rather the scientific *legitimacy* of any theory that failed to offer a materialistic cause for observable phenomena... Norms proscribing such appeals (creative intelligence or intelligent design) contributed to the repudiation of the theistic design argument during and after the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
    - b. Astronomy, geology, and biology have all moved in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century away from any form of intelligent design for the now more popular naturalistic and materialistic explanations of modern science.
  2. Karl Marx (1818-1883) - economics and social philosophy
    - a. dialectical determinism - utopia which was centrally deterministic and materialistic understanding of human nature
    - b. Marx regarded religion as an opiate propagated by the elites to anesthetize the working classes to their exploitation.
  3. Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) - psychology
    - a. "God did not create man; man created God." - Freud comments that mankind invented the idea of a benevolent God, because of our incessant need for the perfect "father" figure.
  4. Summary of these three men and their influence on our generation -
    - a. "Darwin told us where we came from, Marx told us where we are going, and Freud told us about human nature and what to do about our guilt."
- C. The outcome of the 19<sup>th</sup> century -
1. Friedrich Neitzsche (1844-1900) - Again TIME magazine was not the first!
    - a. "God is Dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him."
  2. One of the greatest atrocities of the 20<sup>th</sup> century - Holocaust
    - a. Charles Darwin - "In the struggle for survival, the fittest win out at the expense of their rivals..."
    - b. Adolf Hitler - Let us kill all the Jews of Europe.
- II. Why the arguments of Theistic Creationism (Intelligent Design) are biblical and scientific -
- A. The Book of Nature -
1. **Psalm 19:1-4** - "1 The heavens are **telling of the glory of God**; And their expanse is **declaring the work of His hands**. 2 Day to day pours forth **speech**, And night to night **reveals knowledge**. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not

heard. <sup>4</sup> Their line has gone out through **all the earth**, And their utterances to **the end of the world**. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,”

a. Evidence - Every Day - Every language - Everywhere

2. **Romans 1:20** - “<sup>20</sup> 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.”

a. Newton’s Law of Gravity - an immaterial agent affixed between two objects -  
Could it be God?

#### B. The Clockwork of Nature -

1. The First Cause - Cosmological Argument

a. The logical argument from the cosmos - Kalām argument (Muslim argument for creation)

- 1) Everything that begins to exist has a cause.
- 2) The universe began to exist.
- 3) Therefore, the universe has a cause.

b. The fine tuning of the universe - opening a lock 1/64,000 (right/left/right)

2. The Bible accounts for the Designer -

a. **Hebrews 3:4** - “<sup>4</sup> For every house is built by someone, **but the builder of all things is God**.”

b. **Genesis 1:1** - “<sup>1</sup> In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth.”

c. **Hebrews 1:10** - “<sup>10</sup> And, “**You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation** of the earth, And the heavens are the works of Your hands;”

d. **Hebrews 11:3** - “<sup>3</sup> **By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God**, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.”

3. Design demands a Designer - (The Teleological Argument)

a. **Psalms 104:24** - “<sup>24</sup> O Lord, how many are Your works! **In wisdom You have made them all**; The earth is full of Your possessions.”

b. **Proverbs 3:19** - “<sup>19</sup> **The Lord by wisdom founded the earth**, By understanding He established the heavens.”

c. **Proverbs 8:22-31** - God is the “master craftsman”

1) The moon and its effect on the tides of the oceans (Newton’s law of gravity)

d. **Psalms 139:14** - “<sup>14</sup> I will give thanks to You, **for I am fearfully and wonderfully made**; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.”

1) The design of the human body

#### C. The Laws of Nature -

1. **Job 28:25-26** - “<sup>25</sup> “**When He** imparted weight to the wind And meted out the waters by measure, <sup>26</sup> **When He** set a limit for the rain And a course for the thunderbolt,”

2. **Psalms 104:9** - “<sup>9</sup> **You set a boundary that they may not pass over**, So that they will not return to cover the earth.”

3. **Proverbs 8:29** - “<sup>29</sup> **When He** set for the sea its boundary So that the water would not transgress His command, **When He** marked out the foundations of the earth;”
4. **Jeremiah 5:22** - “<sup>22</sup> ‘Do you not fear Me?’ declares the Lord. ‘Do you not tremble in My presence? **For I have placed the sand as a boundary for the sea, An eternal decree**, so it cannot cross over it. Though the waves toss, yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot cross over it.”
5. **Job 26:10** - “<sup>10</sup> “**He has inscribed a circle** on the surface of the waters At the boundary of light and darkness.”

### **Conclusion:**

- I. What does the future have in store for the relationship between faith and science... -
  - A. Irreducible Complexities - biological systems that simply could not have evolved by successive modifications or by natural selection
    1. 1953 - John Watson and Francis Crick - the structure of DNA
    2. The probability of the amino acids naturally occurring and creating the protein fold which is essential for life -
      - a. Douglas Axe - molecular biologist at the University of Cambridge Medical Research Council Laboratory - he calculated  $10^{77}$  nonfunctional combinations - these are combinations that will not form a stable three-dimensional protein fold capable of performing a specific biological function.
      - b. There is an estimated  $10^{65}$  atoms in our galaxy - the probabilities of this occurring without a Designer is just simply impossible.
  - B. The Big Bang - or the beginning of the universe - theistic emphasis on the cosmic beginning
    1. Robert Jastrow - astrophysicist of the Goddard Space Institute - *God and the Astronomers*
      - a. ...is an exceedingly strange development, unexpected by all but the theologians. They have always accepted the word of the Bible: “In the beginning God created the heavens and earth...” The development is unexpected because science has had such extraordinary success in tracing the chain of cause and effect backward in time. **For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream.** He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”
- II. The failure of man is inevitable - on which side will I be on that day?

This entire outline and all quotes from taken directly from - *Return of the God Hypothesis: Three Scientific Discoveries* written by Stephen Meyer (p. 1-68).

Colby Junkin  
 202 Oakview Street  
 Florence, AL 35633  
[bcjunkin1029@me.com](mailto:bcjunkin1029@me.com)  
 (256)339-6912