

Fulton County Gospel News

Good News About Christ And His Church For All Of The World

"...Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Savior of the body." - Ephesians 5:23

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Theistic Evolution - Curse of the Church

by Bert Thompson, Ph. D.

[Editor's Note: The Lord's church faces many dangers from our present world. One of the most dangerous problems is a deterioration in the respect for the text and authority of the Scriptures. Many within the church, who are supposed to be friends, are instead found to be enemies because their teaching leads to a lessening of respect for what the Bible teaches. Among this group would be those who teach theistic evolution, claiming that God used the commonly accepted evolutionary mechanisms to bring things to their present state of being. John Clayton, of South Bend, Indiana, is one such person. Brother Clayton purports to be a converted atheist, but maintains "that evolution and the Bible show amazing agreement on almost all issues and that one is not mutually exclusive of the other." This is from his book, The Source, privately published at 17411 Battles Road, South Bend, Indiana. 1976. page 130. We do not intend any personal animosity toward John Clayton in exposing these matters, but we believe that he is doing tremendous damage to the Lord's body and the Bible through his teaching of theistic evolution.

We are indebted to brother Bert Thompson for permission to edit and print a large part of his article, Theistic Evolution - Curse of the Church, Research Article Series from Apologetics Press, Inc., Montgomery, Alabama, n.d., pages 1 - 8. The footnotes in the following article are numbered to match those in the original longer publication. In October of 1994 an in-depth treatment on theistic evolution called Creation Compromises will be published, authored by brother Thompson. Bert Thompson has a Ph.D. in microbiology from Texas A & M University and served as a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine at that institution. He founded Apologetics Press, Inc. to provide the brotherhood with materials in the broad field of Christian evidences and is doing a tremendous work in this area. You may write and request

a free catalog of their materials at 230 Landmark Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117, or call (205)272-8558.

A follow-up article next month will take a more specific look at some of Clayton's teachings and review In the Shadow of Darwin, a book co-authored by Bert Thompson and Wayne Jackson which details the harmful effects of John Clayton's teachings.]

Introduction

[T]he position of atheistic, organic evolution... affirms that man is the result of purely naturalistic, mechanistic, uniformitarian forces operating eternally in nature... [T]he position of special creation... states that the one true and living God created the universe and all that in it is, exactly as the Bible states (Genesis 1-2: Exodus 20:11, et al.)... [T]here has arisen a group of people who believe that both evolution and creation are true! These people hold to "theistic evolution...," all the while claiming that it sustains them in their religious beliefs, yet allows them to "mix and mingle" with the rank and file evolutionists ...

Theistic Evolution Defined

The word "theistic" comes from the Greek word *theos*, which means God. Therefore, when one claims to be a "theistic" evolutionist, he is claiming to believe in both God and evolution at the same time... The point is clear. The theistic evolutionist believes evolution was simply "the way God did it" as He brought the universe and its contents into existence...

What's Wrong With Theistic Evolution?

Is theistic evolution biblical, and therefore acceptable? NO! It is not! It is one of the most dangerous compromises ever to befall the Bible-believer. To compromise on the matter of origins is certain to lead, at some point or another, to compromise in yet another area, and then another, and then another, *ad infinitum*. If the first chapter of the Bible is untrustworthy

(and therefore subject to compromise), why should we think any of the other chapters are any different? Theistic evolution is a God-denying, Jesus-denying, Holy Spirit-denying falsehood. Christians who value their souls will shun it, and urge others to do likewise. Here are just a few of the things *wrong* with theistic evolution.

1. *There is no theistic statement which shows theistic evolution to be true.* God never said He used evolution to create man. In fact He said just the opposite.

"... God could have accomplished the origin of life in any way He chose, by evolution or by creation, but an admission that there is a God and that He made such an accomplishment in any way, means that we are totally dependent upon His revelation to determine which way. His revelation declares creation, not evolution."¹²

The texts throughout the Bible (Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11; Exodus 31:17; Nehemiah 9:6, et al.) plainly teach *fiat creation*, and do not even hint of any kind of evolutionary process. God said He used creation; that settles it!

2. *Theistic evolution is wrong because evolution implies atheism.* Charles Smith, former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism, said it best when he said simply, "Evolution is atheism."¹³ Evolution is, *by definition*, "a" (without) "theism" (God) - it is *a-theistic*. Woolsey Teller said, "The God idea cannot be reconciled with our knowledge of evolution."¹⁴ Straton put it this way: "Those who try to reconcile these theories (of evolution) with the Christian system of truth assert that such is not the case... yet the definitions given... prove that God is of necessity ruled out, and that in favor of chance."¹⁵ As much as theistic evolutionists do not like to admit it, evolution is founded on atheism (no God). The two systems (theism/atheism) cannot be put together without becoming contradictory. They are mutually exclusive!

3. *Theistic evolution is wrong because it cannot explain where man acquired his soul.*

"To be consistent evolutionists, theis-

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

tic evolutionists must maintain that the image of God, in man, was evolved. If they call on God and a miracle to get the image of God in man, why so hesitant to call on God and a miracle for the giving of the life of the body to a physical body formed of the dust of the earth? Their non-theistic evolutionistic colleagues will not find the creation of the image of God in man any more acceptable than the creation of the body of man. What do theistic evolutionists affirm of the origin of the image of God?"¹⁶

This problem has, of course, bothered theistic evolutionists for literally centuries. Because of it, the fallacious doctrines of "progressive creationism" and "threshold evolution" were invented – yet without success. The Bible plainly states that God created man in the image of God, and gave him a soul. Did that soul evolve along with all the other parts of man? How will the theistic evolutionist get a soul into man?

4. *Theistic evolution is wrong because it cannot explain Eve.* This problem has haunted theistic evolutionists since the very inception of their false theory. The Bible makes it abundantly clear that God put Adam to sleep and took from his side material from which He made woman (Genesis 2:21-23). Eve is even named by Paul in I Timothy 2:13 as being a real, historical character. Yet evolution says that the sexes evolved, and *that* simultaneously, in the same geographical region, with one being male and one being

female. There is nothing similar in the two incidents. How will the theistic evolutionist explain this "problem of Eve?" Most theistic evolutionists, when faced with this problem, attempt to "do away with Eve" by making the first eleven chapters of Genesis mythological or allegorical – anything but true, literal, history. Yet this at the same time has far-reaching consequences. For example, Abraham, father of the Hebrew race, is mentioned in chapter 11 of Genesis. Was Abraham mythical? And what about the flood of Noah in Genesis 6-9? Was it mythical? Peter didn't think so; he referred to it in II Peter 3:1-13 as being a real, historical event. Was the tower of Babel figurative and allegorical? If so, whence then, the origin of languages? Furthermore, Paul mentions Adam in I Corinthians 15:45, and compares to him the "last Adam" (Jesus!). If the first Adam was mythical, is the last? Are proponents of theistic evolution ready to accept this conclusion?

5. *Theistic evolution is wrong because the Bible states that Adam was the first man.* Paul (and Moses, Genesis 1-2) made it perfectly clear that Adam was the first man! Not so, says evolution. Evolution theory says that *Homo erectus* or *Homo habilis* or *Australopithecus afarensis* or.... was the first man. Which will the theistic evolutionist accept?

6. *Theistic evolution is wrong because the Bible states the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all that in them is were created in six days.* Evolution theory, of course, says that evolution took place over multiplied millions or billions of years. Exodus 20:11 and Exodus 31:17, as well as Nehemiah 9:6 state just the opposite. Genesis 1 even tells us that each day of creation consisted of an "evening and a morning" so that there could be no doubt of the length of these creation days.

7. *Theistic evolution is wrong because the Bible states that God created a fully grown and fully developed man and woman within one day.* Genesis 1:27ff describes the creation of man and woman – in one literal day. They were fully grown, ready to go about doing the things God had commanded them to do. Yet evolution says, first, that there were no Adam and Eve, and second, that the first human pair on the earth had to evolve slowly over long periods of geological time. There is nothing similar in the two accounts. Which will the theistic evolutionist accept?

8. *Theistic evolution is wrong because it logically denies the fall of man (Genesis 3).*

The Bible makes it abundantly clear that man started on the earth in a covenant relationship with the Creator. Evolution says that man did not start at the top and fall to the bottom, but instead started at the bottom as some primordial slime, and has through the eons of geological time "risen." Which is true? Did man start at the top, or did he start at the bottom?

9. *Theistic evolution is wrong because the Bible teaches catastrophism; evolution teaches uniformitarianism.* Over and over again the Bible speaks to us of catastrophic events (the flood of Genesis 6-9; the plagues of Egypt in Exodus 7ff; etc.). The miraculous is an intrinsic part of the Bible. On the other hand, evolution *requires* uniformitarianism with its trite phrase "the present is the key to the past" as its watchword. Evolution states emphatically that all things are going on today just like they always have, and always will. The Bible plainly denies this. The resurrection of Christ is enough to send evolution to its grave once and for all.

10. *Theistic evolution is wrong because it makes a liar out of Jesus the Savior.* Jesus stated in Mark 10:6 (Cf.: Matthew 19:4): "But from the beginning of the creation male and female made He them." Jesus affirmed that Adam and Eve had been on the earth "from the beginning of the creation." Paul affirmed in Romans 1:20-21 that the things God had made were being "perceived" even "since the creation of the world." Who, Paul, was there to "perceive" these things "since the creation of the world?" Moses told us. Paul told us. Adam and Eve were their names. Jesus affirmed their status here on the earth "from the beginning of the creation." Now if the evolutionists are correct and man has been on the earth some 4 million years or so, it doesn't take very much intelligence to figure out that 4 million years out of an alleged earth history of 4.5 billion years is not, by any stretch of the imagination, "from the beginning." Rather, it is instead "from the end." The choice is this: either Jesus lied and evolutionists are correct, or Jesus told the truth and evolution is wrong. To accept any part of evolution *makes Jesus Christ a liar* (not to mention Paul and Moses!).

Conclusion

What is it about this ugly, degrading anti-biblical system that makes it appealing to so many? It is nothing but a serious compromise which turns the inspired writers into liars and charlatans. What is wrong with the way God said He did it?

Or isn't His word on the matter good enough for us anymore?

ENDNOTES

- 12. Camp, Robert. *A Critical Look at Evolution.* Religion, Science and Communication Research and Development Corporation. Atlanta, Georgia. 1972. p. 205-206.
- 13. Smith, Charles. Quoted in: *God Is.* George Klingman, author. Gospel Advocate, Co. Nashville, TN. 1929. p. 115.
- 14. Teller, Woolsey. Quoted in: *Evolution versus Science and the Bible.* Bob West, author. Bob West Publications. Sapphire, North Carolina. 1974. (lesson #12) p.4.
- 15. Straton, J.R. "Evolution." *IN: International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.* Eerdmans. Grand Rapids, Michigan. 1956. Vol 2. pp. 1048A - 1049. Emphasis added.
- 16. Bales, J.D. "Theistic Evolution and Genesis." *IN: Gospel Advocate.* Gospel Advocate Co. Nashville, Tennessee. 1-24-74. p 53.

WHY PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE ALIKE (2)

by Jerry Moffitt

Surprisingly, one reason people might not understand the Bible alike is because some do not love God, or do not love God as much as others. This is seen in the way some view false teaching. Notice Deuteronomy 13:1-3: **"If there arise in the midst of thee a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and he give thee a sign or a wonder 2) And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3) thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet or unto that dreamer of dreams: for Jehovah your God proveth you, to know whether ye love Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul."**

Who would ever think that God would test us by false prophets? Yet that is why he allows them even today (2 Pet. 2:1-3). God is thereby seeing of what we are made, and whether we love Him with all our hearts. Here love of God is evidenced in direct proportion as to how one will be beguiled by a false teacher. Those who love God seek His word as choice silver. They will not settle for just any old doctrine. Because they love God with all their heart and all their soul they learn God's word, and they hate all imitations of it. Some would be surprised that opposition to false doctrine was a deep and

scriptural indication of love for God, yet it is true. And, for this lack of love, some don't care enough about what the Bible says to strive to understand it correctly. Lest anyone get puffed up with pride, may he consider that such a downfall can and does happen to some inside the church as well as those outside the church.

HUNGER

Akin to the above, some don't understand the Bible alike for they don't have a full and relentless hunger for truth. To understand how we should feel about God's word we should do a prayerful study or at least a slow, thoughtful reading of Psalm 119. David says, "I delight in thy law" (Ps. 119:70), and "Oh how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (Ps. 119:97). He went on, "Thy testimonies have I taken as a heritage forever; for they are the rejoicing of my heart" (Ps. 119:112). And finally we mention that he said, "Mine eyes anticipated the night-watches, that I might meditate on thy word" (Ps. 119:148). May we humble ourselves so that we hunger for God as David hungered. Then might we save our souls.

After God's part has been accomplished, the glory of being with God Himself in heaven is a wondrous event that does not just happen. It is a tedious process which ends with a living sacrifice on our part. It takes boldness and courage. It starts with fear of God which soon turns to love. All along, however, it is fed by love of His word.

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Attitudes determine altitudes.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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THE EVILS OF GAMBLING

by Ted Knight

One of the most insidious lies that the devil has attempted to sell man is the lie that gambling would be good for him. Statistics have proven beyond question that gambling is evil from beginning to end. There is not even one good argument that can be proven to show that gambling lends anything good to our communities, homes, schools, or society in general.

Gambling is defined by Webster as: "To play or game for money or other stake; to hazard or wager." One of the best definitions that I have heard for gambling is "Getting something for nothing without rendering service or goods."

I suggest that gambling is wrong because:

1. IT IS OF THE WORLD. We are told in I JOHN 2:15-17 that if we partake of the evils of the world that the love of the Father does not dwell in us. In JAMES 4:4 we are plainly told that friendship with the world makes one an enemy of God. The Christian has been called out of the world and now bears the responsibility of showing forth the praises of Jesus Christ. 1 PET. 2:9-10. We need to be doing all that we can to get as far away from the world as we can and not seeing how close we can get to it without being drawn away.

2. GAMBLING BRINGS THE WRONG KIND OF ASSOCIATES. Did not Paul warn us in 1 Cor. 15:33 to beware of the kind of company we keep? Go to any city where gambling is being practiced and see if there isn't a crowd there made up of the kind of people that will bring that city down instead of lifting it up.

3. GAMBLING VIOLATES SEVERAL PRINCIPLES REVEALED IN THE BIBLE REGARDING HOW WE ARE TO MAKE A LIVING. (1) EPH. 4:28. (2) ROM. 12:17. (3) 1 THESS. 4:12. (4) 2 COR. 4:2.

Let's put gambling to a real test. Read carefully PHILIPPIANS 4:8 and then ask yourself: "Is gambling true? Is it honest? Is it just? Is it lovely? Is it of good report?" The obvious answer is a resounding "NO!"

Gambling cannot succeed unless Christians allow it. We must exert every effort to stop its onward march into our communities, schools and homes. We must consider seriously such passages as I THESS. 5:22 and I TIM. 5:22. Please do

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

not allow the gambling crowd to deceive you. Our own future and that of our children and grandchildren is at stake. Now is the time to **STAND UP FOR JESUS!**

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READING THE BIBLE

It is one thing to read the Bible through,
And another to read to learn and do.

Some read it as their "duty" once a week,
But no instruction from the Bible seek.

One reads to "bring himself into repute"
By showing others how he can "dispute."

Some read because their neighbors do.
Others to time their reading it through.

Some read it for the wonders there,
Like, how David killed the lion and bear.

While others read it with uncommon care,
Hoping to find a contradiction there.

One reads with father's specks on head,
And finds the things as father said.

Some read to prove a pre-adopted creed,
Hence understand little of what they read.

For every passage in the Book they bend,
To make it suit their all-important end.

So many in these latter days,
Have read His words in different ways.

And few can tell which way is best,
For every "party" contradicts the rest.

But read it prayerfully and you will see,
Although men dispute, God's word agrees.

For what the early prophets wrote,
Christ and His church must quote.

So trust no creed that trembles to recall,
What was penned by God must be
verified by all.

(Author unknown)

THE LETTER "E"

It has been said that the letter "E" is the most unfortunate character! It is always out of case, forever in debt, never out of danger, and in trouble all the time. But it can be considered in another way. "E" is never in war, but always in peace. More-over, it's the very center of honesty, and ease begins and ends with it. Best of all, God's love, mercy and grace all contain it. It is the name that is above every other name, Jesus, and is found in the gospel of our eternal redemption. Eternal life begins and ends with it; and who could write about heaven without it. It has a place in hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized, arise, newness of life, prayer, learn, practice, death, resurrection and reward!

— Copied

A WORD ABOUT MANUSCRIPTS

We are thankful for every faithful writer who submits articles to this paper for publication. Without their help **Fulton County Gospel News** would not receive all of the praise we frequently get from our readers. Occasionally, we even get a criticism, but not often.

We want to encourage writers, young and old, to submit articles that they believe are worthy of publication. We do ask that you submit articles to us that you have not submitted to other papers for publication. **Fulton County Gospel News** has over 8300 copies in circulation each month and we believe that our readers have a right to good original material. Articles which are exceptional or timely may be reprinted from other sources, but generally we do not choose to do so.

Articles should be neatly typed, double-spaced on standard 8-1/2 by 11 paper with standard margins. For normal quotations from the Scriptures you may use the King James and/or American Standard versions. You may also use the New King James version. Other versions may be used only for comparative purposes. Please labor to be exact in your quotations and scripture references. Your name should appear directly under the title of your article. At the conclusion of your manuscript please provide your address and a telephone number. Those who have not submitted previous articles should provide the name and address of the congregation where they preach or worship. We will not knowingly print an article by someone who is a false teacher, even though their article may not contain error. Our paper is small so your manuscripts should be from two to four pages in length (double-spaced). Longer articles may be used, but we reserve the right to edit or divide any article to fit the needs of our paper.

We receive more articles than we can use, but we are always looking for excellent manuscripts. Not everyone has a talent for writing and some editors may not use an article that others would use. We cannot acknowledge every article we receive, nor can we return unused manuscripts. If you submit an article to **FCGN** that is not used within six months, you may feel free to submit it to another publication. If you would like a copy of writer's guidelines for our paper, please write to me.

Ted J. Clarke, Editor

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. After the above five steps, faithful Christian Living (I Peter 2:11, 12; Revelation 2:10).

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. The Bible is its only guide (Romans 1:16; I Thess. 2:13).
2. Wears a Biblical Name (Romans 16:16).
3. Established at the right place (Isaiah 2:2,3; Acts 2).
4. Established at the right time (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2).
5. Established on the right person (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:36).
6. Saved are in it (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
7. Its members are enrolled in heaven (Hebrews 12:23).
8. Membership in it is obtained by obedience to God's commands including baptism (Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 12:13).

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