

Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal

Sermon for the Lord's Day

**“Practical Lessons from
Ecclesiastes (Part 1 of 4) ”**



Welcome Brothers and Sisters!

Charles Barry will lead our **Bible Class** and **Kerry Johnson** will lead us in **Song**, **Paul** is with us to present the **Lesson**. may God bless their efforts!

*Our Lord's Day
Plan...*

~ **Happy Lord's Day** ~

In your hearts, set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. —

1 Peter 3:15

We are praying for you!

Judy McCollum - for healing from falling and injuring her head and face this past week. Her trip to Oregon had to be cancelled.

Rosemarie Johnson - for healing from from her nerve (back, neck, shoulders) pain and discomfort.

Charles Barry - for a speedy recovery from his cold or flu.

The People of Ukraine - for safety and peace, especially those of the Lord's Church.

The church worldwide - for all of us adding to our faith, patience.

The Influence of Evolution

Ben Jones

Charles Darwin's theory of evolution seemingly has become one of the most universally accepted ideas of our time. Debates on the subject have highlighted the alleged conflict between science and faith, although capable men and women have shown the two disciplines to be compatible. Unfortunately, evolution's influence permeates everything today from textbooks to television to children's toys. As a result, this theory can have a dangerous affect on the way people think about important spiritual matters.

Evolution and the Purpose of Life

The Bible reveals God's purpose for man, both in creation through Adam, and recreation through Christ. God's power is displayed by man's weakness (Exodus 9:16), while man's potential is realized in Christ (Ephesians 2:10). By contrast, evolution essentially teaches that the purpose of life is simply to exist. The weak die; the strong adapt and survive. In effect, this way of thinking is the ultimate form of materialism. However, a man's life consists neither in the abundance of his possessions, nor the superiority of his genes. Long life, good health and a large family may all be desirable, but they do not commend men to God. In fact, the absence of these things may well teach men to depend on God for their strength (2 Corinthians 12:10). "And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Evolution and the Value of Life

Long before Thomas Jefferson wrote that all men are created equal, the apostle Paul proclaimed that "God has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 20:26). However, the principle of natural selection demands that all men are not equal, and the removal of inferior traits is necessary for the good of the species. This sort of warped mindset has influenced entire cultures (including our own) to accept the atrocities of slavery, eugenics, ethnic cleansing, euthanasia and abortion. Evolutionary thought places value on

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human life based on a given set of characteristics considered desirable at the time. The Bible places value on every human life because it is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), it is very good in God's sight (Genesis 1:31) and it is the motivation for Christ's death (Romans 14:15).

Evolution and the Existence of Morality

The Apostle Paul quoted a poet who wrote, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons" (Titus 1:12). Today, some men still behave like beasts. The Bible defines this behavior as willful ignorance and disobedience, which will be punished at the Judgment (Romans 1:18-32; Acts 17:30-31). Evolutionists, however, try to explain man's behavior as the result of primitive survival instincts, which have no intrinsic moral value. A Natural History of Rape, published by MIT Press, is one such so-called scientific attempt to explain a heinous act as the byproduct of natural selection. God will ultimately require accountability even if men do not (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Evolution and the Inspiration of the Bible

During the infamous Scopes Monkey Trial, William Jennings Bryan was forced to admit his doubt in the biblical account of creation. The inability to reconcile the millions of years necessary for evolution to occur with a literal account of creation has since caused many other Bible readers to doubt the credibility of the Scriptures. Several theories have been devised to allow the seven days of Genesis to be interpreted figuratively, but the notion of theistic evolution has only served to further weaken the conviction that the Bible is the fully inspired, authoritative Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16).

Conclusion

Evolution is simply an idea, but ideas have real consequences. They influence decisions, and eventually they shape the values of a society. Surely the danger can be seen in a valueless society shaped by the folly of evolution.

March 20, 2022



Meeting Days and Times

Sunday 9:00 am

Wednesday (via Zoom) Bible Class, singing & prayer - 6:00 pm

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