

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
 Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of July 21, 2019

Sunday School ----- 3
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 11
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 11
 Wed. Evening Service, 07/24/19 ----- 14

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of July 21, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 112.00
 Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 40.00
Total Received for Week of 07/21/19: \$ 152.00

- Week of July 14, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 906.26
 Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 45.00
Total Received for Week of 07/14/19: \$ 951.26

- Week of July 7, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 650.75
 Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 151.00
Total Received for Week of 07/07/19: \$ 801.75

- Week of June 23, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 575.02
 Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 45.00
Total Received for Week of 06/23/19: \$ 620.02

- Week of June 16, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 196.60
 Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 26.00
Total Received for Week of 06/16/19: \$ 222.60

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



Please Remember To Be Faithful To Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - OK? Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist
Volunteer Needed! ----- Greeter
 Larry Byars ----- S.S. Teacher
 Larry & Mary Byars, Susan Strain ----- Outreach
 Bertha Segebarr ----- Custodian
 Flowers ----- Shirley White



AUDITORIUM AIR CONDITIONER REPAIR FUND

Total Repair Cost, unit repaired 05/17/19 ----- \$ 4,800.00
 Amount received thusfar ----- \$ 699.38
TOTAL AMOUNT STILL NEEDED TO PAY OFF: \$4,100.62

Thank You For Your Generous Help With This Need!

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY
REMINDER

Volume XV

July 28, 2019

Number 29



WHEN WORLDVIEWS COLLIDE
 THE DANGERS OF REFORMED THEOLOGY

by Josh Merrell, Pastor South Side Baptist Church of Weatherford, Texas

After teaching my adult Bible study class recently, I came in and found a smartly dressed couple with five children already sitting in the sanctuary. I could tell they had a conservative church background by the way they greeted me and introduced themselves. I watched as they heartily sang the hymns and was encouraged by their level of engagement during the sermon. As they left, the husband made a point to compliment my preaching and said he was refreshed by our services. I left elated, certain they were strong prospects. Two months later, however, they still hadn't joined. When we asked why, I was disappointed to hear that, although they loved our church, they were looking for a "reformed" congregation. As you can imagine, my heart sank. Later, as I reflected on the situation, I was reminded of my own experience.

I was first introduced to Calvinism in a serious way nearly 20 years ago. I well remember wrestling with the issues of election, predestination, and foreknowledge and having my most basic assumptions challenged and shaken. It was sobering for me to find that nearly all of the men after whom I read and by whose works I had grown in sanctification and appreciation for God were reformed in their theology. Moreover, I found that many of the stereotypical charges leveled against them were overstated. "Many Calvinists, for example, have been zealous evangelists and missionaries and have contributed powerfully to the cause of winning the lost for Christ." [1] "Furthermore, in their passion for the glory of God, Calvinists have played a leading role in the renewal of worship in this generation." [2] It is not too much to say that the reformed tradition offers a great deal to admire and emulate. Additionally, some of the most eloquent, forceful, and conservative pastors of our day self-identify as Calvinists. [3]

It is little wonder then that reformed theology is spreading like wildfire throughout evangelicalism and even throughout fundamentalism albeit to a much lesser degree. [4] There is nothing short of a Calvinist renaissance taking place across the modern theological landscape. [5] Despite this astonishing resurgence, several reasons exist that I cannot join the ranks of the reformed. It is my intent over the course of the next several articles to explain those reasons by way of a rational and irenic critique of the Calvinist position. Before presenting my arguments, however, I first want to address the manner by which I will proceed.

A CONFLICT OF THEOLOGICAL PARADIGMS

The reformed position involves a particular mindset - a paradigm that fundamentally shapes their understanding of God and His most basic attributes. Obviously, those outside the Calvinist fold do not share this mindset. This disjunction not only creates a communication barrier but also renders virtually impossible the task of objectively evaluating evidence.

Perhaps an illustration from a different fight will bring the problem into focus. Creationists are constantly embroiled in disputes with secular evolutionists about the proper implications of the available scientific data. Creationists note, for example, the presence

(continued inside)

of digital information in DNA and conclude that it must have originated in the mind of an intelligent agent. After all, as Dr. Werner Gitt has noted, *“There is no known law of nature, no known process, and no known sequence of events which can cause information to originate by itself in matter.”*[6] Mutations cannot account for it. *“All point mutations that have been studied on the molecular level turn out to reduce the genetic information and not to increase it.”*[7] *“When its progress along the chain of transmission events is traced backward, every piece of information leads to a mental source, the mind of the sender.”*[8] This is clear enough; no one could reasonably conclude that the information in this magazine resulted from an explosion in a typewriter. In like fashion, the sheer fact that we have information in our DNA tells us that it could not have come about through a random chance process but rather must ultimately go back to a mind - in this case, the mind of God.

Outside of biology, one might consider evidence from astronomy such as comets. Comets are made of ice. Every time they pass near the sun, some of this ice is blasted away and the comet loses mass. A comet can orbit the sun for roughly 10,000 years before it completely runs out of material.[9] Thus, if the universe really is 13.6 billion years old, it is difficult to explain the continuing presence of comets. Faced with these and many other powerful pieces of evidence,[10] one might expect evolutionists to concede that Creationism is at least viable, if not true. Far from it, however, for every piece of evidence that might be offered, the evolutionist has a counter theory to rescue his belief. For example, in the case of comets, knowing they do not last, secular astrophysicists conclude there must be a vast reservoir of comets beyond the visible solar system dubbed an “Oort Cloud,” which continuously feeds new comets into the inner solar system. When pressed for any observational evidence of an “Oort cloud,” however, secularists are forced to concede that there is not any.[11] Nevertheless, given the presence of comets that cannot last and the evolutionary worldview that requires billions of years, the idea of an “Oort cloud” is consistent, even necessary.

This brings into focus the root issue, which is not the evidence, but rather the worldview by which each side interprets the evidence. Creationists and evolutionists all have the same facts. They all have access to the same DNA patterns, the same fossils, the same stars and galaxies; moreover, they both have the same science. Both sides use physics, chemistry, astronomy, and so forth. Why then do they draw such different conclusions? The reason is because they have a different worldview. Like a pair of colored glasses, our worldview affects the way we see and interpret evidence. Everyone comes to the evidence with certain presuppositions about how that evidence should be interpreted. It is crucial to recognize that evidence by itself, no matter how compelling it is thought to be, can never resolve a worldview conflict because an individual’s worldview tells him what to make of the evidence.[12]

Like it or not, the debate over Calvinism is between competing

theological worldviews. This is the reason arguments between Calvinists and non-Calvinists can be so frustrating. Both sides bring a truckload of verses to the other and wonder, *“Why don’t you understand that these verses prove my point?”* But it is useless to argue that our theological presuppositions are right because of the verses we offer in their defense since the opposing side’s presuppositions tell them how to interpret those verses. Somehow, we need to step back and examine the validity of our presuppositions. How can we do so?

TRUTH MUST BE LOGICAL AND INTERNALLY CONSISTENT

In my judgment, for a system of thought to be considered credible, let alone accurate, it must meet at least two criteria: (1) it must be logical; (2) it must be internally consistent. These are necessary conditions of truth.[13] These criteria are not ad hoc benchmarks that I devised, but rather are rooted in the very nature of God. The most basic law of logic is the law of non-contradiction - that you cannot have “A” and “not A” at the same time in the same relationship. For instance, if I said, “My birthday ‘is’ and ‘is not’ January 1,” no one would take me seriously. You would conclude that one or the other statement is true but not both. The statements are internally inconsistent—irreconcilably so. Since they violate the laws of logic they cannot be true.

But where does this law of non-contradiction come from? It originates in God’s essential nature. Scripture states, If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself (II Timothy 2:13 emphasis mine). God cannot contradict Himself.[14] Moreover, all truth is in God. As Colossians 2:3 reminds us, In whom [Christ] are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. As such, it follows that real wisdom, genuine knowledge—truth—since it is in and of God, cannot contradict itself. Furthermore, because God Himself is omnipresent and immutable, the laws of logic are universal and invariant. They govern every possible conceptual relationship. Thus, every truth claim must adhere to the laws of logic. If an idea claims to be true but can be demonstrated to be illogical or internally inconsistent, then its claim to truth status is negated or at least severely undermined. Thus, a major burden in this series will be to demonstrate that Calvinism, especially in its most popular form, is fundamentally inconsistent and, in fact, logically incoherent. If successful then, the forthcoming articles should dissuade Christians from embracing any form of reformed theology.

Footnotes:

- [1]E.g. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, William Carey, and John Bunyan.
- [2]Jerry L. Walls and Joseph Dongell, *Why I Am Not a Calvinist* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2004), 9.
- [3]E.g. John Piper, John MacArthur, Steve Lawson, Matt Chandler, etc.
- [4]On the resurgence of Calvinism among younger evangelicals, see Collin Hansen, *Young, Restless, Reformed : A Journalist’s Journey with the New Calvinists* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2008).
- [5]Keith Hinson, “Calvinism Resurging among Sbc’s Young Elites,” *Christianity Today* 41, no. 11 (1997).
- [6]Werner Gitt, *In the Beginning Was Information : A Scientist Explains the*

- more next week

Incredible Design in Nature (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2006), 106.

[7]Lee M. Spetner, *Not by Chance! : Shattering the Modern Theory of Evolution* (New York: Judaica Press Inc., 1999), 138.

[8]Gitt, 72.

[9]<http://www.thenakedscientists.com/HTML/questions/question/1000112/>

[10]Cf. <http://www.icr.org/recent-creation>

[11]<http://physics.stackexchange.com/questions/26132/what-are-the-facts-that-all-ow-accepting-the-oort-cloud-theory>

[12]Cf. discussion in Jason Lisle, *The Ultimate Proof of Creation : Resolving the Origins Debate* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2009).

[13]The fact that these are necessary conditions does not make them sufficient conditions. A proposition may be both logical and consistent and yet be untrue. It cannot, however, be illogical and inconsistent and nevertheless be true.

[14]Cf. discussion of *•πνέουμαι* in Gerhard Kittel, Gerhard Friedrich, and Geoffrey William Bromiley, *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, 10 vols., vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1964), 471.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

‘ THE APOLLO PROGRAM AND THE FLAT EARTHERS - Flat earthers must be in tizzy-fit mode these days with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Apollo 11, the first moon landing, which occurred on July 20, 1969. America’s Apollo program was one of the most amazing achievements of human history, if not the most.

Noah built a massive ship to save mankind and the animal kingdom from the global flood, and he did it without the help of tens of thousands of engineers, but Apollo took men off of the face of this earth and transported them to the moon. Men walked on the moon! There is no doubt. They photographed our globe. The Blue Marble photo taken on December 7, 1972, by the crew of Apollo 17 is not a myth. There were 500 eyewitnesses of Christ’s resurrection, which is evidence that would stand up in any honest court. There were 400,000 participants in Apollo. I was a personal friend with one of them.

Since Apollo, the earth as a globe has been photographed countless times by space machines, not only American, but Russian, European, Indian, Chinese, and Israeli, not only satellites circling the earth, but satellites traveling to far-flung realms of our galaxy. A photo of our globe was taken by Elon Musk’s SpaceX solar orbit spacecraft (a cherry red Tesla roadster “driven” by the dummy Starman) in February and another by Israel’s Beresheet moon spacecraft in March.

Other than confirming the fact that the earth is a globe, which ancient men already knew, what does the modern space program mean? It means that man is made in the image of God and is distinct from the animal kingdom just as the book of Genesis says. Though man looks a bit like the apes, in fact, he is really nothing like the apes. Apes can figure out how to use sticks to hit one another, but they aren’t very good at rocket science. The modern space program

also means that Daniel’s prophecy of the end times is true that says, *“many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased”* (*Da. 12:4*). Finally, the modern space program means that *“the coming of the Lord draweth nigh”* (*James 5:8*)! Though we know not the day nor the hour, we can see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:25). By God’s grace, we will continue to watch and serve.

‘ NEIL ARMSTRONG WAS THRILLED TO WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED - Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, died in 2012 at age 82. An astronaut, aerospace engineer, Navy fighter pilot (who flew 78 combat missions over North Korea), and university professor, Armstrong was famous as a man of few words, yet he uttered some of history’s most memorable ones. When he first stepped on the moon, he exclaimed, “This is one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.”

He said something else that was memorable, and I am reminded of it on every trip to Israel. Not long after the Apollo 11 moon landing, Armstrong visited Jerusalem and was guided by archaeologist Meir Ben-Dov, one of the excavators of the southern Temple Mount. Armstrong asked him to point out a place where Jesus would have walked, and Ben-Dov took him to the Huldah Gates and showed him the recently excavated southern steps. Armstrong asked if these were the original steps, and Ben-Dov replied, “Yes.” Armstrong said, “So Jesus stepped right here?” and Ben-Dov again confirmed it. To this, Armstrong said, *“I have to tell you. I am more excited stepping on these stones than I was stepping on the moon.”* This account is part of Israel’s official two-year training program for guides, and it also appears in *From Beirut to Jerusalem* by Thomas Friedman. ÷

