

This week I attended a Herzog Foundation leadership conference. There were 30 or so leaders of Christian Education in Massachusetts. Some were leaders of traditional schools like DCA. Others led Church-Based Learning Centers, and even some led Homeschool Coops. One Homeschool Coop leader said, 'I have only been a Christian three years. I was a bio-tech scientist when I found Jesus. I teach science in the coop. I am learning to view science as a believer.' That line really impacted today's message. Christians have a special lens by which we see our world.

Only with childlike wonder can we see the world through both science and faith.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dg3kIKphB5E>

Paul wrote, 'Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made (Ro 1:20 NIV).'

- Some scientists assume their lens the universe proves there is no god.
- But Paul says we can see God's fingerprints in creation – 'clearly understood from what has been made.'
- Someday we will see God. Perhaps He now exists in light spectrum, a dimension we cannot see right now because of sin's distortion.

'God is like the sun; you cannot look at it, but without it you cannot look at anything else.' G.K. Chesterton¹

Today, we are nearing the end of our short series, a skeptic's guide to faith. These messages have been very different from my usual preaching because my audience are those who are skeptical of the Christian faith.

- Let's 'Be merciful to those who doubt (Jd 22 NIV).'
- Let's '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 (1Pe 3:15 NIV).'

Our journey has been to answer some big questions. We started with ...

A Skeptic's Guide to Faith

'How can we trust that Jesus rose from the dead?'

'How do we know there is objective truth?'

'How do we know there is an afterlife?'

¹ G.K. Chesterton, Illustrated London News (1905-36), exact issue unknown.

'If God exists, why is there evil?'

'How do we know the Bible is true?' Last Sunday, we examined the question ...

'Why can't I live as I see fit?'

- The two with asterisks were difficult ones as we had to address postmodern and post-Christian thinking.
- Next Sunday will be the final message and it may surprise you.

Today, we will examine science and faith. The question is 'Doesn't science disprove Christianity?'

Science A Skeptic's Guide to Faith



Science used to mean testing and retesting a hypothesis in pursuit of truth.

- But today, some science has become politicized as researchers pursue government funds. They put on agenda-colored lenses that refract their research.
- But real science is the pursuit of truth wherever it leads.

1. Science & Faith.

Skeptics Assume ...

1. Science disproves / conflicts with faith.
2. Reason (empirical proof) is foundational.
3. Science can / will explain everything.
4. There are no 'miracles.' We won't have time to look at this one today.

At times the Church did some dumb things. For example, in 1633, Pope Urban the VIII accused Galileo of heresy for challenging the Catholic Church's dogma of earth being the center of the universe. The Bible is not a scientific textbook.

But science and faith are compatible. Only with childlike wonder can we see the world through both science and faith.

Science and faith are compatible.

- Faith and reason always work best together.
- In fact, science helps prove our faith. It is not an either/or category.

- Albert Einstein said, ‘Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.’² – Albert Einstein He was not a believer like us, but at least he acknowledged the problem with science: science is a faith.

Science starts with an underlying faith.

- Science starts with an underlying faith in human reasoning. Augustine wrote, ‘Believe so that you may understand.’ – St. Augustine He means that reason never begins from a neutral, belief-free starting point.
- For example, science assumes an orderly world that operates consistently not randomly.
- Try reading without assuming letters have meaning.
- Michael Polanyi, a chemist, wrote that scientists are certain that they have all the elements needed to carry out a trial of God.³

Science cannot explain everything.

We live in a remarkable day for science. If you want information on almost any subject, there is incredible information available.

But science cannot explain everything.

- It cannot explain suffering, beauty, or love.
- It does not explain origins or singular events. It often ignores the question ‘where did we come from?’
- Scientists can say we don’t know the answer yet, but we will someday. Fine, but where did we come from?
- For example, evolution is taken as ‘settled science.’ But evolution still does not answer the question of where the first cell came from.

A couple of hundred years ago, naturalists held that there was no ‘creation,’ the universe has just always been. It was a natural law.

But modern ‘Science is based on causality; every event has a cause.’⁴

² Albert Einstein, *Science and Religion* (1954).

³ Michael Polanyi, *Personal Knowledge: Towards a Post-Critical Philosophy* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1962) 269-298.

⁴ Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek, *I Don’t Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004), 213.

I have a friend, Jim, who holds 54 patents for lasers. Everything from CDs to surgical lasers, he invented. Jim never graduated from High School. But if you put him in a room full of PhD's who explain the concepts to him he can dream of hundreds of applications. His secret? His childlike curiosity and ability to look at things with wonder and imagination. He has a ton of hobbies because he loves to explore new things.

- Not all scientists are like Jim. Jim is a passionate Christ-follower. It is easy for Jim to imagine God, while many of his coworkers are reluctant to step back and ask themselves, 'is there more?'

Evolution, one of the few scientific attempts at origins, has applied the methods and principles of process science to the question of origin, a single event. However, the outcome was predetermined because it looks for a processes. It is like me coloring a picture with a blue coloring crayon and then saying, 'look, it's all blue.'

A process scientist sees only natural processes ... but the result of natural processes is different from the end result of intelligent design.

Origins

Natural Law	Intelligent Design
Waterfalls	Hydroelectric Plant
Wind erosion	Wind Turbine
Grand Canyon	Mt. Rushmore

Let me give you the three scientific reasons from astrophysics that point to a created universe against a constant universe.

2. Scientific Proofs for a Created Universe verses the naturalist argument of a constant universe

1. *The Laws of Thermodynamics*

- Energy remains constant in the universe.
- Energy is decreasing. These are the first & second laws of thermodynamics.
- Conclusion: the universe is finite. You cannot run out of infinite (natural law) so 'the universe could not have existed forever in the past and will not exist forever into the future.'⁵

⁵ Geisler, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, 220.

- Peter wrote that someday ‘The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed (2Pe 3:12 NIV).’ The very elements of creation will go poof in flames.

2. *The Expansion of the Galaxies*

- The galaxies are moving outward from a central point.
- The expansion has slowed and is measurable. For example, we can measure that the light coming in through these windows is from an explosion on our sun 8.20 minutes ago.

3. *Radiation Echo*

- Radiation is static and everywhere.
- No explanation other than a ‘big bang’ has been found.

That is probably more than enough to make my point. If you have a friend who wants to argue these points there are a lot of great books out there.⁶

Only with childlike wonder can we see the world through both science and faith.

- Science and faith go hand in hand.
- We are on very good scientific ground for there to be a Creator-God, especially in the fields of microbiology and astrophysics.

Testimony - Lumprai Phomsouvannandy.

3. **Wonder.**

I think of Abram and Sarai before they had children. God said to Abram after another disappointing month, ‘Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have (Ge 15:5 NLT)!’

Abram was premodern.

- He had no concept that the planet he was standing on was rotating at 1,040.6 miles per hour.
- Or that the planet itself was encircling the sun at 67,000 miles per hour.
- Or that his solar system, the Milky Way was moving at 500,000 miles per hour.
- He had no idea that creation itself was expanding and that beyond created matter, there was nothing.
- Perhaps he did not even know the light was from exploding gases.

⁶ Geisler, *I Don’t Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, 211-31; Stephen C. Meyer, *Darwin’s Doubt* (HarperOne, 2013); and anything by Hugh Ross.

I hear a little playfulness in God's command to count the stars – 'come on, dream Abram.' It was an impossible task: 'If Abram counted one star per second for five thousand years, he'd only be on 157,680,000,000.'⁷ Not counting the 275 million stars that are estimated to be born daily. We live in an astounding universe.

- Abram was fixated on the one thing he did not have – a child. God said, 'look up, see how awesome my creation is. Imagine what I can do.'
- Jesus said, 'anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it (Mk 10:15 NLT).' Children are naturally inquisitive and able to use their imaginations. It is easy for them to view things through multiple lenses.
- 'Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith (Ge 15:6 NLT).'

It all comes down to faith, that ability to imagine that there is a creator out there. 'Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists (He 11:6a NIV).'

Imagine I take a shoebox and make a diorama of a zoo. This zoo has little plastic giraffes, zebras, lions, etc. The next day I bring it to class.

- Would my classmates expect to see a 1" me walking around in the diorama? 'Hey Randal, you made a good zoo!'
- No. Because I am different from what I created.
- C.S. Lewis wrote, 'If God created the universe ... to look for Him as one item within the framework which He Himself invented is nonsensical.' – C.S. Lewis, *The Seeing Eye*⁸

The Bible says that God is wholly other, different from His creation. We don't have the right lenses to see God as He is because He is outside of His creation.

- 'God ...¹⁶ who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see (1Ti 6:15-16 NIV).'
- "'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,'" declares the Lord. ⁹"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (Is 55:8-9 NIV)."

Only with childlike wonder can we see the world through both science and faith.

⁷ Batterson, *A Million Little Miracles*, 20.

⁸ C.S. Lewis, *The Seeing Eye* (New York, NY: Ballantine Books, 1967), pp. 226-230 (p. 227). C.S. Lewis responded to some Russian atheist propaganda that promoted Russian Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin as saying, 'I don't see any god up here.' Lewis reasoned that it would be nonsensical to look for Shakespeare in one of his fictional plays – because his plays were fictional and Shakespeare lived in the real world.

Science is not a threat to Christianity.

Microbiology points to a creator-God as well. The smallest our premodern Biblical writers could imagine are the ant and the mustard seed.

- 'Every cell in the human body is a microscopic miracle.'⁹
- Now we know about DNA and have the Human Genome project.
- Life is an awesome miracle.
- As David wrote, 'For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well (Ps 139:13-14 NIV).'

Our existence, both on the microbiology level and astrophysics level points to a Creator.

- Indeed, a creator who loves us.
- Instead of being blinded by our prejudices that there is no God, we should have a childlike wonder and awe at creation.
- We should then fall on our knees in worship.

If the universe is this finely tuned, this beautiful, this intentional... then so are you. And the Creator who made galaxies also invites you to trust Him.

Indescribable.

Prayer.

⁹ Batterson, *A Million Little Miracles*, 78.