



The Science of Religion

ACTS 11:1-18

The Preliminaries

- ▶ What, but not How, to think
- ▶ As a child, Sunday didn't connect with Monday thru Friday
- ▶ I started to ask and answer tough questions
- ▶ I concluded that some of what I was taught as a child, was incorrect
- ▶ Why did I conclude this?

The Reason

I have come to believe that what my parents taught me as a youngster; that God created the universe and all that is in it, mankind included, and that it was good; but that when tested mankind sinned choosing his own way over God's way; thereby separating man from his creator forever; and only by the grace of God was that relationship restored through the life and death of His Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross; and His subsequent resurrection; and that by believing these very truths as revealed in the Holy Bible, the inspired and infallible word of God; I have secured eternal life.

Building on the Preliminaries

- ▶ What, but not How, to think
- ▶ A conversation with a friend
- ▶ “I prefer to place my faith in science”
- ▶ “But, I place my faith in science too”
- ▶ Why the “lazy” approach?

Continuing to Build

- ▶ Solid Rock or Shifting Sand
- ▶ To me, all science supports the truth of the Bible
- ▶ My conclusion, what sometimes passes for science, is not really science at all, but merely religion

Some Scripture

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

Some More Scripture

“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.”

Almost There.....

- ▶ Our faith is not a Blind Faith
- ▶ Returning to my conclusion: What sometimes passes for science, is not really science at all, but merely religion

What is Religion?

- ▶ “Any specific system of belief and worship, often involving a code of ethics and a philosophy.”

What is Science?

- ▶ “Systematized knowledge derived from observation, study and experimentation carried on in order to determine the nature or principles of what is being studied.”

Examples Please

- ▶ An example of Religion
- ▶ An example of Science

Analyzing My Friend's Assertion

- ▶ “I prefer to place my faith in science”
- ▶ Does science somehow disqualify the biblical account of the origin of mankind?
- ▶ No! Science does not disqualify the biblical account of the origin of mankind. Everything I see can be explained by the biblical account.

Continuing to Analyze

- ▶ So why does my friend say he places his faith in science and forgo the Biblical account?
- ▶ Is it really that my friend places his faith, not in the process of science, but rather, what those in the scientific community have to say?
- ▶ Does the scientific community have anything to say about the origin of man?

Other Thoughts on the Origin of Man

- ▶ As a child, Sunday didn't connect with Monday thru Friday
- ▶ Charles Darwin wrote a book

The Theory of Evolution

- ▶ Man has evolved, or changed over time, from single-celled organisms, who evolved into prehistoric water-dwelling animals, into larger land-dwelling animals like rodents and monkeys, and into what the scientific community now calls the human race.

Analysis of the Theory of Evolution

- ▶ When the proponents of the Theory of Evolution speak of the origin of man, they are arguing that science has led us to the conclusion that man was not created by God, but rather evolved from previous life forms.
- ▶ But what scientific experiments have been performed?

An Inerrant Truth to be Considered

- ▶ One cannot tell the truth about the past, by looking at evidence in the present
- ▶ We can only guess
- ▶ Is this science?

The Truth About The Theory of Evolution

- ▶ Evolution is NOT science
- ▶ It is not “Systematized knowledge derived from observation, study and experimentation carried on in order to determine the nature or principles of what is being studied.”

The Truth About The Theory of Evolution

- ▶ Evolution is religion
- ▶ It is “A specific system of belief and worship, often involving a code of ethics and a philosophy.”

Points to Ponder

Our belief in the truthfulness of the Biblical account of the origin of man is a religion. So is the scientific communities assertion that man has evolved from lower life forms over millions of years. The question now becomes, where do you place your faith?

Acts 11:1-18, The Apostle Peter is Challenged - Some Context

- ▶ A Time of Peace and Prosperity (Acts 9:31)
- ▶ Miracles Cause growth in the Church (Acts 9:32-43)
 - ▶ Peter heals a cripple (Acts 9:32-35)
 - ▶ Peter raises the dead (Acts 9:36-43)
- ▶ God speaks to Cornelius (Acts 10:1-8)
- ▶ God speaks to Peter (Acts 10:9-16)

Acts 11:1-18, The Apostle Peter is Challenged - Some Context

- ▶ Peter and Cornelius Connect (Acts 10:17-23)
- ▶ Peter and Cornelius Meet (Acts 10:23-29)
- ▶ Cornelius Tells Peter his Story (Acts 10:30-33)
- ▶ Peter Presents the Gospel to Cornelius (Acts 10:34-43)
- ▶ Cornelius and his House are Saved (Acts 10:44-48)

Acts 11:1-18, The Apostle Peter is Challenged

- ▶ Peter's Behavior is Challenged (Acts 11:1-3)
- ▶ Peter Explains his Actions (Acts 11:4-17)
- ▶ Peter, and His Challengers, Praise God (Acts 11:18)

Points to Ponder

Our God does not ask us to believe blindly. The example of Thomas shows us this. But just like our judicial system, which makes decisions based on the preponderance of the evidence, are required to test those who labor among us, and be prepared to give an account of why we believe, what we believe, Just as Peter did to his brothers, who challenged him.