

Trinity Te Deum

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What's More Dangerous than a Pandemic Virus?

A viral panic. It's in the Bible: Deuteronomy 20:8, "Is any man afraid or fainthearted? Let him go home so that his brothers will not become disheartened too." One fleeing soldier can lead to a whole line fleeing. It has happened many times. Going about our normal lives we would be much less likely to this sort of "contagious fear", but government restrictions make that difficult. A few things to remember.

It is disconcerting but not surprising that our government doesn't consider church to be essential service. What about all those who claim to be Christians and even church members but don't consider it essential to attend service when there are no quarantines or lockdowns preventing them?

Since the First Gulf War, I've advised women with husbands, finances, or boyfriends, to not watch, read, or listen to news about the war. It can't help but trouble you. This is true today. These reports seemed designed to gin up fear in us, but that is the way of news according to the old adage. Dog bites man is not news; man bites dog is, and if it bleeds, it leads. Knowing this, check out one source daily. I don't say this by command of the Lord. I'm just saying if you can't handle the news – I know I can't – you don't have to. You have One who never sleeps watching it and you.

"There is no fear of God before the eyes of the ungodly." That's what David says in Psalm 36:1; Paul quotes this in Romans 3:18. Fallen man has this sense that he ought to be afraid but since he does not fear God, he casts about for something to fear. Climate change, unhealthy foods, tobacco, and now COVID-19 are all acceptable substitutes, so unfallen man fears these with a religious fervor. Well, this ain't us. The fear of God is before our eyes. Remember we are the one whose "national anthem" is based on Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ... Therefore, will not we fear, though the earth be

removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; ... The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. ... Be still, and know that I am God:". Read Luke 12. Jesus says if you want to talk about who to fear, God is the only proper subject not man, not disease, not devil. Then He says, "Fear not little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Jesus basically says, "Fear only God," and then He says, "Don't be afraid."

Also, know that the people of God have more to 'fear' from good times than they do 'bad.' Luther, and I believe he's just quoting a run of the mill German proverb, says, "You need strong legs to stand up in good times." I've found this to be true. The vine climbing the tree that is exposed to the strongest winds clings closest to the trunk. Self-imposed afflictions like monks or zealots use are of no help. Those from God are meet, right, and salutary. As we pray in one of our Collects, they are used by God to "enable us to so pass through things temporal that we lose not things eternal."

Finally, after a hurricane came through doing what I thought was minor damage, I gave a prayer of thanks in my Louisiana congregation. The president told me after service that a large tree had come down on his house doing tens of thousands of dollars in damage. There will be some now who suffer more than others. This too is not in our hands. Who would want it? The One who sends the rain and sun on the just and unjust knows how much for each serves His loving purposes.

Worth Reading

I found this article from World magazine worth while. It illustrates, to me anyway, that we can't passively sit by as the unbelieving world pitches, pounds, asserts, and assumes there world view.

The arrogance of the new

By Marvin Olasky

At Brazil's Museum of Tomorrow, the past is inferior, and the future is trouble

What respect do we owe the aged—not just old people but old books, artifacts, buildings, and ideas that aren't woke?

My wife and I walked around Rio de Janeiro in December and saw beautiful old buildings including the Municipal Theater and the National Library—but not Brazil's oldest scientific institution, the National Museum. A fire in 2018 destroyed it and its nearly 20 million natural history and anthropological artifacts, along with 470,000 volumes and 2,400 rare works.

Supporters of the museum had said it was a firetrap. They were right: The fire began in an air conditioning unit with loose wiring and without external grounding and individual circuit breakers. Some blamed liberal politicians who had cut funding for traditional museums while throwing \$59 million into building the Museu do Amanhã—Museum of Tomorrow—along the waterfront.

The new building's futuristic exterior is striking. But what's inside is an even more striking combination of left-wing prophecy and child abuse.

Five years ago [I wrote](#) about U.S. science museums that “scare children. Parts of the Smithsonian are a horror film. One poster about oceans blares, ‘Pollution. Climate change. Invasive species. Overfishing. Habitat Destruction. Ocean Acidification.’ Another placard shouts, ‘Global Vanishing Acts. Life can be relatively stable for ages and then—Wham! Mass extinction hits.’”

Rio's Museum of Tomorrow ratchets up the tension. To the noise of thunderstorms and police sirens, Rio children and adults learn their city “will become hotter and more humid. The sea will invade the coastline.” Giant screens shout “MAS MAS MAS. [More, more, more.] WE ARE OVER 7 BILLION AND WE WILL BE MORE.” Then come photographs that make humans seem like swarming insects, with a suggestion that Earth takes revenge: “WE ACT, THE PLANET REACTS.”

Here's what's odd, though: While many dozens of screens display panic about global warming, tucked away on a small interactive display is a different fear. Touch the screen and learn we might be on our way to global cooling, since “the water from the thawing of the eternal ice cover in the north of the planet could reach the Gulf

Stream, [leading to] an increase in the snow cover in the north of the planet, causing a drop in temperature.”

More: “Changes in the gas composition of the atmosphere or variations in the intensity of solar radiation could lead to a major cool down of the planet. Many believe that our Sun could be entering a period of low activity, similar to what happened between 1645 and 1715 ... in which there was a ‘Little Ice Age’ which caused the freezing of the river Thames in England.”

The only common denominator: Climate change of any kind creates trouble. That's silly in some ways, but if we don't believe God created and sustains the world, Earth becomes a fearful place indeed. The Museum of Tomorrow by 99-1 says we will face fire rather than ice, but it's 100 percent Darwinian materialist: “Much has happened since single-celled organisms began to reproduce in the primitive ocean. From that initial biological soup emerged increasingly complex beings.”

Do alternative explanations exist? The museum says all ancient civilizations—no exception for one in ancient Israel—were “based on their myths. ... For many centuries, only mythology and philosophy conjured explanations for the totality of the universe.” Happily, St. Darwin changed all that: We now know that “all animal and plant diversity is the result of the evolutionary process.”

Ironically, the Museum of Tomorrow sells pres-entism: The past was inferior and the future is trouble. But old buildings, books, and artifacts tell a different story: We were physically but not intellectually poorer. Without our national museums, history is high on the ladder of abstraction. We should read new books but keep the old: Some are silver, some are gold. And the best old book teaches us to be humble before God.

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https://world.wng.org/2020/01/the_arrogance_of_the_new

Luther's Small Catechism: Gospel Reductionist Edition

by Todd Wilken

I have written about Gospel Reductionism a lot in the last several years. The reason is that I am

convinced that Gospel Reductionism is alive and well in American Lutheranism.

In its crassest form, Gospel Reductionism replaces the Bible as the source and norm of all theology. It replaces the Bible with the Gospel. The Gospel becomes the standard by which theological ideas are judged to be true or false. Instead of asking, “Does this idea agree with the Bible?” Gospel Reductionism asks, “Does this idea agree with the Gospel?”

Gospel Reductionism is the big, unpaid bill of the 20th century’s Battle for the Bible in American Christianity, and in American Lutheranism in particular. There were two allied, hostile forces during the Battle for the Bible. First and more obviously, there was liberal Bible scholarship. Second and less obviously, there was Gospel Reductionism. Many in American Lutheranism simply surrendered to both. A few didn’t. But among those who entered the battle, most focused their attention almost entirely on combatting liberal Bible scholarship. Relatively few recognized Gospel Reductionism as an enemy allied with liberal Bible scholarship.

Gospel Reductionism invaded Lutheranism along with liberal Bible Scholarship. The “Battle for the Bible” drove back liberal Bible scholarship, but failed to do the same to Gospel Reductionism. Gospel Reductionism stayed, settled down, applied for, and was granted citizenship.

Gospel Reductionism divides the Bible into important doctrines and unimportant doctrines. Doctrines that agree with the Gospel are important. Doctrines that don’t aren’t. What kind of doctrines have been judged to be unimportant? In some cases, Gospel Reductionism eventually decided that most of the Bible had no direct relationship to the Gospel. Today, in denominations where Gospel Reductionism holds sway, almost everything in the Bible can be questioned or denied, up to and including the resurrection of Jesus, all in the name of the Gospel.

Gospel Reductionism also pits Law and Gospel against one another. Some brave souls attempted this to deny the Law entirely, lapsing into complete antinomianism. But true antinomianism is like one of those radioactive isotopes with a very short half-life. It decays quickly, usually into what Christian Smith and Melinda Lundquist Denton

have famously called, “moralistic therapeutic deism.”

In actual practice, Gospel Reductionists have rejected only particular parts and uses of the Law. It’s still wrong to cheat on your wife, unless she’s fine with that. Then you call it “serial non-monogamy.” Killing is wrong, unless the victim is an unborn child, a mentally disabled person, or the elderly.

Gospel Reductionism also manifests itself in less obvious ways. Does your pastor’s preaching and teaching give you the impression that the Gospel is good but the Law is bad, or a necessary evil? He may be under the influence of Gospel Reductionism. Ask your pastor, “Why did God give us His Law?” If he answers, “To show us both our sin and what the life of good works and love for the neighbor looks like,” good! But if he answers, “To show us our sin” and then stops talking, you may well be talking to a Gospel Reductionist. Gospel Reductionism can be found not only in what a pastor says, but also in what he doesn’t say, or refuses to say. If a pastor refuses to say that God’s Law is also teaching God’s good will for the Christian’s life, he is likely under the influence of Gospel Reductionism.

This refusal to talk about the positive teaching of the Law for the Christian is sometimes couched in the language of Christian Freedom. “You are free in Christ” replaces the positive teaching of the Law. What does that freedom look like? Am I free to steal from my employer? Am I free to serve my neighbor by taking her to an abortion clinic? Am I free to serve my Muslim neighbor by worshipping with him at the local mosque? If not, why not? The answers to these questions aren’t found in the Gospel. They are found in the Law. But if the shape of that freedom is deliberately left unspecified, and the positive teaching of the Law is avoided, those answers are never given. This is textbook Gospel Reductionism.

All this is the result of attempting to replace the Bible with the Gospel. If applied consistently, Gospel Reductionism effectively reduces theology to only those very few doctrines that are considered directly related to the Gospel. The Bible is selectively mined for Gospel-friendly ideas. But the Gospel doesn’t exist in a Scriptural vacuum. The Gospel itself depends on the rest of the Bible. As the Bible is reduced, so the Gospel itself is also

reduced to a vague message of divine forgiveness, or more likely today, affirmation.

When I hear pastors make statements like, “How would the Gospel be threatened if Adam and Eve weren’t real, historical people?” or “I’m not too concerned if someone denies the doctrine of _____ as long as they don’t deny the Gospel,” or “The Gospel is all that matters,” I hear the echoes, if not the voice, of Gospel Reductionism.

<http://podcast.issuesetc.org/summer2019.pdf>

A Response to “Thank God, American Churches are Dying”

I wrote the below as you see in 2009. I’m prompted to republish this here because of a February 2020 Wall Street Journal article named above. It praises the fact that while denomination-based churches have been spiraling down for years “nondenominational evangelical churches are growing in number from 54,000 in 1998 to 84,000 in 2012.” Yes, they are growing in number, but they are growing something else. Generic most often Bible-believing Christianity which refuses to commit to what the Bible does and doesn’t say. Read below.

Plain Label Christianity and Hall Monitors

Posted on May 11, 2009 by Rev. Paul R. Harris

There are hundreds of shampoos on the market; far too many to make any logical, rational, certain choice, so I choose one called “Generic Shampoo.” There are hundreds of beers too. All have competing claims and counter claims, so I drink one called **Beer**. There are dozens of cars on the market each claiming to be the best, so I drive one called “Non-Detroit, Japanese, or European.” I reported for jury duty to a large courthouse with many rooms; I couldn’t decide which one to enter, so I stayed in the hall.

Of course, I don’t do any of this. Yet people do this in the matter of religious faith. They choose Non-

denominational believing they have answered the dilemma of competing claims to truth. They reason since all denominations claim to be the truth I’ll choose the one that makes no claims to truth even though by definition a non-denominational church believes all the other denominations are wrong for being a distinct denomination and they are right for not being one.

It is like the generic craze of the early 80s.

Wikipedia, the website everyone sites as untrustworthy except in the area they’re citing it, says this: “In the early 1980s, generic products in the United States had plain white labels with blue or black lettering describing the product in simple terms - “Yellow Cake Mix”, “Tuna In Water”, “Chocolate Flavor Syrup”, “Deodorant Soap” - with only ingredients and preparation details as appropriate. This was during a sharp economic downturn when many consumers were placing more emphasis on value than on brand loyalty. In the U.S. industrial [Midwest](#), a region especially hard hit by the recession, generics became a common sight in supermarkets and discount stores” (wikipedia.org/wiki/Generic_brand).

My new bride and I used these products. I well remember the black label beer, not Carling Black Label mind you, but a white can with black lettering that simply said **Beer**. (It was the first time I knew that 12 fluid ounces was 355 milliliters.) I drank under the label **Beer** but to be sure I was drinking from one of the major breweries of that time. And so non-denominationalists are drinking from one of the major streams of Christianity usually Reformed and probably Armenian Baptist. As I could say by drinking generic beer that I was above the fray of the beer wars, so they can say they are above the fray of denominationalism. But what I did to save a dollar or two, they are doing to save relations with all the other denominations. I’m non-denominational, so I can go to a Baptist, Catholic, or Lutheran church if need be....all the while believing those churches are in fact wrong for being denominations.

This is hypocrisy. I didn’t deny I was drinking beer even if I didn’t know the brand. They claim they aren’t imbibing a particular brand of Christianity when in fact they are. Furthermore, they claim to be

above judging any of the truth claims of denominations when in fact they reject them all. In drinking **Beer**, I wasn't claiming that I was above judging any of the flavor claims of breweries. I was "above" paying for their name. It's "beneath" Non-denominationalists to come out and judge truth. I gained a few bucks; they lose the concept of truth.

C.S. Lewis would've been gentle, I think, with Christians caught up in these non-denomination, denominations. He would've called them *mere* Christians. In fact, in 1943 long before the existence of Non-denominational as a denomination, he likened this type of Christian to a person who remains in the hall rather than go into one of the several rooms off the hall. He can't yet bring himself to go into any of the rooms of the existing communions of faith, so he stands out in the hall. Lewis goes on to say, "But it is in the rooms, not in the hall, that there are fires and chairs and meals. The hall is a place to wait in, a place from which to try the various doors, not a place to live in. For that purpose, the worst of the rooms (whichever that may be) is, I think preferable" (*Mere Christianity*, 11-12).

Yes, with Lewis we can be gentle with a Christian in the common hall of Christianity, but I think we should be more like no-nonsense hall monitors when it comes to generic denominations. They are harming the Body of Christ when they invite people to make the heatless, restless, foodless hall a place to live.

ELCA "A Social Statement on Abortion", Adopted August 28-September 4, 1991

I presented the below to the February 23, 2020 Bible Class. I did so after citing a 1953 commentary on Luke where William Barclay quotes the Roman orator Seneca in 60 A.D. saying that the Romans, drowned the weak and deformed children. Then Barclay says, "Things like that cannot happen today because slowly, but inevitably, the kingdom is on the way" (181). Twenty years after Barclay wrote that the U.S. legalized abortion. It is now legal up to the very moment of birth and the debate is about what if a baby meant to be aborted is nevertheless born alive and whether their body

parts can be used and sold. The videos exposing that Planned Parenthood was indeed doing the latter were never denied by them to be factual. However, the pro-abortion judge in the case never allowed the court trying the man who made the videos to see them (World, Jan. 18, 2020, p. 40). There is no debate about destroying the unborn in the womb with fetal abnormalities. Below is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's official statement on abortion and what to do with seriously deformed babies. Yes, this almost 30 year old statement is the ELCA's latest. Yes, as a member of the ELCA, this is what you are saying you believe. Yes, if you go to Communion with the ELCA, whether at their churches or at open Communion LCMS churches or others, you are saying that you're okay with this social statement. So, do you think those who believe the below meet the Lord Jesus at His altar as Savior or Judge?

B. Ending a Pregnancy

"This church recognizes that there can be sound reasons for ending a pregnancy through induced abortion. The following provides guidance for those considering such a decision. We recognize that conscientious decisions need to be made in relation to difficult circumstances that vary greatly. What is determined to be a morally responsible decision in one situation may not be in another. In reflecting ethically on what should be done in the case of an unintended pregnancy, consideration should be given to the status and condition of the life in the womb. We also need to consider the conditions under which the pregnancy occurred and the implications of the pregnancy for the woman's life.

An abortion is morally responsible in those cases in which continuation of a pregnancy presents a clear threat to the physical life of the woman.

A woman should not be morally obligated to carry the resulting pregnancy to term if the pregnancy occurs when both parties do not participate willingly in sexual intercourse. This is especially true in cases of rape and incest. This can also be the case in some situations in which women are so dominated and oppressed that they have no choice regarding sexual intercourse and little access to contraceptives. Some conceptions occur under dehumanizing conditions that are contrary to God's purposes.

There are circumstances of extreme fetal abnormality, which will result in severe suffering and very early death of an infant. In such cases, after competent medical consultations, the parent(s) may responsibly choose to terminate the pregnancy. Whether they choose to continue or to end such pregnancies, this church supports the parent(s) with compassion, recognizing the struggle involved in the decision.

Although abortion raises significant moral issues at any stage of fetal development, the closer the life in the womb comes to full term the more serious such issues become. When a child can survive outside a womb, it becomes possible for other people, and not only the mother, to nourish and care for the child. This church opposes ending intrauterine life when a fetus is developed enough to live outside a uterus with the aid of reasonable and necessary technology. If a pregnancy needs to be interrupted after this point, every reasonable and necessary effort should be made to support this life, unless there are lethal fetal abnormalities indicating that the prospective newborn will die very soon.

Our biblical and confessional commitments provide the basis for us to continue deliberating together on the moral issues related to these decisions. We have the responsibility to make the best possible decisions in light of the information available to us and our sense of accountability to God, neighbor, and self. In these decisions, we must ultimately rely on the grace of God” (, 6-7) .

“The position of this church is that, in cases where the life of the mother is threatened, where pregnancy results from rape or incest, or where the embryo or fetus has lethal abnormalities incompatible with life, abortion prior to viability should not be prohibited by law or by lack of public funding of abortions for low income women. On the other hand, this church supports legislation that prohibits abortions that are performed after the fetus is determined to be viable, except when the mother’s life is threatened or when lethal abnormalities indicate the prospective newborn will die very soon. Beyond these situations, this church neither supports nor opposes laws prohibiting abortion” (Ibid., 10).

NB This is not the whole statement. You can read the whole thing for yourself here:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/AbortionSS.pdf?_ga=2.32970232.737049347.15829

96533-1891046616.1582306829 . You can find all the ELCA’s apostatizing theology here. I saw long ago that the then Lutheran Church in America was very open about their denial of basic Christian truths in their magazine The Lutheran which the ELCA changed to Living Lutheran in the 2010’s. Not long after the LCMS began publishing Lutherans Engage the World. If you want to see where the LCMS, Inc. is going or where open Communion LCMS churches are now visit this website.

The Dawkins Deficiency

A brother in the ministry said in response to my saying I was done writing papers as of 2018, “So why continue to read books?” That stuck with me. I read about 17 theological books a year. I eventually type up my notes. I will never be able to share all of this with you, the congregation, who buys me those books. So, I’m going to start sharing my notes. Below are my notes from the 2011 book named above. prh

Evolution – Natural Selection

Natural selection, Survival of the Fittest is a synonym, selects for neither long-term survival nor an improvement in the species because it operates only on the current environment not on future ones. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 16)

Evolution – Survival of the Fittest no proof of

“In general, we have no substantive evidence of the selection pressures to which earlier organisms and animals were subjected and thus, have no evidence that any particular characteristic presumed to have evolved would be favorable or unfavorable in a survival sense in the then current environment.” (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 17)

Evolution – not scientifically verifiable

Darwin’s theory formulated on a number of scientific errors which had they been recognized he probably wouldn’t have published. For example: Vestigial organs that are now understood to have functions; using the number of chromosomes as “incontrovertible evidence” that humans and chimps have a common ancestor. Further research shows the number of chromosomes proves nothing. “One does not need scientific training of any degree to question whether a theory founded on scientific error, and continually supported by scientific error,

can truly be said to be *scientifically-proven*. The errors do not necessarily disprove the theory, but they do raise doubts as to its credibility.” (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 25-6)

Evolution – Logical fallacy

This logical fallacy permeates the entire theory: “*unwarranted generalization*. In a literary context, the fallacy is ‘in thinking that a particular can be extended to a generalization just because it suits what we want the text to say, or in thinking that text says more than it actually does.’ In the evolution context, it is the extrapolation of biological processes to account for historical activities without any substantive evidence that such has, or even could, occur.” (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 36)

Evolution – Scientists question

“For example, a group of well-qualified scientists have publicly declared ‘that they are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life;’” in Edwards, Mark, 100 *Scientists, National Poll Challenge Darwinism*, 2001. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 47)

Evolution – built on assumptions

Evolutionist Dawkins asserts: “Generations of hens chose to mate with bright, glowing males, rather than the dull brown creatures that the males would surely have remained but for selective breeding by females’ (p. 54, *Greatest Show on Earth*).” “I guess that proves it: we assume that the male would prefer to be dull, but because the female is assumed to like colorful, only the colorful get to mate and the dull become extinct. I see a lot of presumption there, but an absence of scientific proof.” (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 57)

Evolution – Geologic column

Areas where all 10 layers are found complete are just 1% of the Earth’s surface. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 78)

Evolution – Dating Wrong

Rocks from Bass Sill, Colorado River dates by potassium-argon dating at 841 million, rubidium-strontium at 1,055 million, uranium-lead 1,249 million, & samarium-neodymium 1,375 million. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 76)

Evolution – Dating wrong

Mt. Ngauruhoe, New Zealand, observed erupting in 1949, ’54, & ’75. Rocks from those eruptions sent for dating. Aged from .27 million to 3.5 million years old. Rocks observed to form from lava 25-50 years old. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 74)

Evolution – Uranium dating

“A strengthening nuclear force during cosmological history would be expected to result in a slowing down of nuclear decay rates and a corresponding exaggeration of ages calculated from current nuclear half-lives.” (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 72)

Evolution – The Big Bang

“This model [the Big Bang] contradicts the laws of science as we know them. It assumes that at one time the laws were different and then stabilized to the versions we have now. So, some branches of science are utterly dependent upon uniformitarianism being untrue, while others require it to be absolutely true.” (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 71)

Evolution – Dating Wrong

Russian scientist V.S. Troitskii says the speed of light was much faster in the past as much as 10^{10} . If true, then the universe and earth are much younger. Also, decay rates of radioactive isotopes would have slowed over time making wrong ages calculated by assuming a constant rate of decay. “Particle physicists at the NEC Research Institute at Princeton apparently have indications that light pulses can be accelerated to up to 300 times their normal velocity of 186,282 miles per second.” (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 73)

Evolution – Carbon 14 dating

One source says this began in the 1940s using Egyptian artifacts whose age was known, so C-14 dating could be calibrated. Later found out that the dating of Egyptian pharaohs was wrong by centuries. Has C-14 dating ever been recalibrated? (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 84)

Evolution – Young Earth proved by population

“Did you know that it has been calculated that with a growth rate of less than 0.5%, six people could

become today's billions in just 4,500 years?"

(*Dawkins Deficiency*, 88)

Evolution – Fossil Record

"Even if the fossil record is incomplete for the reasons proffered by Darwin, it is curious that only the fossils of partly functional animals are missing."

(*Dawkins Deficiency*, 92)

Evolution – Radiometric Dating

In 2005 Dr. Mary Schweitzer announced the discovery of soft tissue in a 68 million year old dinosaur bone. Soft tissue such as collagen can't survive millions of years, so the bone couldn't be anywhere near the millions of years radiometric dating said it was. "If the age of dinosaurs was just a few thousand years ago, not tens of millions, the whole edifice of evolution theory begins to crumble." (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 94)

Evolution – Darwin admits geology defeats

"Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links?

Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain; and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory?" (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 95)

Evolution – Fossil record falsifies

Stephen Gould and Niles Eldridge, both paleontologists and the first was an evolutionary biologist: "The extreme rarity of transitional forms in the fossil record persists as the trade secret of paleontology. The evolutionary trees that adorn our textbooks have data only at the tips and nodes of their branches; the rest is inference, however reasonable, not the evidence of fossils." (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 97)

Evolution – fossil record

Whale evolution from land to water is found over a period of years in different countries. It started with a few skull bones in Pakistan called *Pakicetus*, literally "whale of Pakistan". No bones were found other than of the skull and a small skull it was. In a sequence of interpreting it was thought that the middle ear structure was similar to whales today, so it was a prehistoric ancestor of the whale. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 102)

Evolution – fossil record flimsy

The Nebraska Man which was claimed to be the first higher primate in North America was based on single tooth. Later it was shown to belong to an extinct pig. Lucy is based on 5.2 million year old toe bone and partial skeletons found 10 miles away. The toe was part of the evidence that Lucy walked upright. The fossil bones for Lucy make up only 40% of the skeleton, don't include the upper jaw, and most of the skull, hand or foot bones. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 110-112)

Evolution – is there enough time

If the population is 1 million about 10 children in every generation will carry a new mutation. If the population is only about 1,000 to 10,000 a mutation offspring will appear only once in a hundred or so generations, and so is effectively a unique event. If you allow an average of 20 years between generations in a large population that is 150,000 mutations in small populations that's just 1,500. Since most mutations are harmful anyway, 15% is not enough to carry forward a positive trait. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 116)

Evolution – Vestigial organs

The coccyx, triangular bone at base of spine, is fully functional and necessary. The only reason people say it's the remnant of a vestigial tail is because evolutionary theory wants it that way. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 139)

Evolution – using computers to prove

"One cannot design an experiment or computer program to simulate random behavior in an unknown environment; all such efforts are the product of intelligent design, and there is no reason to believe that they, in any way, represent some unknown reality in the past." (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 143)

Evolution – enough time

10 million years, twice the time since chimp/human common ancestor is said to have lived, is there enough time for only 1,667 substitutions of one gene for another favorable one. Only 0.001% of the needed changes could be made in that time. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 147)

Evolution – impossible by definition

Fred Hoyle, Cambridge astronomer and physicist calculated the probability of the first cell, needing about 2,000 enzymes to occur through evolution processes even taking 500 million years would be 1 in $10^{40,000}$. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 148)

Evolution – no evidence of mutation

We can experiment with bacteria and make 45,000 generations. You'd expect here at least some evidence of progression. There are no real biological experiments that support the claims of mutations by evolutionists. Evolutionary biologist Futuyma: "How important is the process of mutation? If there were no mutation, there would be no evolution." Mutation is the only process capable of adding new information to the genome. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 170)

Evolution – Mutation

Mutation is needed for evolution. Evolutionists say there is so little because of the efficiency of the error correcting mechanism. So, the correcting mechanism preserves the integrity of the genome, but evolution depends on the distribution of the integrity of the genome. "So why did the error correcting mechanism evolve?" (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 177)

Evolution – chance of beneficial mutation and time

"One calculation revealed that if a new trait required 500 successive evolutionary steps, the chance of it occurring is approximately 2.7×10^{-2739} . (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 178)

Evolution – Mutation as a mechanism

"The hypothesis that a mutation will have only a beneficial effect is theoretically possible, but in practice improbable, and it has yet to be scientifically-validated." "As one scientist has observed, 'Not even one mutation has been observed that adds a little information to the genome,' concluding, 'the failure to observe even one mutation that adds information is more than just a failure to find support for the theory, s evidence against the theory.'" (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 183, 184)

Evolution – can survival of the fittest be inherited

A characteristic that is 100% due to hereditariness is given a value of 1. 0 is for a trait not inherited at all. Because fitness is determined by such a variety of traits it's heritability is given as low as .004. "The essential point is that contrary to evolution theory, there is scientific evidence that only a tiny fraction of survival fitness can be inherited." (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 197)

Evolution – Natural selection argues both ways

We're told that the natural selection leads the female sedge warbler to prefer "full-throated males because they should make good foragers" but we're also told, the female lyrebird naturally selects males who neglect his offspring and that avoids bringing the nest to the attention of predators. (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 196)

Original Sin – downward spiral

Dr. James Crow, Professor Emeritus of Genetics at the University of Wisconsin has estimated that "the fitness of the human population is now degenerating 1-2% per generation.' although he believes that this degeneration will level off.'" (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 186)

Evolution – System theory says impossible

How is the brain enabled to decode the data encoded in electro-chemical signals transmitted by the optic nerve and from that to correctly interpret the external environment? "No system of coded information or language can be translated or interpreted by reference to itself alone, not even by chance." (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 221)

Evolution – not supported by science

Behe, an Intelligent Design guy said, "Molecular evolution is not based on scientific authority. There is no publication in the scientific literature – in prestigious journals, specialty journals, or books – that describes how molecular evolution of any real, complex, biochemical system either did not occur or even might have occurred. There are assertions that such evolution occurred, but absolutely none are supported by pertinent experiments or calculations." (*Dawkins Deficiency*, 240)

**ALL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES ARE CANCELLED
UNTIL CITY LIFTS THE LOCKDOWN ORDER.**

APRIL 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
			7:30 PM LENTEN VESPERS			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12:30 PM CRAWFISH BOIL	5:00 PM JR. CONFIRMATION (IF NEEDED)			7:30 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR W/COMMUNION	7:30 PM GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF DARKNESS W/COMMUNION	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30 AM THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD	5:00 PM JR. CONFIRMATION TESTING	PASTOR ON VACATION 14th-28th				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
PASTOR ON VACATION 14th-28th						
26	27	28	29	30		
PASTOR ON VACATION			7:15 PM JAMES BIBLE CLASS			

MAY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			7:15 PM JAMES BIBLE CLASS			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		6:30 PM ELDERS METTING	7:15 PM JAMES BIBLE CLASS			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			7:15 PM JAMES BIBLE CLASS			
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
5 PM ASCENSION DINNER			7:15 PM JAMES BIBLE CLASS			

Trinity Lutheran Church
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