

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

March 16, 2008

Some Fell by the Wayside

Luke 8: 5 A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

Luke 8: 11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those by the way side are they that hear; **then comes the devil, and takes away the word out of their hearts**, lest they should believe and be saved.

The word of God being sown in our hearts is **an on-going lifetime process**. It does not happen just once it happens over and over for as long as we live on earth. Each time the word of God presents a truth that is new to us we are faced with the choice of how to react to it. The truth that is new to us will be in opposition to the ignorance that we had before the new truth showed up. Once the new truth shows up in our perception we may either accept it and toss out our former ignorance that is in opposition to the new truth or we may reject the new truth and cling to our ignorance. Once we are aware of the truth that is new to us we must accept it or continue dogmatically in our ignorance. For as long as we live each new truth presents that challenge to each of us.

Sometimes the choice is easy. That is usually true when accepting a "new-to-us" truth that does not require anything but mental acknowledgement. When changing ignorance for truth on something that will require danger, pain, sacrifice, persecution and perhaps even early death the choice may not be so easy. When accepting or rejecting a truth is the difference in continuing in our relatively comfortable and certainly familiar path of ignorance or being dumped suddenly out of where we are into a new and hostile environment we may find ourselves very tempted to **build a case against accepting the truth**. So the question becomes, **accepting the truth compared to what? Each truth presents a different degree of challenge to each person that is faced with it**. The challenge the truth presented to the rich young ruler was, sell it, give it and follow, or remain where you are. The young man was intelligent enough to be very unhappy with his choice but nevertheless he chose at least for that day to reject the invitation of the Savior and remain where he was. We are not told what his excuses were for doing that or what his thought process was in choosing as he did. The devil succeeded at least for that day in taking the words of Jesus out of the young man's heart. Before that day the young man had made a whole lot of correct choices about truth in his lifetime. A number of those were probably very challenging to make. But the problem is that **each truth that is new to me presents a new challenge all its own**. Each time I am faced with the challenge of some truth that is new to me **I am faced with the possibility of making the wrong choice**. (Matthew 19:16-22)

Hearts are not stone. Hearts may change. We may have been good ground on yesterday's choices and the wayside today depending on what has happened to our heart in the interval, or on what accepting the truth is going to cost us in this latest case. **Conflicts of interest best define whose servant we actually are**. Each human has at some point in their life had a heart that could be compared to each of the four kinds of soil conditions that Jesus spoke of. Jesus challenged us to understand that we may not love anything more than we love Jesus if we expect to be among those saved by the blood of Jesus. Jesus was telling us that in accepting the truth each time we are challenged by a conflict of interest **we have only one acceptable choice to make**. We must choose to go with the truth. We must follow the teachings of Jesus. I cannot lie to protect loved ones because when I lie I turn my back on Jesus and on the truth Jesus taught. I cannot participate with sinners in their sins because when I do that I turn my back on Jesus and on the truth that Jesus taught. I cannot gratify my own sinful appetites because when I do I turn my back on Jesus and on the truth He taught. (Matthew 10:37)

When faced with a new truth I must accept it and if I need too, in order to accept it, I must repent. **Repentance is not something that that a godly person does once only at the beginning of their walk with God**. Repentance is something that a godly person does every time they realize that there is some thought or deed in them that according to God's revealed will does not please God. Repentance is not just a word we say. **Repentance is what we do in ceasing to do or think what God has said in the New Testament does not please Him and beginning to do what God has said does please Him**. Each day when I read the Holy Bible I am challenged by the examples of the Old Testament and by the commandments of the New Testament to either make each point what I am or to continue in ignorance and ungodliness in the area of instruction that I am considering. That challenge is exactly the same today on each point that it was when I was too immature to read the text for myself and instead others read it to me.

The shepherd boy David faced a challenge in Goliath. David had reason to believe that God was able to use David to defeat Goliath on the battlefield. It was not just wishful thinking on David's part. David had already with God's help killed a lion and a bear. Either animal was designed to kill its opponents but David had been victorious over both. It was only logical that if David could kill a lion and a bear David could if God chose kill Goliath. (1 Samuel 17)

A further consideration was that Goliath had made himself the enemy of God's people and David knew from history what happened to enemies of God's people **if God's people had enough faith in God to do what God told them to do**. David chose to go with the truth and Goliath was soon dead.

Later, as King of the Israelites David was again challenged. This time David was challenged by his desire for the wife of one of his outstanding military men. **The truth was that for David to engage in sexual intercourse with the woman was sin**. The lie was the idea that the fact that David desired her made any difference. It does not make any difference how much a person desires to sin they must not sin if they plan to be on good terms with God. My desire is not the question. **WHAT IS GOD'S REVEALED WILL IS THE ONLY QUESTION!** The challenge to King David was that if David did God's will David would never ever be able to engage in sexual intercourse with Uriah the Hittite's wife. **The devil was able to take God's word out of David's heart** and David chose to obey his own desire instead of the word of God. **In that choice David's heart was not good ground**. (1 Kings 15:5)

Remember to Pray For

The Nations family in the death of Sharon's Uncle Clarence Bailey
Lewis Harrod
Dan Moody
Karen Rowe
Carl, Anne and Alexa Ann Harper
Cheryl Spear
Lanny Hiller
Roselyn Agyare
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox
Divya Srinivasan
Donnie & Tracy Oliver & their baby
Helen Stephens
Brayden Grushon
The mother of Lori Dailey
Jeffrey Howerton
Ruel Baker
Addison Pervine
Carl Stripplehoff
Sybil Jamison
Blanch Thompson
Karen Handshoe
Tom Kemp
Freda Blakey
James Stauffer

From the Dawn of Time They Speak

They may not be the particular variety that inhabits my backyard, but they are still very recognizable insects that were trapped in amber while doing the insect things that God designed the insects to do. If those insects were in a group of other insects on my picnic table this summer they would not stand out from the crowd in any way. They would just be insects in a group of insects. Yet these are insects from ages ago that are supposed to be part of a parade of evolving life forms. Why are they not evidence of macroevolution? Why are they evidence that insects have always been insects and that insects have never been anything else and that there has never been any macroevolution?

The amber-trapped insects are evidence against the theory of macroevolution because everything living on earth is evidence against the theory of macroevolution. If, as they are at a given time, they are able to live and do well why would they evolve into some other life form? The idea that a life form that has a liver evolved from another life form that had no liver is absolute nonsense. If a life form lives and does well without a liver it does not need a liver and so why would it ever get a liver?

The development of a liver system would have to start in the genetics. The liver would have to be coordinated in its development with all of the other new parts that go with a liver in order to make the new system work and what is happening to the organism while this transition takes place? It would not "evolve" it would die.

Every living organism on earth is proof that macroevolution is not science.

Thoughts

In the past from time to time a great plague would sweep across the land killing multitudes of people. None of those plagues ever destroyed the entire population. There were always people who survived. Some would become ill but the illness would not in their case be fatal. There would be others that would never even become sick. Those who survived did not survive because their system had developed some new thing that allowed them to overcome the disease unaided. Those who survived were able to survive because their system already possessed all of the equipment needed to allow them to successfully combat without medical help the effects of the disease. When people became ill of a disease for which there was no medical cure at the time they either had the equipment needed to recover or they died. They did not develop anything. What their body used to successfully combat the disease was what their body got from their parents. Their parents got it from their parents who got it from their parents and so on all of the way back to Adam who got what he had from the inventions of God.

The descendants of those who survived the plague would re-populate the area. Since they received the survival equipment from both parents the descendants would pass it on at an elevated rate as when a brown-eyed person with parents who are brown eyed marries a brown-eyed person whose parents are brown eyed. They will have a whole lot of brown-eyed children, not because they have developed something new but just because of the way genetics work. They have not developed a single thing that was not already in the genetic potentials of their ancestors. If there were no genetic potential for brown eyes in the ancestors there would be no brown eyes in the family, ever.

The same thing is true of the natural ability either to successfully combat unaided or to be completely unaffected by a particular disease that kills most humans. If you were not born with the genetics to do it you will not ever have that ability except by artificially contrived means such as inoculation. Your immunity because of inoculation will not pass on to your children.

The point is this there is no demonstrated mechanics for any variation beyond the already existing gene pool of a given species. In other words there is no machinery by which macroevolution may happen. You can breed fruit flies until the cows come home and all you end up with is many, many varieties of FRUIT FLIES demonstrating the large and varied genetic potential of the genes of fruit flies. You will have fruit flies galore but they will all be fruit flies from beginning to end. The same thing is true of horses, dogs, cats, chickens, cows, pigs, pigeons and all of the multitude of things that humankind has bred since the dawn of time. There are lots and lots and lots of varieties but a pig is a pig and a dog is a dog and a horse is a horse from the beginning to the end.

Genesis 1: 24 "And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so." AND SO IT STILL IS.

Notes

Men's business meeting today, March 16, at 3:00PM

**REMEMBER OUR GOSPEL
MEETING WITH GARY HENRY
PREACHING APRIL 6-11**

Genesis 1: 26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." "In our image, after our likeness" is an enlightening thing for the Creator to say about the part of His creation that creates. We are made in the Creator's image so it is not surprising that humans create but could you imagine nailing overlapping shingles on a roof as being a God-like activity? We employ overlapping shingles made of many materials for various purposes as our knowledge, imagination, and the problems to be solved direct. Most roofs are made of overlapping shingles. We place the shingles for function and appearance.

God did it first. In the "Discovery Book", (pg. 17) "Insects and Spiders" there is a picture of a highly magnified section of a butterfly wing. There are around 35,000 overlapping scales per square inch of wing area on a butterfly or a moth. Each of these millions of scales is individually attached to the wing membrane. The scales have many colors and are covered with thin parallel plates that successively reflect light to create shimmering, iridescent colors. On some butterflies each scale is lined with tiny grooves that improve the iridescence. Designs on the wings of butterflies and moths result from the placement and color of each tiny overlapping scale.

SO USING OVERLAPPING SHINGLES IS GOD-LIKE WORK SINCE GOD DID IT FIRST

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages

7:30pm

Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

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**COME STUDY THE BIBLE
AND WORSHIP WITH US**