

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, November 2, 2014

Volume 19, Number 44

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

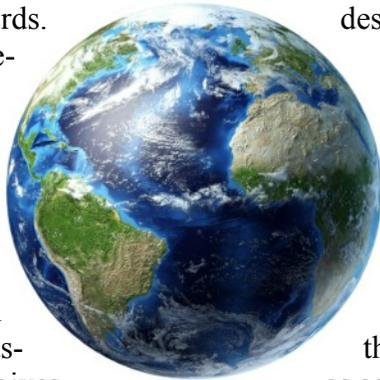
THE HEAVENS DECLARE ...

by Bob Pulliam

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and the words to the end of the world.”

(Psalm 19:1-4a)

THREE THOUSAND YEARS before the “Age of Reason”, David penned these immortal words. They are timeless because they speak of an evidence for God that touches daily living and our very existence. That we have an environment in which we can dwell, ordered by masterful design, gives thought of a designer. There is a



declaration made by “design”. Design would declare the existence of the one who did the designing.

Structures from houses to skyscrapers declare the existence of their architects. Planes from Pipers to F-15 Strike Eagles declare the existence of their engineers. Items as common as watches demand the existence of a designer.

We would see none of these and conclude that they just happened. Not even by a process of billions of years would we believe them to have just happened. Yet that is exactly what many people expect us to conclude about the universe around us. But why should there be a difference between the mechanisms designed by mankind, and the mechanisms designed by God? There is a big difference which causes a break in logic.

Broken Logic...

So why would one see a watch, and believe that there was a designer; but also see the universe and deny a designer? The reason is simply a matter of philosophy. If the designer of the watch exists, the user of the watch has no obligation of life to its designer. Simply read the time from its face and go on. If you were to set the time on its face incorrectly, the designer would

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not come to correct or punish you. If you do not use your time wisely, the watch designer would not rebuke you. But what if there is a designer of the universe? Now you are touching the very existence of our personal being. If the universe is designed, then so also are you and I. If we are designed, then we must follow the design of this creator. If we wish to live our lives without the constraints of such an almighty creator, we must deny what would otherwise be a logical conclusion.

Design and Law...

This is the reason one can see the argument of design for a watch; but not for the world.

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

EPHESIANS 1 - 6;
PHILEMON

November 2 - 4

OLD TESTAMENT READING

II SAMUEL 5 - 10;
PSALMS 12 - 20

November 5 - 8

I TIMOTHY 4:13

While the heavens do declare the glory of God; they are also declaring our obligation to serve God in accordance with His laws. From the glory of God in His creation (Ps 19:1-6), the Psalmist immediately breaks into a tribute to the "law of the Lord" (Ps 19:7-14). The transition between creation and God's law is not a disjointed change of subject. The around us creation demands a law. Creation follows God's laws in all of its movements (*e.g.* the earth around the sun). Mankind must also follow the law of God, for he also is created. Without following the law of God, we fail to glorify our God. We must let Him call the shots, or we deny Him.

We do not appreciate this law of design when we lie down for sleep. It keeps us breathing, and our heart beating. We awaken and continue living without consideration of the laws that kept us living. Our bodies do things to keep us alive of which we take little thought. Osmosis and peristalsis keep us alive as we enjoy life around us. God's laws of nature causes these things to work in our favor; and yet we do not seek His favor as diligently as these processes work for our benefit.

Enormity of Design...

Consider the concept of many different factors working together to give us a livable planet. The first factor is our distance from the sun. Any closer and the oceans would vaporize. Any further and the polar ice caps would build to dangerous levels. Our distance from the sun is maintained by the speed of our orbit around it. The earth travels at 18 miles per second (1,080 miles per

minute, or 64,800 mph) through space to make its one year journey around the sun. Any faster and we would swing away from our source of heat. Any slower and we would be drawn to a fiery death.

The earth is tilted 23 degrees in relation to its orbit around the sun. This gives us our seasons, and along with its twenty-four hour rotation (at 1,000 mph) keeps our planet from getting the sun's radiation in unhealthy doses.

The gasses in our atmosphere are blended just right for life. Nitrogen is actually the major component of the air we breathe. If oxygen were the major component, we would have burned up long ago. How did our atmosphere arrive at this happy coincidence for life and safety?... We are supposed to believe it just happened, rather than believe it was designed.

Have you ever compared the capability of a camera lens to the human eye? You know the camera was designed by someone. What about the far greater optical system of the eyes?

An innumerable host of factors that make our existence possible could be called to bear. The number of them is just as significant as their individual importance. The number of factors makes blind chance an absurd explanation for their origin. And the precision of each factor shows that a design is present. Design would ordinarily demand a designer. Why would we think otherwise in the case of creation?

Conclusion...

It took NASA years to get a man to the moon, exercising an
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FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Gospel Meeting (Dee Bowman)
January 11 - 14, 2015

Gospel Meeting (Carl McMurray)
April 12 - 15, 2015

V.B.S.
June 21 - 25, 2015

Annual Singing
September 12, 2015

Gospel Meeting (Jim Deason)
September 13 - 16, 2015

Sick and Shut-Ins

(Declare, continued from pg 2...)

extensive amount of knowledge to shoot a projectile from Earth to an interception point 240,000 miles away, and sustain life within that projectile so that a safe return was possible. Because of that feat, many have this feeling that mankind can overcome any obstacle that the universe throws his way. But we still understand little about this world in which we live.

Science continually claims victories in the cause of proving that we are the result of chance in an evolutionary process. Nothing of the sort has actually been "proven". Science is usually abandoned for theory and conjecture when it comes time to answer the question of origins. When we repair the broken logic that intellectual honesty demands, we are forced to the conclusion that there is a God. My friend, the heavens declare it!

PP

Preaching Abroad...

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

Crossing Jordan's Flow

Tonight:

The Word of God
Is Not Chained

FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

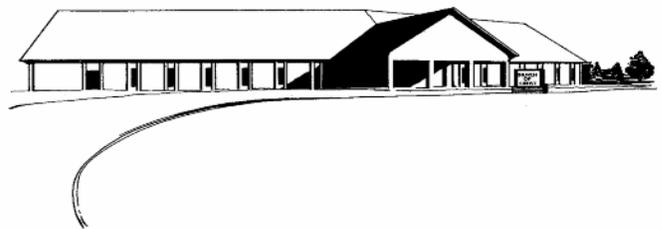
MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

ELDERS:

Ruben Amador
Matthew Heaton
Donnie Mangrum
Steven Martin
Steve Voss



DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	Mike McMurray
Jason Mock	David Stevenson
Glenn Tomblin	

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

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