



December 3, 2017

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

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If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see the Pastor after the service, drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with the Pastor, or call the church office.

Announcements

Deacon Nominations Being Taken

We are still taking more nominations for the office of deacon. Mention your nominee to Bob, Tim, or any other deacon, and they will take it from there. Thanks!

Cocoa, Coffee, Cookies, and Carols

We will start off the Christmas holiday season with a service of familiar carols tonight! This special service will take place in the Fellowship Hall, and will include hot cocoa, coffee and cookies! Bring a batch of your favorite homemade (or not!) cookies to share! The cocoa, coffee, and carols will be provided.

Sacred Harp Singing

The Savannah Sacred Harp Singers will meet on Saturday, **December 9**, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Come on by to sing Christ-honoring four part acapella music for fun! Loaner books are available. Talk to Dawn Stanford if you have any questions.

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, **December 12**, 7:00 p.m.

Church Wide Christmas Banquet

Our annual Christmas Banquet is Wednesday, **December 13**. Sign up in the hall!

Continued on p. 4

This Week at FABC

Today

Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Christmas Choir Practice	4:00 p.m.
Adult Choir Practice	4:45 p.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Dinner: Fish	5:45 p.m.
Youth and Awana	6:30 p.m.
Prayer & Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

FABC Deacons

Shawn Champion	433-0098
Bobby Deloach (CH)	667-8867
Mickey Fell	920-4557
Ron Fowler	901-409-8628
Jimmy Kicklighter	355-5616
Jack Moore	547-5000
Billy Morris, Sr.	398-1038
Joe Morris	398-0125
Steve Posner	704-5617
Kelly Stanford	441-2151
Michael Walker	655-2497
Ric Zittrouer	210-0344

10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

* Opening Chorus & Greeting
“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”
Words are on the back of the bulletin

* Call to Worship
Micah 4:2

* Hymn #83
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Scripture Reading
Luke 1:26-45
Shawn Champion

Special Music
“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”
You can follow along on p. 5

Receiving of Tithes And
Offerings

* Hymn #89
“Angels, We Have Heard on
High”

Message
Bob Dimmitt
Metaphysical Longings, Part 2
Ecclesiastes 3:10-13, Ecclesiastes #15

* Hymn, to right
“Doxology”

6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Refer to the Carol Booklet for all
the music tonight!

Responsive Reading

“Come, Thou
Long-Expected Jesus”

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

“Away in a Manger”

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Responsive Reading

“Joy to the World”

“Angels from the
Realms of Glory”

“The First Noel”

Message
Bob Dimmitt
The Virgin Shall Conceive...
Isaiah 7:10-16

“Doxology”

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings
flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

* All those who are able, please stand.

A.M. Notes

Metaphysical Longings, Part 2

Ecclesiastes #15

Ecclesiastes 3:10-13

(1) God... has made everything beautiful (or, “appropriate”; the same word is trans. “proper” elsewhere) in its time, God in His providential plans and control has an appropriate time for every activity.

(2) God has put eternity in the hearts of men. People have a longing or desire to know the extra temporal (outside of time or another dimension, that which explains reality) significance of themselves and their deeds or activities.

(3) people cannot know the sovereign, eternal, plan of God.

Genesis 3:1-6

I believe that practically speaking this “knowing good and evil” carries the idea of man determining for himself what is good or evil, labeling things or categorizing things as he sees fit.

Man in his rebellion to God pushes on, trying to do the impossible; discover meaning within himself, on his own, and in created things.

What does this look like in every-day living?

Hindu word advaita (advaita), meaning “not two.”

Scripture affirms two-ism (**the Creator/creature distinction and all the distinctions God creates in the cosmos He made.**)

Keep in mind that:

Two-ism believes _____

Two-ism believes _____

Two-ist spirituality _____

Continued from p. 1

Sunday School

Our Membership Conference being held during the Sunday School hour should finish up the morning of **December 17**. In the evening worship time that day, we will have our Question and Answer session. If you have any question you would like answered during this time, please write it down and place it in the designated box in the church foyer.

Poinsettias

Janice Donaldson is helping Christine Noha out with the poinsettias this year. If you would like one placed in the sanctuary, please call the office and let Janice know.

Directories

New directories and flashlights are in the foyer!

Food Pantry

This needs replenishing. A list of needed items is on the bulletin board!

A real church as set forth in the NT is not a support group. It's not a social club or a counseling center. It's a family of redeemed sinners who have God as their Father through their union with Jesus Christ. It's a body knit together by the Holy Spirit so that together all are built up and strengthened and loved. Church is God's idea.

God uses chronic pain and weakness, along with other afflictions, as His chisel for sculpting our lives. Felt weakness deepens dependence on Christ for strength each day. The weaker we feel, the harder we lean.

J.I. Packer

Weekly Catechism Question

Question #29:

How does Christ perform the office of a priest?

Answer:

Christ performs the office of a priest by once offering himself as a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and to reconcile us to God; and by making continual intercession for us before God..

Scripture:

1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 2:17; 7:25; 9:28; Ephesians 5:2; Romans 8:34



Annual Christmas Banquet

**Wednesday,
December 13
7:00 p.m.**

Menu will include
Prime Rib, Barbecue,
Ham, Vegetables and
Desserts.

\$7.00 per adult,
\$4.00 per child over 3,
and no family need pay
over \$25!

Music

Of the Father's Love Begotten (Divinum Mysterium)

1. Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be
He is Alpha and Omega
He the source the ending He
Of the things that are that have been
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore

2. O ye heights of heaven adore Him
Angel-hosts His praises sing
Powers dominions bow before Him
And extol our God and King
Let no tongue on earth be silent
Every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore

3. Christ to Thee with God the Father
And O Holy Ghost to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unwearied praises be
Honour glory and dominion
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore

CCLI Song # 4780029

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius | Henry Williams Baker | John Mason Neale | Theodoricus Petrus

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Articles

Apologetics and Your Family: Part 4 - Avoiding Lazy Thinking

By Paul Henebury

As we have seen, a worldview is essentially an interpretation and outlook on life and its meaning. This outlook often lies behind the basic beliefs of people, although it must be added that people very often let their worldviews go unexamined. Let's illustrate this with an example:

Many people will go to well known burger franchises and buy a cheeseburger even while knowing the ingredients are less than healthful. It's the same with chicken nuggets, which are often made from gizzards and other unmentionables. If we gave critical thought to what we're eating perhaps we would go for something else? In a similar way, if people tried a bit of critical reflection on their underlying beliefs, perhaps many of them would realize that these worldviews fail to provide healthy support for day to day experience or the societal values they deem important.

But just here we hit upon a common problem. The majority of people do not want to give much thought to where their worldviews eventually lead. They don't wish to consider the consequences of their beliefs. **How many evolutionists are prepared to conclude that their existence is just accidental, with no meaning and no values other than the ones they may choose to adopt?** How many of them will agree with Richard Dawkins that all their thoughts are reducible to their particular brain-chemistry, which lines up with his interpretation of the cosmos:

The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference.

Now surely it follows from this that what we like to call "wicked people" people aren't actually wicked? (Dawkins says there is no evil or good). Their neurons just function in a way which make them commit acts against others which *we* don't like? Dawkins himself (along with Christopher Hitchens and others) have branded Christianity as an evil. But he has also called it "a virus of the mind." In other words, Christians are sick in the head. Well, if we suffer from some sort of sickness, and there is no evil, how can we be evil? This interpretation of Dawkins even manages to contradict some of his most cherished dogmas.

Likewise, we get men like Daniel Dennett, who believes "ethics as we understand it is an illusion fobbed off on us by our genes to get us to cooperate." From such a position other questions naturally arise: Have Dennett's genes also fobbed off on him the belief that ethics is an illusion? What is "good and evil" and who is to decide the definition? If my mind cannot help but think the way it thinks, then surely the same must be said of Dennett's mind (or Dawkins' mind)? and who is to say Dawkins's brain activity is superior to Hitler's, or Jeffrey Dahmer's, or the wild-

est eccentric out there, or yours and mine?

Nowadays the homosexual agenda has gained so much momentum that to gainsay it is to bring public opprobrium upon oneself. The received wisdom is that because they are “made” that way, so we cannot say they are in the wrong. The Christian will say that although homosexual urges are not necessarily evil (if they are thought of as temptations), homosexual fantasies or behavior are wrong. In this regard they are the same as temptations to steal, or to get angry, or to be promiscuous. Just because there may be physical manifestations which accompany these temptations does not mean it is alright to pursue them! If we allow such things then where will we draw the line? Already pedophiles are using the very same arguments as gay activists to condone their activity. These are worldview issues, and so they are apologetic issues!

One of the best definitions of apologetics is this one:

Apologetics is the vindication of the Christian philosophy of life against the various forms of the non-Christian philosophy of life. (Cornelius Van Til, Christian Apologetics. 2nd ed., 17.)

From this definition it is easy to see that we need to train our kids to think critically about Christian belief and non-Christian belief. **Simply “knowing that Jesus died for me” is not enough. It has never been enough.** In former days this was clearly understood. But for several generations believers have been lulled into the cozy but perilous reverie that “the gospel” (and sometimes a watered-down version of it) is enough to protect us and our children. But the Bible contains a great deal more than the plan of salvation!

Faith is understood in different ways in our culture today. One popular misconception of faith is that it has nothing (or very little) to do with reason or logic. Faith is seen as not something you seek to provide evidence for or view rationally; you are simply to accept it. This kind of faith sits well in our culture as it praises personal preferences. If faith is not grounded in reason, logic and historic realities, it is simply a personal preference. Thus many believe that faith and blind faith; are the same thing.

The Bible, however, never asks for blind faith, it calls for a reasoned faith. This kind of faith is honest about questions & even personal doubts and looks for real answers. It seeks the best possible explanation and then commits to the truth.

If there is no God and we live in a strictly material, evolving universe, violence and suffering are just a part of the natural world with no inherent morality attached to them. In this case violence would not be evil; it would simply be a part of the evolutionary process. Without God compassion for others is nothing but chemical changes in the brain. Suffering is meaningless, violence is meaningless. There is no such thing as good or evil.

Bob Dimmitt

Apologetics and Your Family:

Part 5 - Touting Absurdity

By Paul Henebury

Since the Enlightenment, when unaided human reason was promoted to a place above the authority of the Holy Scriptures, it has been presumed that mankind can, at least in principle, explain himself and his surroundings without recourse to “the God hypothesis.” Although they couldn’t agree among themselves about how to rely on the human mind, they “knew” at least one thing: God—if He or it existed, would have to pass their examinations and fit within their logical formulations.

The Creator would have to become subject to the creature. Of course, their examinations were naively inapplicable, and their use of logic off-target. The god of unbelief is always a straw man.

One of the saddest capitulations to this point of view came from Christian scholarship. Christians themselves swallowed the “dictates of reason” nearly whole-sale, and tried to equate faith with this newly emancipated view of reason. To boil it down, they resorted either to making Christianity “scientific,” or else to accepting the separation that had been created. The theological liberals were prepared to follow the second course (although they also saw no use in believing miracles). The conservatives who wanted to remain faithful to the Bible and its message of salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ, still felt the need to reconcile this faith with the new minted approach to science, and they tried to accommodate their beliefs to it.

The situation became even more pronounced once Darwin published his *Origin of Species* in 1859. Darwin provided a mechanism—natural selection—which, it was thought, eliminated the need to postulate a god who designed and made things. From then on many Christians, following their scholars, embraced a theistic form of evolutionism, wherein God was supposed to have used evolution to “create.” They did this because they thought at least a nominal kind of Christianity was the norm. Hence, they were unprepared for the great departure from this “Christian” norm when they were confronted with it. In short, they had not developed a proper biblical world and life view, and so their apologetics did not function within the biblical framework, but an ill-fitting foreign, and suddenly and antagonistic one.

Today the theory of evolution is about as much open to doubt as the theory that the earth goes round the sun. (Richard Dawkins)

Reading such a stridently sure and absolute assertion one might feel like throwing in the towel and embracing the evolution dogma. The sheer confidence displayed in it almost protrudes through the page. But before one gives in let it be noted that this same Richard Dawkins is on film telling people that has no idea how life got started and thinks it feasible that aliens started life off on earth (see the film *Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed*). Recall also what was said about his allegiance to the deterministic forces of nature in the last post. If Dawkins’ worldview is right, none of us can help thinking exactly what we’re thinking—and so all “reasoning” is illusory.

What do we do about this quote from someone who takes Dawkins' logic and runs with it:

Evolution teaches that “we are animals” so that “sex across the species barrier ... ceases to be an offence to our status and dignity as human beings.” (Peter Singer, “Heavy Petting,” 2001)

That sentence, when one steps back and thinks about it, is so patently absurd, one wonders who would ever believe it. Singer commends “dignity” and bestiality in the same sentence! This is the same man who thinks new-born babies have no more value (or “dignity”) than slugs.

Of course, Singer is quite correct *if* evolution is true and God does not exist. Well, not only is evolution more in trouble today as a scientific theory than it has ever been, it is really vacuous for Singer to speak about “status and dignity” at all. Evolution is the creation-myth of atheism, held in place by interested parties with the power and the money. It holds sway nowadays as science by judicial decree. This is irregardless of the fact that it is utterly destructive of everything we used to prize in society: justice, peace, and freedom to do the right.

Just prior to the beginning of the Second World War, the Nazis told the German people that they had to invade Poland to defend themselves against the Polish aggressors. Propagandists have always known that the bigger the lie, the easier it is for the masses to swallow. This is because people reason it is so silly it has to be true. and it is often the intellectuals who buy into the lie first; either for reasons of expediency, or because of misguided ideologies.

Christians to whom God has given children should be aware of where the rhetoric of the world leads. They should take note of what the Bible says about the world and its lusts, and how the wisdom of this world is so contrary to the true wisdom of God in Jesus Christ. They should learn from the mistakes of the past and never yield an inch in their allegiance to the clear sense of God's Word. The world's wisdom always terminates in absurdities like the touting of the irrational determinism of Richard Dawkins and Daniel Dennett, or the moral perversity of Peter Singer. **Without God there is no logic, no science, no stable ethics, and no love or justice.** When unbelievers use these it is in spite of their worldviews. God in Christ must be the Source of these aspects of reality, and if we turn our eyes from Him (and all sinners do), we end up partnering with the world in its creation of the absurd.

Self-seeking leads to the loss of real life, and our experience of this loss is often what we define as “there is something missing.” This is what sends us on a perpetual search for that one next thing. For many, that one next thing seems to lie in the relational arena. Single women want to be married. Married women want a better marriage. Childless women want babies. Mothers want happier children. Empty-nesters want grandchildren. For some it's more meaningful work. There's nothing wrong with these desires—we're hard wired to want them. BUT at the same time, if we live to get them, we're sure to find them hollow when we do.

Missionary of the Week

Jim & Karan Romaine
MTW - New York



Jim and Karan are pioneering a new church plant among Muslims in New York. The primary focus of their ministry is to Muslims in the city. Because Muslims are well connected to their family and friends in their home countries, this ministry also has a global connection. They live in an apartment in Queens, in a very multicultural neighborhood.

Please pray for their contacts and neighbors they minister to in many practical ways. Jim plans to make another trip to India, similar to one he took last year, to teach Indian village evangelists. He will be teaching from the pastoral epistles.

Their latest newsletter focused on different people he meets each day, and specifically some he met in Bryant Park, a popular park where Jim finds it easy to meet Muslims. Some of the folks he met recently you can pray for:

- a member of the Cabinet at the Turkish Ministry of Finance
- a journalist with the largest Turkish daily newspaper
- a district director of a large Turkish political party
- an electrical engineer, an IT specialist
- a director of a Turkish Businessmen's Association
- a photographer for the President of Turkey
- many ESL and business students
- Melik, a friend with whom they have been able to share the gospel

Sunday School Classes & Descriptions

3rd Grade to Adult

“Church Membership Conference”
Sanctuary: Various Teachers

Young Children

Babies - Room 3: Kay Stanford & Sandra Bridges

1s & 2s - Room 24: Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter/Danny & Kamee Roberson

3s & 4s - Room 25: Emily Wise, Susan Su, Donna Martin

Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade - Room 200: Jimmy & Angie Creech

Save the Date Reminder!



Our Women of Light Retreat at Epworth by the Sea is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, January 26 & 27, 2018. Linda Brucato is our speaker. Make a note of it!

In Islam, there are 99 names for God, but none is “love.” Muslims can’t say that Allah loves because [they believe that] love implies need and Allah is so great he has no needs. I agree that God has no needs, but He still loves.

In the Land of the Blue Burqas

Bible Reading Schedule

December 2017

	1	Psalms 120-130
	2	Psalms 131-135
	3	Psalms 136-139
	4	Psalms 140-144
	5	Psalms 145-150
	6	Proverbs 1 & Eccles. 1
	7	Proverbs 2 & Eccles. 2
	8	Proverbs 3 & Eccles. 3
	9	Proverbs 4 & Eccles. 4
	10	Proverbs 5 & Eccles. 5
	11	Proverbs 6 & Eccles. 6
	12	Proverbs 7 & Eccles. 7
	13	Proverbs 8 & Eccles. 8
	14	Proverbs 9 & Eccles. 9
	15	Proverbs 10 & Eccles. 10
	16	Proverbs 11 & Eccles. 11
	17	Proverbs 12 & Eccles. 12
	18	Proverbs 13 & Eccles. 1
	19	Proverbs 14 & Eccles. 2
	20	Proverbs 15 & Eccles. 3
	21	Proverbs 16 & Eccles. 4
	22	Proverbs 17 & Eccles. 5
	23	Proverbs 18 & Eccles. 6
	24	Proverbs 19 & Eccles. 7
	25	Proverbs 20 & Eccles. 8
	26	Proverbs 21 & Eccles. 9
	27	Proverbs 22 & Eccles. 10
	28	Proverbs 23 & Eccles. 11
	29	Proverbs 24 & Eccles. 12
	30	Proverbs 25 & John 1
	31	Proverbs 26 & John 2



Come Christians Join To Sing

1. Come, Christians, join to sing—
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King—
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice:
Alleluia! Amen!

2. Come, lift your hearts on high—
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky—
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our Guide and Friend,
To us He'll condescend;
His love shall never end:
Alleluia! Amen!

3. Praise yet our Christ again—
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain—
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore,
"Alleluia! Amen!"

Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from
www.fabchurch.com/sermons

For Hearing Impaired

If you have difficulties hearing, we have listening aid devices available. Ask any of the ushers, or the technician in the sound booth, if you are in need of one of these devices.

Nursery December 3

10:30 A.M.

Babies:

Carolyn Blanton, Lauren Wade

Toddlers - 4 year olds:

Lance & Julie Ficek/
Emily Wise, Lilly Horton, Allie Mills

6:00 P.M.

Gena Russell, Haley Bull/
Napoleon & Savannah Martin

Nursery December 10

10:30 A.M.

Babies:

Donna Martin, Kirsten Jones

Toddlers - 4 year olds:

Karrie & Lindsey Walker/
Steve & Linnea Posner

6:00 P.M.

Sona Bailey, Cindy Dimmitt/
Linda Walker, Shawn Champion

Ushers December 3

10:30 A.M.

Jimmy Kicklighter, Buckley Lanier,
Jack Moore, Mike Morris

6:00 P.M.

Dean McCraw, Cole Morris

Ushers December 10

10:30 A.M.

Danny Roberson, Kelly Stanford,
John Sumner, Michael Walker

6:00 P.M.

Kelly Stanford, John Sumner

Sunday Greeters - December 3

Lisa Rowe, Jeanie Groover

December Lock-Up Deacons

Jimmy Kicklighter, Jack Moore