

## IS CHRISTIANITY ANTI-SCIENTIFIC?

JANUARY 29, 2012

### REASONS PEOPLE AVOID FAITH IN CHRIST: PART 3 OF 7

<sup>1</sup>Corinthians 1 <sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written:

*“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”*

<sup>20</sup> Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength.

<sup>26</sup> Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written:

*“Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”*

2 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. <sup>2</sup> For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup> I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. <sup>4</sup> My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, <sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996, c1984.

## 1. The Objection

### Christianity is Anti or Un Scientific

#### A. Who is saying this?

Those who are vocal in their opposition Christian Faith

People who have assumed this to be true

#### B. The Assumptions

Science proves the Bible wrong

The Bible is hostile toward science

Being a Christian is the next closest thing to being brain dead

The polarity of the position

## 2. General observations

#### A. The Analysis (is it really true)

A Question of Worldview and where you start

The purpose of the Bible

The language and thinking of the Bible

#### B. The Truth is out there?

Science is dependent on a Christian Worldview

Is God beyond the reach of Science?

#### C. Other Interesting Ideas

Intelligent Design

Anthropic Principle

Diversity of Opinions (see selected bibliography on back page)

### 3. Biblical Response

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Genesis 1:1,2

The Bible was not written as a Science Book

How do we interact?

Genesis 1

Psalms 19

Isaiah 40

### How do we reply?

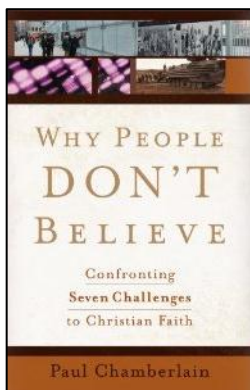
The conflict is not necessary

Creation is meant to be celebrated, enjoyed and studied

There may be a deeper objection to God

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Next week's Question: Is Biblical Morality Repulsive?

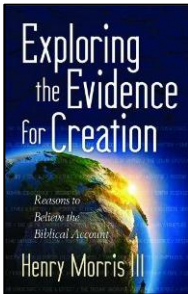


Message Methodology: I am using the book pictured to the left, "*Why People don't Believe*" by Paul Chamberlain, Baker Books, 2001, as my primary resource to build this series of messages. From there I will supplement the framework provided from reading, current events and conclude with biblical reflection on the key idea being presented.

Message Purpose: To provide teaching, information and encouragement so that you need not be troubled by these objections. Secondly that in conversation with others you might have a reasonable response to offer. Third that if these objections are somehow preventing you from moving forward in faith that those barriers would begin to be taken down.

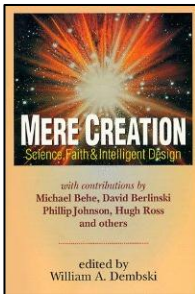
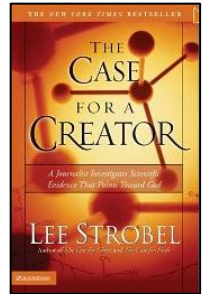
## Limited Bibliography for further consideration and reading:

There are many books written in this area. I offer these as a sampling and cross section of the material available without specifically endorsing any author or view.



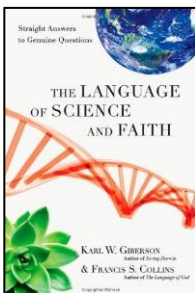
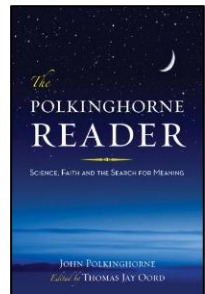
Henry Morris, *Exploring the Evidence for Creation* (publication September 2012) is a strong proponent of a 'Young Earth Creation' reading of Genesis and the Bible.

Lee Strobel, *The Case for a Creator* writes a very readable book that presents an 'Old Earth Creation' and 'Intelligent Design' reading of Genesis.



William Dembski edits a collection of articles in *Mere Creation* written by many leading creation believing scholars. As the title suggests there is much interaction relative to Science, Faith and Intelligent Design.

John Polkinghorne, *The Polkinghorne Reader*, John is a God believing scientist and offers an abundant amount of food for thought



Karl Giberson, a physicist and Francis Collins, a world renowned geneticist offer their views on Science and Faith from a very different take on affirming God as creator and affirming their science. This approach is called 'BioLogos'. This view is gaining a following among believing scientists.