

*“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” — John 12:21*

## **Welcome Visitors!**

You are our honored guests and we are pleased that you have chosen to visit us today. Our goal is to do everything according to God's word, including respecting its silence. This is a church of Christ; we are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church and we have no earthly "headquarters." The six elders oversee this work and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily aimed at our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don't understand something, please do not hesitate to ask one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God's word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

**Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection plate. Thank You**

## **Schedule**

### **The Lord's Day**

9:30 AM Classes

Auditorium: Judges

Room 13/14: Raising Faithful Kids

Room 17 – Young Adults Class (18-29)

10:30 AM Assembly

Speaking today: David Posey

*"There They Crucified Him"*

*John 19:15-30*

2 PM Class at the Building

James (Room 13/14)

5 PM (building)

Sermon On The Mount

Weekly Young Adults' Class

Class at Posey's: 5 PM

**Tuesday 10 AM**

The Fruit of the Spirit

**Wednesday, 7 PM**

Auditorium: Judges

Room 13/14: Raising Faithful Kids

Room 17 – Young Adults Class (18-29)

**Men's Saturday Morning Meeting**

7 AM, second Saturday of the month

(see Tyler Wade)

## **Information**

### **Website & Online Presence**

Visit our website at [www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com) for updates and material on current and past classes, and recorded sermons and classes. You will also find a directory of churches on page one. If you are a member of the church here at Folsom, see one of the deacons or elders to inquire about access to the password -protected members section. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>

### **Classes & Home Studies**

We have classes for children from 18 months and up. Please see the map in the hallway or ask any of the members which room is appropriate for you and/or your child. There are several Bible studies in progress on Sunday afternoon and evening. Check with David Posey if you have questions.

### **Restrooms**

There are two sets of restrooms: one off the first hallway to the right of the lobby and another at the end of the first hallway to the left. Ask anyone and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

### **For Small Children**

There is a special room for nursing mothers and a separate "cry room" at the rear of the auditorium. You enter them from the first hallway to the right, across from the restrooms.

### **View & Junior View**

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly to our member list and hard copies are printed on Sundays and available in the foyer.

# Why I can't believe in (macro)evolution

BY DAVID POSEY

I probably have no business commenting on evolution. Why? First, apparently, I don't even know how to *pronounce* "evolution." I thought it was EVV (as in "every") O LOO SHUN but then I watched a video and the guy kept calling it EEEV O LUTION. I think I'll go with the latter because it sounds so much more sophisticated (if a bit stuffy).

Second, someone might say, "who cares what you believe about *anything* scientific?" That's a good point. I don't have a PhD in anything, let alone biology or paleontology or zoology. I'm no expert on DNA — or KFC, for that matter. I do have some experience with LTE;\* it's right there on my phone and I see it every day.

Third, I'm a Christian and therefore, according to conventional wisdom, couldn't be very well-read — except in the Bible. And everyone knows that Christians' computers automatically block all webpages that mention evolution and Amazon will not let us buy any books on that topic.

I'm being facetious, of course, but — correct me if I'm wrong — there seems to be a perception that only those who believe in evolution have a right to comment on the issue because, as I've read many times, "everyone who is anyone believes in evolution and everyone knows that evolution is a fact." But there's a problem with that. First, it's not true that everyone believes in evolution. "Evolution," as the term is commonly used, is the naturalistic (random, undirected) descent of all living creatures from a common ancestor (not Adam, by the way). In the latest Gallup poll (surveys have been conducted since 1983) only 22% believe in undirected evolution while 40% believe God created the earth.

The other 38% believe God utilized evolution in creating the world (did the pollsters distinguish between macro and micro evolution and, if they did, did the respondents understand the difference?). In any case, it's not *everyone*.

We all believe that *microevolution* (small changes within species over short periods of time) is a "fact." But it's quite a leap to say that we can extrapolate from that that everything in the world came from a big bang 13.7 billion years ago. How can that be a "fact"? A "fact" is something known or *proven* to be true. Evolution has only been "proven to be true" by those who have made a prior commitment to naturalism. Evolutionist Richard Lewontin explains:

Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure

to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods... of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the... world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our... adherence to material causes to create... a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counterintuitive, no matter how mystifying." Lewontin goes on to say that his "materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine foot in the door."<sup>1</sup>

Why would Lewontin say that "we cannot allow a Divine foot in the door"? Oxford professor John Lennox responds,

[Lewontin] must simply mean that "we *materialists* cannot allow a Divine foot in the door." Well, of course, it is a tautology to say that "materialists cannot allow a Divine foot in the door." Materialism rejects both the Divine foot and, come to think of it, the door as well. There is after all, no "outside" for a materialist — the "cosmos is all that is, was, or ever shall be." But that rejection carries no implications whatsoever about the existence of such a foot or door beyond the mere unsubstantiated assertion that Lewontin personally does not believe in either of them.<sup>2</sup>

You see what's going on here? Lewontin admits that he could never countenance creation because he's already made up his mind that it can't be true. OK, maybe I do the same thing; I am committed to a biblical/Christian worldview, therefore, I *cannot* allow a materialist's "foot in the door." I take the side of God even though there are many things I will never understand. But the reality of God is burned into my brain — and that controls my conclusions. To agree that macroevolution is the reason things exist denies my firm belief that there is a God in heaven who created the earth out of nothing (Romans 4:17).

When the end comes we'll all find out who was right. Or, if I'm wrong, we won't — we'll just die and that's it. I *can't* believe that because my faith in God's word tells me otherwise. I don't *want* to believe it because I don't want that to be the end — of me, or the people who have gone before me. On that score, this quote from the late Cornell Professor William Provine makes me shudder:

Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary biology tells us loud and clear ... There are no gods, no purposes, no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after death. When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead. That's the end for me. There is no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning to life, and no free will for humans, either.

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So, I have a prior to commitment to God that shapes my view of creation/evolution. But I also have a couple of specific questions for evolutionists that I've never heard them answer (I have many other questions about evolution, actually, but these two seem especially slippery to those who say evolution is a fact.) First, even if we all grant that there was a "big bang" many years ago, a question continues to beg for an answer: if *something* went "bang" and that resulted in the beginning of everything we see, including life itself, where did that something come from? What's its origin? I find it interesting that scientists simply expect people to accept that without question. Why should we?

This unresolved question may be the main reason the Gallup poll shows only an 11 point increase in those who believe in undirected evolution in 37 years, even though the theory of evolution has been taught in schools and colleges as fact for the past 20 years, at least.

Here's another question: (plug the ears of your kids): *how on earth did it so happen that a male and female of the same species evolved exactly at the right time so that they could reproduce?* In other words, how did sex originate? I asked an evolutionist friend this question and his answer was a rather weak, "they are doing a lot of research on sex." OK, fine, but that tells me that "they" are a long way from proving evolution is a "fact." They should be able to answer these basic questions, or at least posit a theory. If they don't then it seems logical to say that at least some of what they believe about evolution is based on (here it comes) "faith." We, on the other hand, gladly admit that our belief in creation is "by faith."

It is not because of these unanswered questions that I don't believe in evolution as an explanation for the beginning of the earth and life on earth. As I said above, I don't believe in the theory because I believe in the God described in the Bible. I believe that God is omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent. I am more likely to ask why God took a whole six days to create the earth than to think he had to use purely natural means to do it. My view of God is that he could have spoken it into existence all at once, if he chose to do it that way (Psalm 33:6).

But I believe — have *faith* — that God did it.

"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

*Hebrews 11:3*

That works for me.

\*LTE stands for "Long Term Evolution," in the evolution glossary of terms.

<sup>1</sup> Richard Lewontin, Billions and billions of demons (review of *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark* by Carl Sagan, 1997), *The New York Review*, p. 31, 9 January 1997.

<sup>2</sup> John Lennox, *God's Undertaker*, page 3

## CULTURE COLUMN

### The Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

In 2009, the H1N1 virus (swine flu) killed 10,000 people in the U.S. out of about 50 million who got sick. The death toll globally was reported to be 284,000. The international death toll of the Coronavirus, as of Friday, was 2,009 out of 83,774 cases (almost all of those deaths occurred in mainland China). The death rate in the U.S. is about .1% (about 60 people have died). For perspective, the CDC reports annual deaths from the "regular" flu virus have ranged from 18,000 to 46,000 (some news outlets reported 80,000 flu deaths in 2018). 32 million to 45 million are sick with the flu each year.

The most common symptoms of Covid-19 include a dry cough with a fever. There may be other flu-like symptoms, some no more troublesome than a common cold. Most people recover from it on their own, according to most medical websites. If you have a cough with a fever, you should call your doctor. If you have any flu-like symptoms please stay home until they subside. We can't serve God as well as we should if we are sick. *dp*

### Juul Is So Last Year

Vaping brand Juul was cool...until adults and the government caught wind of it. So as we slowly get around to enacting new legislation to curb use by minors, teens have already taken their business elsewhere.

**Why it can be frustrating:** Disposable vape pens like Puff Bar, Stig, and Mr. Vapor have proliferated, filling the void left by all the restrictions against Juul. These disposable "pod mods" are compact, cool looking, easily hidden, and much more potent than traditional cigarettes, with one pod containing as much nicotine as two or three packs of cigarettes. Since laws and government enforcement never move as quickly as teen whims and interests, parents and other caring adults have to be the first line of defense. We must talk about vaping and its risks without fear-mongering or using scare tactics. [This article](#) has some helpful suggestions.

### Raising Thoughtful Citizens

Gen Z cares about what's happening politically, so much so that 49% of voting-age Zers (18-23) plan to donate to a political campaign in 2020.

**Why it's surprising:** The proportion of Gen Xers (37%) and Boomers (25%) who plan to do the same is much lower, despite those cohorts having more money. Of course, intent is not the same as action, but it seems that Gen Z is reminiscent of young people in the 1960s and '70s in their political concern. It's a great opportunity for families, churches, and schools to guide their fervor by teaching them to seek more than one perspective, ask good questions, weigh ideas against God's Word, and pray for God's guidance in their lives. Most policies and candidates aren't as clear cut as they seem, requiring them to learn wisdom, patience, and humility as they reach voting age.

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