

Monday July 21, marked the 83rd anniversary of the conclusion of the Scopes trial – often referred to as the “Monkey Trial” in which the state of Tennessee brought a case against a school teacher for teaching evolution in the public school. John Scopes was convicted and sentenced to a fine of \$100. Last Monday one of the local radio hosts referred to this event and commented to the effect that things haven’t changed in that it is still questioned as to whether evolution should be taught in schools. I beg to disagree, and I contacted the radio station of my disagreement. Things have changed in that in most public school systems in this country evolution is the norm and the teaching of biblical creation, if not banned altogether, is frowned upon.

What has changed? Has evolution been proved to be true science and the biblical account creation been proved to be fraudulent? Evolution has not been proven to be true science and the biblical account creation has not been proved fraudulent? What then has changed? What has changed is that many, a vocal number of scientists that believe, but cannot prove, the theory of evolution, have been able to persuade school systems and politicians that creationism has no place in the scientific classroom. Indeed, most of the science text books approved for use in schools do not even teach creationism as a possible theory for how the universe in which we live came into being but rather teach evolution as being a proven scientific fact whereas, in fact, such has not been proved. Today, it is often claimed that because creation is taught in the Bible it has no place in the science class and if the biblical account of creation is to be taught anywhere it should be in a class where the Bible is dealt with as literature. This revolves around the false concept that many have regarding the relationship between church and state. They advocate that religion has no role in the state and for public funded schools to teach creationism violates the principle of “separation of church and state.” However, the constitutional provision was, as can be clearly seen, by the study of history, simply there to prevent the establishment of one religion over another as a “state religion” like the established church in England and other counties in Europe.

The tragedy of this is that many children grow up not knowing the biblical account of creation nor how it can be shown that the Bible’s teaching does not violate scientific law but, in fact, the creation account as given in Genesis is more in tune with true science than the theory of evolution. While it is true that biblical creation cannot be proved scientifically, it is equally true that evolution cannot be proved scientifically either. From the point of view of science both are theories as they cannot be proved by the scientific method.

Since, at the present time, most of our children will not learn the truth in the science classroom because many teachers are either unwilling or unable to teach the truth, the responsibility rests with parents in the home (Ephesians 6:4; II Timothy 1:15) and in the church (Titus 2:1). May we be ever diligent to teach the truth and let us not be intimidated by supposed scientists who boldly proclaim evolution as a fact of science when it is nothing more than a theory and seek to challenge them to prove their claim and to show that the biblical account of creation violates scientific principle. The truth has nothing to fear.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick’s aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron’ sister who has having health problems, and Tim Smith.

We welcome Wanda Walker into the family here at Belvedere. Wanda was baptized into Christ on Tuesday night, July 22nd.

We will be having a fellowship meal immediately following our worship service this morning. We would encourage you to stay and eat with us.

The Goodness of God Continued from page 1

Those in sin can be freed from the guilt and iniquity if they humbly obey the instructions of God. The goodness of God has provided the way of escape from the penalty for sin.

Good is translated from the Greek word *agathos*. It “describes that which, being ‘good’ in its character or constitution, is beneficial in its effect” (Unger and White). *Goodness means* “that which is moral, ethical, righteous, and faultless in and of itself.” God is the sum total of all perfection. Therefore, goodness is an attribute of God!

God is good. Because He is good, we have a moral and ethical standard that is righteous and faultless. The good in our society does not come from man, but, God. God directs man through His Word to walk the pathway of righteousness. Seeking and doing that which is good in His sight. How much better this world would be if mankind would follow God’s moral and ethical standard. The world can be changed for the good. It begins with us seeking to do that which is good in the sight of God, because God is good.

Work Cited

Unger, Merrill F., and William White, Jr. *W. E. Vine: An Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1985.

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Paul told our long departed Thessalonian brethren to, “Pray without ceasing,” that is, to have regularly scheduled prayers. Paul’s inspired pen indicated that prayers were to be made for the leaders of the nations, the sick, the healthy, the preachers, the lost and a host of others. We should ask God to forgive us, to help us do better in the future, to protect our loved ones, to prosper the work of the church, etc. Our prayers should be for ourselves, but not for ourselves exclusively, We must be careful not to be selfish in our petitions! Pray for others! Pray for the ability to serve others. Pray for the good of others. Pray for the work He gave us to do. Pray without ceasing.

Tim Smith, Dothan, AL