

FRUITS OF CREATIONISM

Int.

1. Aim: To show that the fruits of creationism are always good.

2. Mt. 7:16-18 "Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? 17. Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit."

a. A tree is known by the fruit it bears

b. This is also true of the doctrine of Creationism

3. A creationist is one who believes that the statements made in the Bible are supported by physical evidence from the world that God has created.

a. This philosophy of creation has influenced many people in the world

b. There are only two main views of how the world began - evolution / creation

c. A third view - theistic evolution - tries to combine the two

4. Why does it matter whether we believe in creation or evolution ?

a. We will see that understanding and accepting creation is fundamental to our faith that God exists and the Bible is His will.

b. These issues must be resolved before we even consider the significance of Jesus' death. If we do not believe in God and the Bible, why would we even consider believing in Jesus' sacrifice?

5. There is much good fruit that comes from creationism.

Discussion

I. CREATIONISM BUILDS UP OUR FAITH IN THE BIBLE, GOD AND JESUS

- A. "The beginning" was not the beginning point of God. He existed before creation and set creation in motion.
1. Genesis 1:1 - "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
 2. Psalm 90:1-2 "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou [art] God."
 3. Acts 17:24 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;"
- B. The order of creation.
1. Scientists now recognize five components which make up the world: time, force, energy, space and matter.
 2. All of these components are found in Genesis 1:1
 - a. "In the beginning" - time
 - b. "God" - force
 - c. "created" - energy
 - d. "the heavens" - space
 - e. "and the earth" - matter
 3. We need to understand that while the creation of the universe was supernatural (outside the realm of our established natural laws) it is not illogical. In fact, the entire creation was laid out in a logical fashion.

4. The first six days fall into two groups of three. Each day in the second column is an extension of its counterpart in column one. For example:¹
- a. On day one God created light - on day four there were more specific kinds of light - sun, moon, stars.
 - b. On day Two the firmament separated waters above from waters below. On day five He made creatures of sky and water.
 - c. On day three God created the earth on day six He made the creatures of land.

Day
1 --- Light
2 --- Heavens
3 --- Earth, vegetation

Day
4 --- Sun, Moon, Stars
5 --- Fish, Birds
6 --- Land animals, man

C. Creation Proves the Power of God's Word.

1. Creation Was Accomplished by God's Spoken Word.
 - a. Genesis 1:3,6,9,11,14,20,24,26 - God created by simply speaking. He said what should be created, and it was so!
 - b. Psalm 33:6-9 - "By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. 9 For he spake, and it was [done]; he commanded, and it stood fast."
 - c. Psalm 148:3-5 - God commanded and heavenly hosts were created.

¹Handbook of the Pentateuch - by Hamilton p. 19]

- d. Hebrews 11:3 - "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."
2. God did other miracles by speaking. In this way God proves the power/authority of His word. Note: Matthew 8:5-13; 2 Peter 3:5-7. See Psalm 105:31,34; 106:9; John 11:39-44; 5:28,29.
 3. Creation is an incredible proof of the power of God's word.
- D. Is the Genesis account literal, or are we to just see it as symbolic of God's dealings with man? Were the days literal 24 hour days?
1. The fact is that a rejection of the Genesis account will naturally lead to a rejection of the entire Bible, since the Bible tells us again and again that Genesis is true.
 2. When Moses was instituting the Sabbath he mentioned the Genesis account to show why God wanted the Jews to keep the Sabbath.
 - a. Exodus 20:8-11 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: 10 But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: 11 For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

- b. Jesus believed the Genesis account and held it to be literally true.
 - (1) When he sought to teach about the permanence of marriage he hearkened back to the Genesis account and said it was "in the beginning."
 - (2) He even quoted the words of Adam! - Matt. 19:4-6
 - c. It is clear that the phrase repeated after each day's creation, "the evening and the morning were the _____day," was meant to show each literal day.
 - d. The Hebrew word for day, Yom, is spoken throughout the Old Testament as a literal 24 hour day. This is the accepted definition as found in the Bible.
3. This "day-age" theory has no support from the Scriptures and in fact destroys the veracity of the rest of the text, especially when it comes to the genealogies in Genesis and the Gospels.
- E. Creationism builds up our faith in the Bible, God and Jesus, because it is founded on faith in God's word !

II. CREATIONISM PRODUCES CONCERN FOR OTHERS

- A. Our belief about origins is of tremendous importance as to how we look at society.
 - 1. Creation states that a loving God carefully and lovingly created the universe to be in harmony, while evolution states that the universe is a result of blind chance.
 - 2. Creation states that man is the result of the creation of God and thus we are different than the other beings of the world and are responsible to God for our actions.
 - 3. He gave us moral laws for us to live by.

4. On the other hand, evolution believes that man is just the product of a continual "survival of the fittest" evolution and that such things as moral law and religion are the product of man's development. We are not different than the animals of the world, just smarter.
- B. Creation believes that man is made in the image of God, while evolution believes that man has made gods in his image.
 - C. Creation believes that we have an eternal soul in need of redemption, while evolution believes that man needs to be free from such nonsense!
 - D. Man Was Created in the Image of God, a Little Lower than the Angels.
 1. The teaching of creation
 - a. Genesis 1:26,27 - Man was created by God in the likeness and image of God.
 - b. Psalm 8:3-5 - God made man a little lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor.
 2. Failure to appreciate this leads to mistreatment of other people.
 - a. Genesis 9:5,6 - Murder of humans is forbidden, because humans were made in the image of God.
 - b. James 3:9,10 - Cursing man is wrong, because men were made in the likeness of God.
 3. The reason is it wrong to mistreat another human is because they are in the image of God.
 - a. They are just as important to God as we are.
 - b. To mistreat them is to mistreat one who is like God.
 - c. This is why Jesus often said that how we treat other people is how we treat Him (Matt. 25:31-46).

4. Failure to understand this leads to practicing such evolutionary concepts as "survival of the fittest," so "might makes right."
 - a. People believe if they are able to overpower others, then they have the right to do so: they are more "fit."
 - b. Extreme manifestations of this were the holocaust and Communist massacres: eliminate those who are "unfit"!

5. When we understand the Bible doctrine of creation, we learn why it is wrong to mistreat other humans.
 - a. We did not make them.
 - b. They don't belong to us.
 - c. They belong to God - the same God who made us and to whom we belong.
 - d. In many ways they partake of His nature, so we must not mistreat them.
[Malachi 2:10; Job 31:13-15; Prov. 14:31; 17:5; 22:2]

III. CREATIONISM PRODUCES MORALITY AND ETHICS

- A. A belief in God as the creator makes us aware of right and wrong
 1. In Gen. 2 God told Adam that there were some rules
 2. Gen. 2:15-17
 3. Penalty - death
 4. Gen. 3 they ate - sin introduced into world - they began to die - cast out of Eden

B. Definitions

1. Morality (from the Latin, mores, meaning habits or customs) is the character of being in accord with principles or standards of right conduct.
2. Ethics—the discipline concerned with what is good and bad or right and wrong—deals with moral principles and values.

C. Evolutionists who are atheists believe that there is no universal, eternal, or absolute ethical criteria of right or wrong !!! ²

1. The Humanist Manifestos I & II (atheism's "Bill of Rights") boast:
 - a. We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational, needing no theological or ideological sanction....
We strive for the good life, here and now
 - b. Man's morals and ethics are viewed as "autonomous" and "situational."
 - c. That is to say, something becomes "right" because the individual determines it is right on a case-by-case basis, thus invalidating the concept of common moral law applied consistently
2. If humans are merely "matter in motion," if no one piece of matter is worth more than any other piece of matter, if we are autonomous, if the situation warrants it, and if we can further our own selfish interests by doing so, could we not lie, steal, maim, or murder at will? If not, why not?

² Originally published in Reason and Revelation, January 1999, 19[1]:7 - Bert Thompson Copyright © 1999 Apologetics Press, Inc., All Rights Reserved

3. Compare that kind of thinking, however, to the moral/ethical instructions contained in God's Word that teach us to:
 - a. love all people—friend and foe alike (Matthew 5:44);
 - b. treat others as we would want to be treated (Matthew 7:12);
 - c. help those who are afflicted (James 1:27);
 - d. aid those who are less fortunate (1 John 3:17);
 - e. embody joy, peace, patience, kindness, and meekness (Galatians 5:22-23);
 - f. and do good unto all men (Galatians 6:10).
4. Then answer this question: Who would you rather have as your neighbor—a person who practices the brand of situation ethics advocated by atheism, or a Christian who practices the kind of objective morality taught in the Bible? Kind of makes you think, doesn't it?

Conclusion

1. Evolution has brought about Communism, genocide, and the idea that we are all savages fighting to get to the top of the heap! This is not God's way!
2. The Genesis account lovingly calls us back to a God who made all things well and placed man here responsible for his actions, with a moral standard of right and wrong, and a need to be accountable to God.
3. Remember this century's greatest evolutionist? He believed in survival of the fittest - Adolf Hitler!
4. The same God who wrote the Bible also created the Universe. There are no contradictions between the two if properly understood.

5. If the Bible doctrine of creation as taught in Genesis 1 is not fundamental to a Christians' faith, then why should we oppose theistic evolution? Why wouldn't belief in evolution be acceptable, so long as one still believed God directed it? Why should Christians oppose such a view, if creation is not essential to our faith?
 6. In fact, the Bible doctrine of creation is fundamental to the gospel, because it is absolutely fundamental to the issues of whether or not the Bible is the word of God and whether or not the God of the Bible is the true God! How can that not be fundamental doctrine to Christians?
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