

“How Do I Know There Really Is A God?”

The other night at bedtime, after we had read a Bible story and prayed, my oldest daughter, Chara, aged 8, fired a series of questions at me which came from her innermost being. "How do I know if creation is true? In fact, how do I know if there really is God, I've never seen Him? The girl next doors' teacher believes in evolution. How am I supposed to know?" Appreciating her questioning spirit, I promised to do a set of creation "experiments" with her that weekend, and her excitement grew as the week- end approached.

When the time came, I presented her with a series of four grocery sacks, each to be examined in turn. I explained that God no longer creates as He did during creation week (Gen. 2:1-4, Ex. 10:11, etc.), but that if He has created we ought to be able to tell it by observing the things He has made. By way of analogy we discussed how to tell if a person had "made" (i.e., created) something. She determined that a human "created" object would be designed, it would have some purpose, and it would require some intelligence to make it.

The first sack contained a series of rocks, several from the driveway and a piece of polished marble, a rounded turquoise, a stone arrowhead and a concrete brick (i.e., man-made "rock"). She methodically examined each one, correctly identifying those with design, purpose (even though she didn't always know the specific purpose, she knew it must be there) and underlying intelligence. The next sack was a similar array of wood, several pieces quite rough, a twig, a tongue depressor, a wooden button and a carving. Again, she could easily discern the evidence for "creation."

Next, she examined a stack of paper. One page was blank, one had random blobs of paint on it, neither showing human intelligence. A page of scribbling was correctly identified as of human origin, for although it was a mess, it was not something that could "just happen." Next were a page from a magazine and some of my own sloppy artwork. Then came a note from me expressing my love and support for her in her quest. She was getting the point. There is a difference between things that are purposefully made and things that just happen.

Next, I showed her pictures of animals and plants from a biology book, and explained how each living thing is made up of many complex cells, which were also shown. At a smaller scale, I explained the DNA code, which was both pictured and sketched, which contains more information and design than is in all the books in a library put together. All of that information must be read and followed for each cell to continue living. She recognized that such marvelous design could only come about if designed by someone very intelligent; more intelligent than any of today's scientists.

The last sack contained several more driveway rocks (granite, with no fossils), several rocks with fossils in them, a dried sea horse and sand dollar and a flower. Her questions were answered, all living things are the handiwork of a creator, and even non-living rocks accomplish a wonderful purpose, for without them there would be no place to live.

There may be other questions or times of doubt ahead for her, but I am sure she will never forget the conclusions she reached that day. No amount of "education" will convince her that order can naturally come from disorder.

- by John D. Morris

Neglected Issues

A preacher friend once told me of his intention to get his brethren all straightened out on the "issues" - just as soon as he could find all of them sober at the same time!

What we call "doctrinal" issues still need dealing with, but so do moral issues! It is disturbing to hear of "sound" churches with members involved in such things as fornication, homosexuality, social drinking, shady and dishonest business dealings, lying, profanity, neglected debts, and other like sins that ought not to be named among God's people (Ephesians 5.3).

Besides these should be mentioned the more "dignified" and "sophisticated" sins of bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and malice (Ephesians 4.31); strife, enmities, jealousies, factions, divisions, parties, envyings, and such like (Galatians 5.20-21).

Some have said they had just as soon fellowship doctrinal error as immorality. But, why condone either? Why not take a stand for all that is right and against all that is wrong? Can

God's people afford to do less?

- by Dan Shipley

“Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out”

When the tribes of Reuben and Gad (and ultimately part of Manasseh) had requested to obtain their land inheritance on the east side of the Jordan River, Moses agreed – but with a strict condition. The tribes would need to send their fighting men into the Promised Land with the rest of the Israelites. Only after the land was conquered would they be free to return to the area east of Jordan.

The terms that Moses specified were quickly agreed upon, but a warning about “the fierce anger of the Lord” (Number 32:14) was issued. If they failed to comply with their promise, Moses assured them: “be sure your sin will find you out” (vs. 23).

It is equally important for us to fulfill our promises to God. Do we really think that He fails to observe when we neglect to do what we committed ourselves to do? Do we actually imagine that the God of Heaven would be less offended by us when we abandon our pledges to Him today - or that He would be any less likely to punish us?

Christian, have you considered some of the essential promises you made when you chose to obey the gospel? Here is a partial list of your promises to God:

- to put Him first in your life (Matthew 6:33)
- to not be conformed to this world (Romans 12:1,2)
- to teach others by word and by example (1 Tim. 4:12)
- to love your brethren (1 Thess. 4:9,10)

This list could be lengthened considerably, but our point is this: Others may not notice, but God is constantly observing all that we do and say (Hebrews 4:12). You made promises when you became His child. Be aware that if you do not follow through in obedience, “your sin will find you out.”

- by Greg Gwin