

Minister's Message – November 2005

In the Beginning

Should Intelligent Design be taught in our schools? Vigorous debate is going on in our society over this question. 'Scientists across the country are outraged' so the press tells us (ABC Catalyst 20/10/05). They 'are fighting back'; even though for them 'the case is closed'. What strange rhetoric this is from scientists – outrage and a closed case, meaning a closed mind! What is all the fuss about you might ask? Darwin's idea of evolution, which has been promoted for the last 150 years, is being questioned. It is being challenged, but it seems many scientists don't like the challenge. Is it because they stand on shaky ground?

Intelligent Design has no place in science they say. But what is science? Listen to this definition by a philosopher of science (now there is a paradox!): 'science is what scientists say it is'. I quote from the transcript of ABC Catalyst 20/10/05. One can only hope this was said in jest – or has arrogance reached this level! This philosopher offered a second definition: 'science involves testable hypotheses'. I offer the definition from my pocket dictionary: 'science is systematic study of the physical world based on reproducible observations, measurements and experiments'.

Is evolution testable science – 'sure' is the answer given by the person saying science is what scientists say it is! 'Many of the parts or hypotheses or parts that make up evolution are testable'. The truth in the midst of this confusion is that the hypotheses of evolution are not testable by any reproducible experiment, measurement or observation. This reference to 'parts' is the way this truth is avoided. Some scientific facts can be fitted into the hypothesis of evolution, but many cannot. Many facts fit just as well into alternative hypotheses, which is what Intelligent Design claims to be.

Evolutionists cannot claim all the facts fit their hypothesis, yet many blindly press on with the notion that this is the only hypothesis with scientific credibility. Indeed some are worried at the mere suggestion of alternatives. Prof. Mike Archer is worried that the door will be opened – opened to what? Something his 'science' cannot understand? In fear he turns from reasoned debate to ridicule ('to fork bending, to flat earth' – ABC Catalyst 20/10/05).

It is good to know that we do not have to listen to scientists all the time. We can actually listen to what the Creator has to say, if we will but humble ourselves and have ears to hear. 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth' (Genesis 1:1). David was a great king who said 'I will praise God for I am fearfully and wonderfully made, and marvellous are his works' (Psalm 139:14). Somehow I prefer David's understanding of my origin to Darwin's. Viz 'I am descended from the monkeys'! Jesus Christ said 'have you not read that he who made them at the beginning made them male and female' (Matthew 19:4).

No scientific fact, no reproducible observation, measurement or experiment, has conflicted, nor ever will conflict, with this great truth that the God is the Creator of all things. 'For by him (God the Son) all things were created that are in the heaven and on the earth, visible and invisible' (Colossians 1:16). True scientists are humbly discovering and understanding the great complexities and wonders of God's creation.

Rev. Dr. Dennis K. Muldoon