

THEISTIC EVOLUTION OR SPECIAL CREATION?

How Did We Get Here... And Why Does It Matter?

by Jeffrey Breshears

A recent article in The Epoch Times featured the headline, “More Than 1,000 Scientists Dissent from Darwinism.” Written by Ivan Pentchoukov, the article focuses on two of the most influential proponents of modern Intelligent Design theory, **Jonathan Wells** of the Discovery Institute and **Michael Behe**, a professor of biological sciences at Lehigh University and the author of *Darwin’s Black Box* (1996) and *The Edge of Evolution* (2007), two of the premier I.D. books of the past 25 years. Behe’s latest book, *Darwin Devolves* (2019), is particularly significant as it appears to destroy the last vestiges of Darwinian legitimacy.

As the article notes, the growing list of scientists who have signed the dissent statement come from all over the world and hold degrees from some of the most prestigious universities. Signatories must hold a doctorate in a scientific field or hold a doctor of medicine degree and serve as a professor of medicine.

Simply stated, the document declares: **“We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life. Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged.”**

One would assume that such a statement would be respected in the academy that prides itself on “academic freedom,” but in fact the opposite is true. As in many areas of modern life, those who dissent from the dominant dogmas of secular humanism are not simply challenged but ostracized. As a result, thousands are reluctant to express their views for fear of destroying their careers.

For Christians, the theory of naturalistic evolution is not an option. But many – including most Roman Catholics and mainline Protestants along with a growing

number of evangelicals – opt for theistic evolution (a.k.a. evolutionary creationism) as a safe middle-ground.

But three factors need to be considered. Philosophically, there is nothing about TE that is incompatible with Christian faith *per se*. After all, if that was the means by which God chose to eventually produce all life forms including human beings, so be it. However, scientifically, the burden of proof is the same for TE as for naturalistic evolution: i.e., a startling lack of plausible evidence. Furthermore, TE is difficult to correlate with a high view of Scripture and the Genesis creation account in particular.

Join us for our upcoming Areopagus Forums, including two presentations by **Dr. Tom Woodward** of the C. S. Lewis Society entitled **“Darwin’s Last Stand: The New Evidence That Shatters the Credibility of Evolutionary Theory.”** (For details on these and other Forums, see the announcements on the reverse side.)

Finally, for those who question, “Why does this really matter?” the answer should be obvious: Because Truth always matters, and in this case the Truth and credibility of Scripture – and hence the Christian faith in general – is at stake.

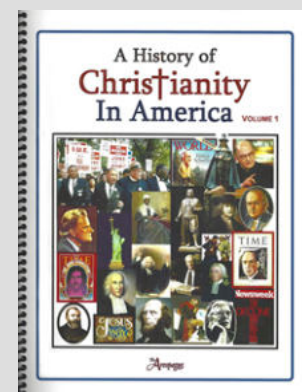
The Areopagus Calendar

Sunday Morning
Study Group

A History of
Christianity
In America

From Colonial Times
To the Present

Sundays
11:15 AM
Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
Room 270



An in-depth study of the major people, issues and events in American Christian history that every well-informed Christian should know. Unfortunately, this material is unfamiliar to most Christians as it is rarely taught in churches or even in Christian colleges and seminaries. Join us for this unique study that is not only informative, thought-provoking and inspiring, but also relevant considering the present state of American Christianity, society and culture.

— Areopagus Forum —

**A MODEL FOR CHRISTIAN MATURITY:
The Life and Legacy of Dallas Willard**

A presentation by
Dr. Gary Moon

Executive Director of the Dallas Willard Center
for Christian Spiritual Formation, and author of
*Becoming Dallas Willard: The Formation of a
Philosopher, Teacher, and Christ-Follower*



Thursday, March 21
7:30 PM
Perimeter Church / Midtown Auditorium

The Areopagus Calendar

Areopagus Forums

**Are Pre-born Human Beings
'Persons'?**

**The Latest Challenge to the
Pro-Life Movement**

A presentation by
Dan Becker

Former President, Georgia Right to Life and
Founder and President Emeritus of
The Personhood Alliance

Thursday, April 25
7:30 PM
Perimeter Church
Uptown Auditorium

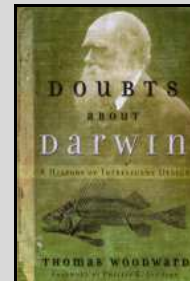
* * * * *

**Darwin's Last Stand:
The New Evidence That
Shatters the Credibility of
Evolutionary Theory**

A presentation by

Dr. Thomas Woodward

Executive Director, The C. S. Lewis Society,
and author of *Doubts About Darwin* and
*The Mysterious Epigenome: What Lies
Beyond DNA*



Wednesday, May 1

7:00 PM

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
The Chapel

— and —

Thursday, May 2

7:30 PM

Perimeter Church
Midtown Auditorium



★ ★ ★ **TOP 10 CLASSIC FILMS** ★ ★ ★
PART 2: 1966 - 1982

Significant movies related to the arts, history, politics,
society and culture that every Christian should know

*As the movie industry continues to produce more films that
dumb-down and degrade our society, here are some movies
worth seeing for their historical, social, cultural, or purely
entertainment value. Most are recommended not because
they necessarily uphold Christian values (for example,
"Annie Hall") but because they provide valuable insight
into our society and culture – for better or for worse.*

1. To Sir, With Love (Sidney Pottier, 1967)
2. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (Paul Newman, Robert Redford, 1969)
3. Little Big Man (Dustin Hoffman, Faye Dunaway, 1970)
4. Monty Python and the Holy Grail (Monty Python, 1975)
5. Annie Hall (Woody Allen, Diane Keaton, 1977)
6. The Rutles (Eric Idle, Neil Innes, 1978)
7. The Life of Brian (Monty Python, 1979)
8. The Gods Must Be Crazy (Andrew Steyn, Kate Thompson, 1980)
9. Chariots of Fire (Ian Charleson, Ben Cross, 1981)
10. Gandhi (Ben Kingsley, 1982)