

In  
search  
of ...

# Truth & Right

GENESIS

Tim Henderson, Editor

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*"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."* Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)

A publication of the  
**Wellsburg**  
**church of Christ**  
Which meets at:  
112 Sunset Ave.  
Wellsburg, WV 26070  
304-737-1422

*We appreciate so much your presence here with us today. We would like to extend an invitation to join us at any of our other times of worship.*

## TIMES OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY

Bible Classes\* 10:00 AM  
AM Worship 10:45 AM  
PM Worship 6:30 PM

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes\* 7:00 PM  
(\* Bible Classes for All Ages)

## Today's Sermon:

*I Don't Have Time,  
I'm Too Busy*

*Audio CD's are available  
free of charge in the foyer.*

*Please visit our website:  
[www.truthandright.org](http://www.truthandright.org)*

*If you have any questions regarding  
what we teach and practice, please  
feel free to ask*

## Incredible Beginning

Andy Diestelkamp  
via—The Beacon, Bowling Green, KY

The beginning of things always intrigue us. We often mark them with great ceremony at the time if we anticipate their importance (weddings, ribbon cutting grand openings, signings, etc.). We frequently research beginnings if only later we realize someone's or something's importance (the work of historians). It is therefore of no surprise that thinking men and women have often pondered the beginning of the physical universe.

While many are content to not give it any consideration and perhaps assume that because it is here it has always been here, most observe and realize that all physical things have measurable deterioration and, therefore, cannot be eternal, but must have had a beginning point.

Essentially, there are two possibilities for how the physical began: 1) It happened by random chance, or 2) It happened on purpose. Expressed another way: 1) It happened by random chance, or 2) It happened by design. Stated yet another way: 1) It began spontaneously from ignorant nothingness, or 2) It began intentionally from intelligence.

In modern parlance it is the debate between "Big Bang" and "Intelligent Design" or "Evolution" vs. "Creation." While some have attempted to harmonize the general theory of evolution and creation theory, at its core such an attempt is futile. To borrow from the apostle Paul, "what fellowship has

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purpose with accident, what communion has design with chance, what accord has intelligence with ignorance, what agreement has creation with evolution," (adapted from 2 Corinthians 6:14-16). The answer is none.

When anyone is challenged to give a historical explanation for the existence of something physical, spontaneous generation from nothing is never considered sound reasoning. Yet this is what modern science teaches is the best explanation for the beginning of all things.

However, the ancient book of books, the Holy Scriptures, offers another explanation. Many find its explanation incredible, but it is far more credible than the spontaneous generation of something from nothing suggested by atheists and agnostics. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). Indeed, mankind is without excuse for not drawing the basic conclusion that a powerful supernatural intelligence (God) is the cause of this physical existence (Romans 1:20).

Scripture reveals that God simply spoke things into existence. "Then God said...and it was so," is an oft repeated phrase in Genesis 1. To be able to speak material things into existence demands a power that is beyond nature and beyond our comprehension. It is super-natural. Therefore, it is understandable that atheists assume that this creation account (along with the rest of the first eleven chapters of Genesis) is mythical, legendary or, at best, allegorical, but certainly not literal. Yet, even some believers in God attempt to explain the creation using the naturalistic assumptions of unbelievers.

Forgetting that with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26), many find these accounts incredible and unbelievable. However, again borrowing from the sayings of Paul, "why should it be thought incredible by you that" God spoke things into existence in six literal days? Of course, Paul is addressing Agrippa with regard to Jesus' resurrection (Acts 26:8). But beware! If you find a six-day creation incredible, you might have the same problem with the resurrection from the dead. Most

people do. Whenever we doubt the powers of God's spoken Word, we have no foundation for faith in any aspect of His Word.

As disciples of Christ, we would do well to follow concerning the authority of the Genesis account. In responding to His adversaries about a point of great controversy regarding

divorce, Jesus refers to the Genesis account of the beginning (Matthew 19:3-8). Jesus' authoritative use of Moses' account of creation affirms that He believed it to be accurate. Indeed, we cannot claim Christ as our Lord and reject the accuracy of Moses' words (John 5:46,47).

To adapt Jesus' words to the Sadducees and apply them to the present controversy over creation/evolution, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God" (Matthew 22:29). Beware; a rejection of these beginning truths undermines the whole foundation of the rest of Scripture and, therefore, our faith in God's power to do anything.

*"what fellowship has purpose with accident, what communion has design with chance, what accord has intelligence with ignorance, what agreement has creation with evolution,"*

## *Where Do Elders Come From?*

*Paul Earnhart  
Via-Auburn Beacon*

The scarcity of functioning elders (bishops, pastors) in local churches has led some Christians to conclude that they are a rare breed with rare qualities. Otherwise, they reason, why would they be so difficult to come by? Contrary to this rather discouraging view, elders do not have to be imported from outer space. They are generated from ordinary human beings from "every tribe and tongue and people and nation," and perhaps it will help identify the reason for their scarcity if we trace, step by step, where elders originate.

First of all, and elementally, elders come from strong Christians, men and women who by the power of God have been radically re-

born (John 3:3-6). Now, here are some remarkable people. They have given up everything for the Lord's sake, claiming not even their breath as their own (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 2:1-2). Theirs is a life of utter trust in the Son of God (Galatians 2:20). Why should we be surprised that something special should arise in the characters of folk like this? They will love God supremely and care about others in a self-sacrificial way.

Secondly, elders (Greek *presbuteroi*, older men), by definition, originate from Christians who are men. There is nothing special or remarkable or difficult here. From the outset, men as well as women have been touched by the appeal of the gospel (Acts 4:4; 5:14; 6:7; 8:12; 17:12,34) and we can logically anticipate that wherever the gospel is preached, this will continue to be so.

Thirdly, elders are to be taken from among Christian men who are mature in years (older) and in the faith ("*not a novice*," 1 Timothy 3:6). The bulk of the bishop's required qualities are no more than would be expected in any mature disciple: "*... sober-minded, orderly, given to hospitality ... no brawler, no striker; but gentle, not contentious, no lover of money ... good testimony from them that are without ...*" (1 Timothy 3:7) "*... not selfwilled, not soon angry ... a lover of good ... just, holy, self-controlled; holding to the faithful word ...*" (Titus 1:6-9). Every Christian, without exception, is expected to grow and mature into "*a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ ...*" (Ephesians 4:13). There is nothing unusual about the Lord's servants becoming increasingly like Him. It is their failure to grow up that is considered aberrant (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Hebrews 5:12-14).

Fourthly, elders are drawn from mature Christian men who are married. The Holy Spirit has indicated that the elder is to be "*the husband of one wife*" (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). Here, again, there is no special obstacle. As a matter of course, most men marry.

Fifthly, elders are to be taken from mature Christian men who are married and have children. His children are to be believers and those still in his household are to be respectfully obedient (Titus 1:6; 1 Timothy 3:4). There is nothing remarkable about a married man having children. Most married men are

fathers, and from such a characteristic population new disciples were drawn in the past and will be drawn today. Nor should it be thought unusual for a Christian father's children to be faithful disciples and obedient to him. Godly parents will, more often than not, lead their children to serve the Lord (Proverbs 22:6). In New Testament times, it was not uncommon for whole households to be converted (Acts 10:24; 11:14; 16:31,33).

From among mature Christian family men with many different abilities there are bound to be some who are effective teachers (1 Timothy 3:2), able to nurture and train their brethren in the righteous ways of the Savior and protect them from the deceptions of false teachers (Titus 1:9; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-5).

Now, from all these qualifications of elders there is nothing so significant as the fact that they are devoted Christians. That they are men, married men, family men is not anything special. That they possess native skills as teachers gives them no distinction, either. Many men who have no faith in Christ at all could say the same. In the case of elders, it is the unqualified devotion that these men have to Christ that gives meaning to their family relationships and to their God-given skills.

I cannot tell you how often I have heard complaints about the absence of elders in local churches and the difficulty of finding qualified men to serve. It is not helpful merely to describe the problem and complain about it. We need to find the exact source of this critical shortage and formulate some godly solutions.

One thing we must face is that the Holy Spirit makes elders out of devoted Christians and churches that are filled with half-hearted and indifferent disciples don't have any material to work with. The answer to the shortage of every kind of worker in the kingdom of God is to get each child of God among us to be totally committed. If we can do that, the problem will take care of itself in time. If not, we will keep on complaining about the shortage of elders today and assure an even greater shortage tomorrow. Until we are willing to deal with our own shortfall in devotion, it is a little unrealistic to complain about the other fellow's.

## Those Serving This Week

### Sunday AM

<b>Class Prayer</b>	Matt Ferrell
<b>Announcements</b>	Chuck Isinghood
<b>Song Leader</b>	Nathan Marshall
<b>Scripture</b>	Matthew 17:14-27
<b>Reader</b>	Dan Marton
<b>Prayer</b>	Don Coen, Jr.
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Lord's Supper</b>	
Bread	Tim Henderson
Fruit of the Vine	Don Coen, Sr.
Serve	DC Coen
Serve	Terry Smith
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Harold Marshall

Please inform the one in charge of announcements if you are unable to fulfill your responsibilities.

### Sunday PM

<b>Announcements</b>	Chuck Isinghood
<b>Song Leader</b>	Ken Prager
<b>Scripture</b>	Matthew 18:1-14
<b>Reader</b>	Earl Miller
<b>1st Prayer</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Speaker</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Communion</b>	Dan Marton
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Matt Ferrell

### Wednesday

<b>Announcements</b>	Tim Henderson
<b>Class Prayer</b>	Chuck Isinghood
<b>Song Leader</b>	Harold Marshall
<b>Invitation</b>	Dan Marton
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Nathan Marshall

## *News N Notes*

**Please continue to remember these in your prayers:**

#### **Travelling:**

- Ronald & Charlotte Lancaster

#### **Sick/ Poor Health:**

- Jay Glasure, Ronald & Charlotte Lancaster's son-in-law had bypass surgery
- Zeda Goddard, also her family— sons, Dallas and Terry, and daughter Tammy Garrison
- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband, is to go back soon to have a stint put in for the other kidney.
- Jerry & Dottie Henderson as they continue their work in the Northwest region.
- Virginia Malick, Peggy Miller's mother
- Alfred & Mary Jane Myers
- Paula Prager as she continues to deal with a difficult pregnancy
- Jimmy Roberts, Ed & Marie's son
- Jim Roberts, Ed Roberts' father
- Marie Roberts
- Kris Shane
- Gabriel Taylor, 4 year old great grandson of Don & Phyllis, dealing with cancer.

#### **Don't forget our Shut-ins**

##### **Valley Haven:**

- Ethel Mahan
- Pauline Sellers

##### **Ann's Retreat:**

- Josephine Clow

##### **At Home:**

- Mabel Fleming
- Zeda Goddard
- Betty Hunter
- Pauline Midcap
- Ann Rudolph

Send them a card—give them a call—let them know we are thinking about them.

If someone needs to be added to this list, please call:  
304-914-2262 or 304-914-2263