

THE FINGERPRINTS OF GOD

By Brian Flewelling; 6.10.18

Congratulations to our graduates. It's a personal milestone. Freedom.

Before you get too carried away with your new freedom, our topic today is relevant to the use of our minds in faith and spirituality.

Since the enlightenment, thanks to Spinoza our culture often paints Christianity to be a refuge of ignorance, paints Christians out to be this dying breed of people who won't give up their dearly held superstitions. They think you believe in fairy tales and a cosmic Santa Claus or as Richard Dawkins claims the flying spaghetti monster.

So we're sending our children into these hostile universities, and into the glare of secular media science that create this false narrative that there's some kind of war between faith and science. That has never been our position.

Psalms 19:1-4

The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

²Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

³They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.

⁴Yet their voice[Ⓜ] goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

Story of Anthony Flew

In December 2004 British philosophy professor Anthony Flew, five-decade champion of atheism in the international community, shocked the world with a statement saying that he now believes in God and his migration was based on, of all things, on scientific evidence.

The evidence has led me *"to accept the existence of a self-existent, immutable, immaterial, omnipotent, and omniscient Being."*

Decades earlier he promised, he would "follow the evidence where ever it leads." And apparently not only for Anthony Flew but for many other intellectuals frustrated with the scant proof of Darwinism, and with the enormous discoveries of information in the Universe, smart people are quietly journeying back to a view that the world had to have been engineered by an intelligence.

So, what is the evidence that convinced this secular philosopher to believe in God? In just a few minutes I'm going to give you one big idea that conveys that evidence, but before I do I need to share something that's probably more important than the evidence itself.

Reason & the Mind

I'm preaching to the choir here. In our Sunday morning pulpit time often takes for granted what truth is without giving proof of how we know it's true. God. Jesus. Bible. Miracles of the Bible. It's appropriate, at times, to remind ourselves, and to teach our children how we know these things are true?

Even our Biblical authors did this. Luke, the doctor, reported at the beginning of his biography of Jesus,

[Luke 1:3](#)

["I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."](#)

The point is...We want you to use your minds. We want you to investigate. We're not covering up a lack of evidence. To the contrary, Christianity has been scrutinized and assaulted by secularism for 300 years and it continues to have reasonable, historical, factual evidence to support the claims that we make. We don't stop using our minds when we become a Christian. We don't believe against all evidence. We believe because of the evidence. God wants us to use our minds.

[Proverbs 4:7 Though it cost all you have, get understanding.](#)

Investigate the truth. Grapple with arguments. Yes that can create temporary messiness as we try to figure things out. But in the long run the fire of investigation burns away falsehood and truth still stands tall in the flames.

The mind is an essential part of understanding both faith and science.

[Mark 12:30](#)

[Jesus gives his followers the great commandment "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."](#)

[Slide: "I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use." ~Galileo](#)

The investigative mind sorts out bogus content. *Like shopping at a discount.*

Pastor Lester's jar of cookies!

Just because there is an explanation, doesn't mean it's the right explanation.

Just because Secular Materialism, Evolution, Randomness in the Universe

Judeo/Christianity for the last 4000 years has given an explanation that the Infinite and Personal God--Yahweh, as revealed in the scriptures, perfectly matches the fingerprints all over the natural world.

In fact, more than any other worldview, Christianity makes the most sense out of biology, astronomy & physics, human ethics and morality; philosophy, historical analysis, the existence of conscience, awareness of art and beauty, the understanding of free will and evil and the psychology of the sin nature. All of which I won't time to talk about today. Materialism claims that matter created mind. Christianity states that Mind created matter.

[John 1:1, 3 "In the beginning was the Word \(information\)...Through him all things were made."](#)

[Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The world and all who live in it."](#)

One big idea of where science is heading:

Over the last 50 years, during the explosion of the information age, there has been an information revolution within the sciences. No matter how far out you look in the Universe, and how small you look inside every cell...you find information, order, intelligent engineering, purposeful arrangement, systems and circuitry. You're left with the question:

How can nothing create something?

How can randomness and chance create such exquisite engineering? Hasn't engineering always been the product of a mind. Of thoughtfulness.

- The mathematical blueprints of our universe reek of an engineer.
- The brilliant Greek Philosophers – 2,500 years ago were already saying the mathematical constants were the finger prints of a divine intellect.
- In the last 50 years we've discovered the details of how true that is.
- Cosmologists, physicists have discovered more than the law of gravity.
- 40 properties/laws of nature that regulate your existence. Entropy, Gravity, Strong Nuclear Force, Weak Nuclear Force, Electromagnetism, Expansion rate, charge of electrons, speed of light, cosmological constant...
- We don't know how they got there.

- If you started turning the dials just a little bit, the Universe would cease to exist, or we would cease to exist within it.
- We walk on a perfectly calibrated razor's edge. We could die tomorrow if we let a chimp inside the engineer's room.
- The fact that our universe produced us randomly, is a mathematical absurdity.
- Slide: "A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super intellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question."
~Cosmologist, Fred Hoyle (atheist)
- Psalm 19:2 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
- Slide: Newton - *"Don't doubt the creator, because it is inconceivable that accidents alone could be the controller of this universe."*
- Slide: Albert Einstein said, *"God does not play dice with the Universe."*
- That's the macroscopic. What about the microscopic. Personal? Biological?
- Origin of Life scientists are clueless as to how the supposed "first-cell" ever came to be. How did 75 random amino acids, with very particular bonding qualities, self-assemble into a perfect sequential order, like a paragraph, where they snapped and folded to form one intelligible three-dimension protein molecule, and a minimum # of three hundred protein molecules suddenly self-generated and self-assembled into a working entity protected by a membrane (or city wall) that keeps them from the barbarian contaminants out there. Long enough that they can mysteriously encode their information into a self-replicating system.
- Inside every living organism, from a blade of grass, to a parasite, a peach or a person. Every cell contains libraries of information.
- We have the most efficient information storage units in the world. In your cell.
- Where does all that information come from?
- We have the most efficient Nano technology in the world. Protein machines.
- Psalm 139:12-15 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...my frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Story: Scientist and Sage were having English tea. The Sage said, “Why is the water boiling?” Water molecules are agitated. Because I want a cup of tea. One is a mechanical explanation. One is a personal explanation. The mechanical explanation does not contradict the personal explanation. They compliment one another. So it is that God created a scientific world for personal reasons. And what are those personal reasons?

Ephesians 1:5

In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ in agreement with his pleasure and joy.

Closing:

The discoveries of science in the last 50 years continue to strengthen the claim that an infinitely big, and remarkably personal God has done this.

My hope for you is that you love God with all your mind.

That your study of science causes you to break out in worship God. And that your worship of God provokes you to study the science of his world.

Slide:

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!
Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?
Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?
For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Episode 28 - The Miracle of Life

Episode 24 - The Unlikely Universe