



Notes from the President's Desk

Florida College was founded to provide an alternative to Godless higher education which operates within an environment dominated by atheism, scepticism, and materialism. People of faith who believe that God exists, that God created all things, and that God rules over His creation have an educational haven to which they can send their children in full confidence that they will not be taught to believe in either "macro-evolution" or "theistic evolution." Our faculty is united in opposition to these theories. Each of our professors strongly affirms instantaneous creation of both botanical and zoological "kinds" by the spoken word of God as described in Genesis 1. And each powerfully denies both macro-evolution and theistic evolution.

Macro-evolution (sometimes called "organic evolution" and often identified with Darwinism) teaches that all living organisms originated from natural phenomena which have operated upon primitive lifeless chemical elements to cause them to develop into the complex species of living things observable in nature.

"Theistic evolution" is similar in attributing the development of species to the same naturalistic selective processes, but it posits the origins of matter and life in special acts of creation. To be fair, some theistic evolutionists credit divine design and providence with the "evolution" of higher life forms including man, but most attribute that ontogeny to chance after the initial advent of life. Either is blatant compromise and denies the creative work of God as revealed in His inspired Word, the Bible.

H. E. "Buddy" Payne, Jr. (academic dean, Florida College), who has given numerous lectures on the scientific evidence for creation on college campuses across the country, says, "In every age, God has supplied sufficient evidence in 'the things that are made' (Rom. 1:18-20) to convince a reasonable person that God is the Creator. But with the explosion of evidence from the biochemistry of life in the last forty years, it is as if God is shouting to us, 'I am here!' The testimony of the natural world and of His divine revelation in the Bible leave men who do not see 'without excuse.' God created life in all its forms by His direct design."

Larry Dickens (professor of chemistry, Florida College) says, "The concept of theistic evolution is neither scriptural nor scientific. The-

istic evolution violates Genesis 2:1-2, 'Thus the heavens and earth were completed, and all their hosts. And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day for all His work which He had done.' All scientific evidence is of a universe increasing in entropy (or "running down"). The scientific community assumes that ordered systems within the universe (such as the presence of life on earth) are accomplished only at the expense of increasing disorder in the universe. Since all explanations assume natural law, no provision is made for cause by Deity."

Ferrell Jenkins (chairman of the Department of Biblical Studies, Florida College) has said, "It is impossible to harmonize the concept of theistic evolution with the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 19:4-5. In response to a question about divorce He stated that 'He who created them from the beginning made them male and female.' At the *beginning*, God made them *male* and *female*. They did not evolve from lower forms over a period of time but were capable of reproducing their own kind from the beginning. I see theistic evolution as a denial of the deity of Christ." Jenkins expounded upon this theme before the entire faculty and student body (August 31, 1999), saying that the Son of God not only made those statements but Himself created (John 1, Colossians 1, and Hebrews 1). To challenge what He said about the creation is to challenge His truthfulness and thus His divinity.

Shane Scott (professor of Bible, Florida College) echoes this position by saying, "God created the universe from nothing by the word of His power. God created plants and animals to reproduce after their own kind, not to evolve into different species. God created man in His own image, completely distinct from animals.

"Theistic evolution accepts the Darwinian view of amoeba to man evolution . . . and denies the limitation of reproduction after their own kind and the uniqueness of man's creation vs. animals.

"Creation and Darwinism are philosophical oil and water — they do not mix!"

Robert E.D. Clark's work, *Darwin Before and After*, cites the following statement from Darwin: "I would give absolutely nothing for the theory of natural selection if it requires miraculous additions at any stage of descent."

Richard Dawkins, an aggressive atheist who denied William Paley's classic illustration of design in the natural world, argues in *The Blind Watchmaker* that natural selection is "blind because it does not see ahead, does not plan consequences, has no purpose in view."

"Yet," he admits, "the living results of natural selection overwhelmingly impress us with the appearance of design as if by a master watchmaker, impress us with the illusion of design and planning" (p. 21). Even so, he asserts that Darwin's theory "made it possible to be an intellectually fulfilled atheist" (Phillip E. Johnson, *Reason in Balance*, p. 14).

We believe in an All-Seeing Designer whose universe shows forth His great Intellect; and we deny that any other view is intellectually fulfilling.

For more on how Florida College teachers deal with scientific issues as they relate to the Bible, I recommend that you read Dr. Douglas HC Northcutt's revealing article in this issue of the *FC Magazine*. Dr. Northcutt is a professor of biology who daily teaches young people at Florida College. His article is typical of the kind of training students receive at this institution of higher learning.

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