

Preacher's Pen points

Back to the Dark Ages?



This letter recently appeared among the letters to the editor of The Tennessean:

Move to creationism is return to dark ages

To the editor:

There is a current move in many states by people who take the Bible literally to change the school science curriculum to discredit evolution in favor of creationism.

This comes at a time when the United States is already falling behind nations in Europe and Asia in producing well-educated students capable of becoming the leaders of the future.

This anti-science approach makes no sense. Science is based on examination of empirical evidence. Faith is based on belief. Faith is wonderful when it gives us guidance in our relationships with others, but reason is the key to understanding the workings of the universe.

If we are to follow a literal interpretation of the Bible as our guide, will we not revert to stonings, slavery and animal sacrifice? All are condoned by the Old Testament.

Or will we take the path of reason and knowledge? Galileo was excommunicated for stating what is true: The Earth revolves around the Sun.

Shall we now, 500 years later, say that the Earth was created in six days, when the hard evidence shows it was billions of years ago?

Is it possible for us to return to the dark ages, when knowledge was deemed evil. We need to stop this non-sense now before future generations are influenced by it. (Writer's name withheld)

Such articles as this remind me of Paul's warning to Titus about what is "falsely called knowledge." (1 Tim. 6:20-21). The writer of our editorial was mistaken on so many points, it would be hard to answer them all, but consider these things.

Not all science is knowledge!

The history of scientific thought indicates that it is a discipline of change. If we can take our cues from the past, today's "science" may very well be tomorrow's fiction.

Evolutionary science is not empirical!

The theory of evolution is a scientific speculation about what happened in the past, not an observed phenomenon of empirical testing. It seeks to find an explanation for man's existence based on the presumption that God does not exist!

Faith is not the absence of reason!

Our writer's definition of faith is tautologous when he says, "faith is based on belief". All faith, whether religious or scientific, should be based on evidence and the reasoned evaluation of it (Jn. 20:30-31).

Faith and Science are not mutually exclusive disciplines!

Many of the world's great scientists have been believers in God and creationists. Today's science seems to be adding continued weight to the idea that this universe could not have come into existence by natural forces alone.

Advocating faith in God is not "non-sense". Instead it is the first step toward wisdom. However, ignoring God and neglecting His word is a real "return to the dark ages".

—Johnny Felker (www.truthchasers.com)