

## ***WHOSE WORD DO YOU BELIEVE?***

*David Halbrook*

A recent survey concluded that 1 of 3 Americans reject the theory of (macro)evolution while 6 of 10 Americans believe it. Whatever you believe is based on faith. The important question is, upon what is your faith based?

The word of a scientist? Many people believe the theory of (macro)evolution is proven fact though it is not seen or repeatable today. They believe what they cannot see (faith) because a scientist says so though the theory contradicts facts that can be seen, such as “life does not come from non-life.”

The word of God? Some people believe that God exists even though they cannot see Him (faith). They study the Bible and see it’s proven facts (fulfilled prophecy; 2 Pet. 1:19). So, when it says that all physical life came from God who made man in His image (Gen. 1:27), they believe.

Tuesday, February 4, Ken Ham (The Creation Museum) is debating Bill Nye (“The Science Guy”) regarding whether creation is a useful explanation for the existence of physical things. I do not know exactly what these two men will say, so I cannot fully endorse either man, but read future articles, and contact us, for discussion of this topic and debate.

Editor’s Note: If the existence of God is not controversial with most people you know, then help them to find this article in *Arkansas Weekly* so that they see that we are teaching the whole counsel of God. The debate referred to, can be seen free of charge on the internet. Find ways to use this debate, in the process of teaching the truth to this current generation that does not know the Lord.

### **Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.**

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Samuel Southall, and others with ongoing trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians among us.

Please check the bulletin board in the back. There are several items that need volunteers (preparing Lord’s Supper, roadside signboard).

*We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM*

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# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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## ***SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR BIBLE CLASS TEACHERS***

*Jarrod Jacobs*

Today, we begin a new quarter of Bible classes for the new year. With this in mind, I want to begin by saying thank you to those teachers who have volunteered to teach this quarter, and the rest of this year. It is so encouraging to see the response to this most important work (Jas. 3:1)!

Truly, our Bible class teachers have a special responsibility! They are responsible for imparting Bible truths to our children on a weekly basis. Of course, we understand that their work is not a substitute, but a complement for Bible teaching done in the home (Eph. 6:4; Titus 2:3-5; etc.). In light of this great work, I found the following questions quite interesting. The questions listed below are questions that would be good for all teachers to ask; from those teaching the small children, to those teaching the adults in their Bible study. Let us consider these questions carefully, and keep in mind just Who it is that is the author of our “curriculum,” as well as keep in mind just who it is that we are teaching. Before teaching your class, ask yourself....

- 1) What do I want my pupils to know?
- 2) Why do I want them to know it?
- 3) How can I get them to see it?
- 4) How can I get them to believe it?
- 5) How will I get them to act on this faith?
- 6) What will it benefit them if they do?
- 7) How will it hurt them if they do not?

Teaching a Bible class is a serious matter. Let us thank our teachers for the hard work that they do. Teachers, you have precious souls in your hands on a weekly basis. Don’t take this privilege for granted!!

Editor’s Note- We aren’t starting a new quarter of classes, but everything else in this article is useful to us. Parents, thank your brother or sister who is teaching your children. Teachers, remember that you are planting ideas that will go with your students, young or old, for the rest of their lives.

## ***LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN***

*Bobby K. Thompson*

“Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” (Romans 12:18). It is the will of God that Christians strive to live peaceably with all men. They are not to be trouble makers, but peacemakers. As much as depends on them, they are to seek peace with all men. Peace is a beautiful word which should be characteristic of all men’s lives. However, this is often not the concern or interest of many. They had rather dwell upon strife and vainglory than enjoy peace with one another. This prompted Paul to write, “If it be possible, so much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.” The attitudes and dispositions of some people will not permit others to live peaceably with them. The possibility is not favorable due to their carnal desires and worldly objectives. Nevertheless, efforts are to be made by Christians to live peaceably with all men. We might profit from the suggestion which Abram, made to his nephew, Lot, in Genesis 13. The land was not able to sustain the flocks of both Abram and Lot. This caused strife among the herdsmen of Abram and the herdsmen of Lot. Abram said there was no need for them to have strife “for we be brethren”. He suggested, “Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.” (Genesis 13:9). Lot accepted the proposal and chose the well watered plain of Jordan. Abram received what appeared the poorer land, but the Lord blessed him, and he prospered far greater than Lot. Though separation was the answer in preserving peace, it sometimes produces fruitful results as it did with the herdsmen of Abram and Lot. It was something that was possible, and it did not violate the will of God! What are things which hinder peace?

### **Peace Is Often Hindered By:**

**Misunderstanding.** Men fail to understand the motives and purposes of others. They look on their own things and not on the things of others. This misunderstanding erupts in peace being violated and the word of God being ignored. “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory: but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:3-5). Peace is preserved, when brethren think of others and look on their things, esteeming others better than themselves. “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:17). Misunderstanding

of the will of God can affect peace among the people of God. It is possible to contend for something that is not taught in the word of God, and fail to have peace with those who know what the truth is. “Prove all things: hold fast that which is good.” (I Thessalonians 5:21). **Peace Is Also Hindered By:**

**Disrespect for authority.** Respect for authority is related to promoting peace. Peace in the community is based upon civil authority which God has authorized. “For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shall have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee to good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.” (Romans 13:3-4). Obeying civil authorities helps us to live peacefully with all men. Without civil law, there is anarchy which can never promote peace. The scriptures would have us to respect authority in our homes that peace might exist. There are many homes which lack peaceful overtones due to the fact that God’s authority is not obeyed. “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.” (Ephesians 5:22-24). This teaching is not recognized in many homes. There are wives who do not respect God’s authority in submitting to their husbands. There are also husbands who will not assume their headship, and, all in all, it results in a lack of peace in homes as God as created homes to have. And don’t overlook the parent-children relationship. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth, And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:1-4). Authority in the home involves children obeying their parents in the Lord. It also focuses upon fathers bringing their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The authority of God is honored and respected. Peace is appreciated in such homes and they are not torn by illicit drugs, fornication and sinful practices which destroy living peacefully with all men.