

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Date	Morning	Evening
01/05/09 Monday.....	Genesis.....09-10	Matthew.....05
01/06/09 Tuesday.....	Genesis.....11-12	Matthew.....06
01/07/09 Wednesday.....	Genesis.....13-14	Matthew.....07
01/08/09 Thursday.....	Genesis.....15-16	Matthew.....08
01/09/09 Friday.....	Genesis.....17-18	Matthew.....09
01/10/09 Saturday.....	Genesis.....19-20	Matthew.....10
01/11/09 Sunday.....	Genesis.....21-22	Matthew.....11

The Informer is a weekly publication that is published and overseen by the Belle church of Christ located at the corner of 8th and Oak in Belle, Missouri 65013. Our Mailing address is “P.O. Box 381, Belle, Missouri 65013. The church phone number is (573) 859-6616. Jerry McDonald is the pulpit preacher. His email address is jerry@challenge2.org. His cell number is (573) 578-5931. Thomas McDonald is the associate preacher. His email address is thmcdonald10@hotmail.com. His cell phone number is (573) 201-6093. We support U. John in Prakasam, India. We will also be supporting Jeremy Desjarlais in Sydney, Australia. We also support Ruben Williams as he studies to preach at the Memphis School of Preaching. Our church website is <http://www.bellecoc.com>. The email address is bellecoc@bellecoc.com. Our services are as follows:

TIMES OF SERVICE

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30
 Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:00
 Ladies Bible Class 3rd Monday Evening of Each Month.....7:00

OUR PLEA:
 BACK-TO-THE-BIBLE

Belle church of Christ
 P.O. Box 381
 Belle, MO 65013

The Informer

Belle church of Christ

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WHAT IS OUR STANDARD? (2)

Jerry D. McDonald

“We have a controversy going on in ... now about the acceptability of the Paluxy footprints in creationism. The issue is that we are dealing with presuppositions. Creationists have accepted the presuppositions of evolutionists, and are trying to present evidence to them based on those presuppositions. **Creationists have abandoned the idea of God as ultimate reality, and think that there is some kind of secular standard outside of God on which reality can be judged. Western science has made itself irrelevant to reality; that is the problem here.** We should not be trying to live up to the standards of Western science. We should be trying to live up to God's standards, and allow Western science to fall into the dustbin of history, if that is what its adherents want.”

This is the stickler of the whole debate because theistic evolutionists don't like to think that they have abandoned God while accepting evolution. They like to think that they can accept evolution and God at the same time, but nothing is further from the truth. The truth is that theistic evolution is simply a doctrine of convenience that is accepted by many who don't want to take a firm stand either way. They don't have to take a first stand against creation, and they don't have to take a firm stand for creation. They get to keep one foot in the camp of the creationists, while keeping the other foot in the camp of the atheists. Paul told the church in Corinth that “*a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump*” (1 Cor. 5:6,7). While the context is dealing with a different matter the principle is the same. We cannot, we must not, allow those who hold to the hands of atheists to stay in the church. If they cannot be taught, and corrected, then they must be purged out. I realize that people don't like to talk about church discipline, but this is precisely the reason we have the problems we have in the church today. We didn't like talking about these things 20 years ago, and when men like Bert Thompson and Wayne Jackson were trying to warn the brotherhood about what was being taught at ACU, no one wanted to listen. Well, now we have a lot of people in the brotherhood who have accepted the teachings of evolution. Some of them have moved on into atheism, but many of them are still among us teaching that God used evolution to create all that there is.

Some think that evolution was God’s great miracle! Hmmm imagine that, evolution a miracle, that would take a lot of imagination wouldn’t it. Evolution is not a miracle, it is not taught as a miracle, it is not perceived as a miracle, and it is not accepted as a miracle. Arthur Strahler wrote concerning theistic evolutionists:

“Just how many, or of what proportion, of the members of the scientific community hold to some version of the general theme of theistic evolution is very difficult to determine or even to estimate. The position itself is a satisfactory working philosophy to those who embrace it and, as such, it is not likely to produce a strong evangelistic movement. Nontheistic (atheistic, agnostic) scientists feel little urge to argue with the theistic scientists, perhaps feeling that the mixture of theism and naturalism it requires could be something of a contradiction, but of no consequence if it remains a personal belief. I, myself, wonder about the ability of a scientists to ‘serve two masters’ while carrying out research in the historical areas of biology, geology and astronomy; but as long as no mention of **miracle** (bold mine jdm) appears in published research in the scientific journals, I see nothing to worry about” (*Science and Earth History, The Evolution/Creation Controversy*, p. 84).

Just as long as the word “miracle” doesn’t appear, it is all right. However, here we have these guys going around saying that God’s greatest miracle was evolution. I wonder what Strahler would say about that? Strahler went on to talk about how he had no problem with the theistic evolutionist because he and they had the same goal, do not teach (what he termed as) religion in the classroom, in other words, don’t teach creation. Don’t teach miracles, don’t teach about God, don’t say anything about supernatural intervention. Don’t mention intelligent design. Just teach Darwin’s theory on evolution, which states that everything happened by chance, that we are just a chance of nature. If you teach that, you are “A-OK” as far as Strahler is concerned. You can personally believe what you want, just don’t teach it. Don’t stand up for your beliefs, just stand up for his beliefs, not your own and you will be his friend. But if you mention the word “miracle,” “supernatural,” “God,” or “creation,” then you are in deep trouble. So the theistic evolutionist must keep quiet about whatever convictions he may have about God. He can only **personally believe**, but he cannot **state his beliefs** because the nontheistic evolutionists like Strahler, Dawkins and others don’t want the competition. Remember what he said: “it is not likely to produce a strong evangelistic movement”? Yes, the theistic evolutionist can drop his head in shame because he cannot stand up and evangelize for Jesus Christ. He cannot defend his Lord. He cannot be a soldier of the cross. He cannot defend the word of God. He cannot defend God himself. He must knuckle under the bonds of his true master Satan for he has sold himself into slavery. Strahler was right, no man can serve two masters, and the theistic evolutionist is no different than anyone else.

The Christian who trusts in evolution cannot, logically or scripturally, trust in God. In order to trust in evolution he must give up his belief in God. Jesus will not allow man to hold to both. He told the church of Laodicea “These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Rev 3:14-16).

News & Notes

THOSE TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

We need to remember all those who are sick and afflicted in our daily prayers. We need to remember those who are in the nursing homes, and in the military. We also need to keep Doris Pendleton, Ruby Backus, Tex Kinman, Bill and Verna Butler, Gary Cooper, Lynna Shanks, Verma Long, Connie Gass, Nelta Brock, Cheryl Harris, Janet Patrick, Evonelle Calkins, Vera Dreyse, Elnora Shanks, Bill Habermehl, Dawn Tivoli, Savana Shanks, David Shanks, Richard Massey, Ben Smith Betty Brown, Elwood and Ethel Runge and Danny and Barbara Keeney in our daily prayers. Chesley Shanks continues to get better. He is now back with us. Also continue to remember Gary Wallace. He is home now and continues to improve. Also remember Taylor Shanks in your daily prayers. Also please remember Adrian & Jean Swindler in your prayers.

THOSE TO SERVE January 4, 2009 A.M.	THOSE TO SERVE January 11, 2009 A.M.
Greeters.....Tex & Lois Kinman	Greeters.....David Shanks & Jerry McDonald
Announcements.....Danny Keeney	Announcements.....Jerry McDonald
Song Leader.....David Shanks	Song Leader.....Danny Keeney
Opening Prayer.....Thomas McDonald	Opening Prayer.....Elwood Runge
Lord’s Supper....Andy Shanks & Elwood Runge	Lord’s Supper.....Andy Shanks & T. McDonald
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Leroy Thomas	Closing Prayer.....Leroy Thomas
P.M.	P.M.
Song Leader.....David Shanks	Song Leader.....Danny Keeney
Opening Prayer.....Andy Shanks	Opening Prayer.....Elwood Runge
Sermon.....Jerry McDonald	Sermon.....Jerry McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Elwood Runge	Closing Prayer.....Andy Shanks
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Song Leader.....David Shanks	Song Leader.....Danny Keeney
Opening Prayer.....Jerry McDonald	Opening Prayer.....David Shanks
Devotional.....Thomas McDonald	Devotional.....Thomas McDonald
Closing Prayer.....Danny Keeney	Closing Prayer.....Jerry McDonald

FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN’S HOME

The items for Fair Haven Children’s Home this week are “Cooking Oil,” and “Canned Chicken.”

Sermons for the Next Two Weeks

A.M. For January 4, 2009: “I Am Resolved” The P.M. Lesson will be: “Jesus: The Good Shepherd.”

A.M. For January 11, 2009: “God Is Calling The Prodigal.” The P.M. lesson will be “Introduction To Philemon.”

Men’s Business Meeting

The men’s business meeting will be held on January 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.,. All the men of the congregation are invited to attend to help make the decisions for the church here at Belle.

Videos

Don’t forget about the videos “Obsession” and “Expelled” that are available to the congregation. Contact one of the McDonald’s to find out about getting hold of a copy.

BUILDING CLEANING

We will be cleaning the building after the evening services on January 11, 2009. All who can stay and help with this chore are invited to do so.