

Lesson 4 - The Philosophy of Humanism: Exceeding the Limitations of Science

CHRISTIANITY

or

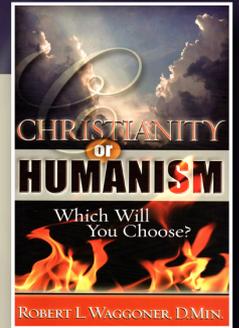
HUMANISM

Which Will
You Choose?

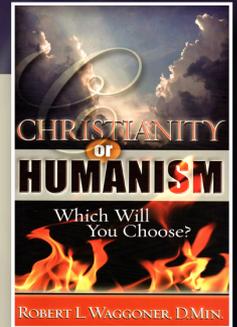
ROBERT L. WAGGONER, D.MIN.

REVIEW

A worldview is how we view life and the world, like lenses in eyeglasses, and like a filter.

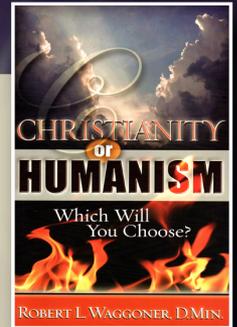


REVIEW



A biblical worldview is recognizing that God has given us **all things** that pertain unto **life** and **godliness** (II Peter 1:3) and so acknowledge or recognize God in **all** our dealings, undertakings, and thoughts (Prov. 3:6). God's word is allowed to be the foundation of everything we think, say, and do.

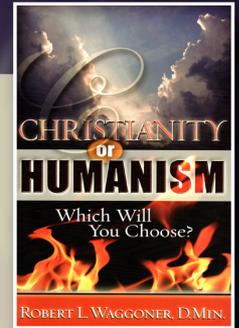
REVIEW



Contrary to a biblical worldview is a secular humanist worldview where:

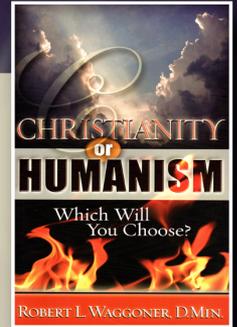
- **Only the physical is believed to exist. Nature is self-existing, i.e. is eternal.**
- **Truth is considered to be only that which can be proven by experimentation (scientific method) and reason.**
- **There is no revelation from God. Humans develop and define their own ethics or morality based on what they consider is in their best interests.**
- **There is no spirit; no God; no human soul; no life after death.**
- **The life we have now is “all and enough” and should be lived to experience its full potential.**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES



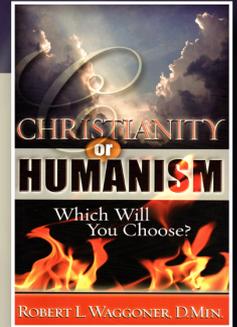
- To recognize the proper use of and limitations of science and human reasoning in acquiring knowledge.
- To recognize that God has revealed to all men all of the objective information needed to deduce proper conclusions about Him and the purpose of human life.

LESSON APPROACH



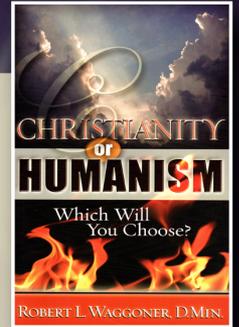
- **Background**
 - Reasoning from Nature to Supernatural
 - Faith, Belief, Trust in God from his revealed word.
- **Definition of Science and Scientific Method**
- **Limitations of Science**
- **Secular Humanist Assertions concerning Science and reason**
- **Pervasiveness of these Assertions (in the Schools and Universities).**

BACKGROUND



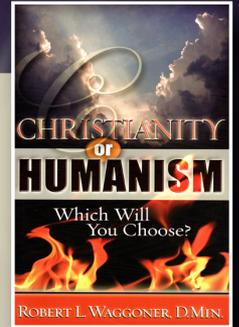
- God expects people to reason from evidence and credible testimony to draw proper conclusions about Him and what their purpose in life is.
- This evidence and credible testimony are all revealed to mankind by God in two forms:
 - **General (or Natural) Revelation:** Evidence obtained from observing and studying the physical universe (including living things).
 - **Special Revelation:** The Bible – God’s written revelation.

BACKGROUND



- **Science, properly used, is a logical, systematic methodology for obtaining information about the physical universe.**
 - **Legitimate science is a tool that acquires more information (physical evidence) concerning God’s general or natural revelation of His deity and power.**
 - **Illegitimate “science” bears false witness of the existence of God and His power, claiming that there is no evidence that He exists.**

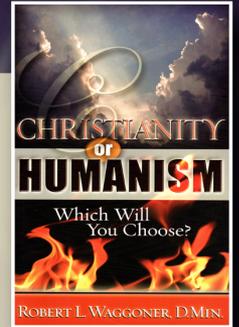
BACKGROUND



God expects people to reason.

- 1 Thess. 5:21: **Prove** all things; hold fast that which is good.
- 1 John 4:1: Beloved, believe not every spirit, but **try** the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.
- δοκιμάζω (dokimazō) = to assay, test, examine, prove, scrutinize.

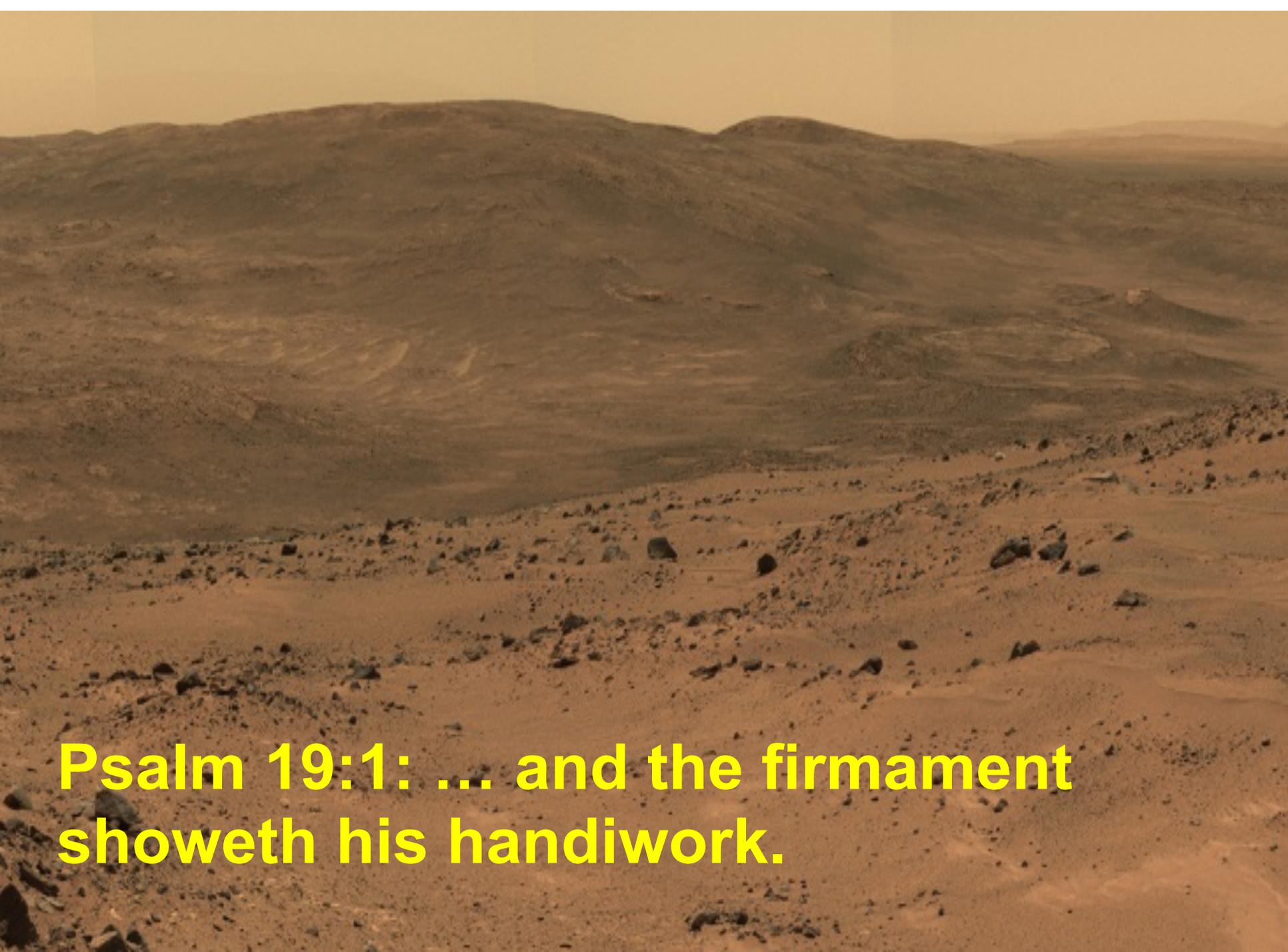
BACKGROUND



God expects people to reason from His **general or natural revelation** to conclude that there is a supernatural being, God.

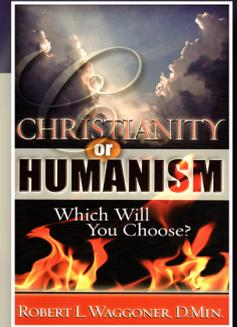
**Psalm 19:1: The heavens declare the
glory of God...**





**Psalm 19:1: ... and the firmament
showeth his handiwork.**

MANY REASON IMPROPERLY FROM NATURAL REVELATION

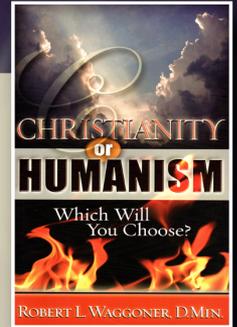


Similarly, **our universe seems fine tuned to be favorable to life**, with its Goldilocks expansion rate that's not too fast or too slow, an electron that's not too big, a proton that has the exact opposite charge but the same mass as a neutron and a four-dimensional space in which we can live. **If the electron or proton were, for example, one percent larger, beings could not be. What are the chances that all those properties would align to create a nice piece of real estate for biology to form and evolve?**

In a universe that is, in fact, the only universe, **the chances are vanishingly small.**

Can Physicists Ever Prove the Multiverse Is Real?
Sarah Scoles , smithsonian.com, April 19, 2016

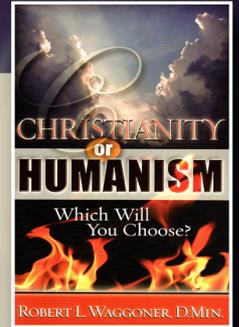
MANY REASON IMPROPERLY FROM NATURAL REVELATION



... a question that astronomers have discussed for thousands of years, concerning the Earth and the sun. Why is the sun the distance that it is from us? If it were closer, the Earth would be too hot to harbor life; if it were further away, the Earth would be too cold. Why is it at just the right distance? Most people, like Galen, the Roman physician, thought that it was due to the benevolence of the gods, that it was all arranged for our benefit. **A much better answer — the answer we would give today — is that there are billions of planets in our galaxy, and billions of galaxies in the universe. And it's not surprising that a few of them, out of all those billions, are positioned in a way that's favorable for life.**

Steve Weinberg, Nobel Prize winner for physics, University of Texas.

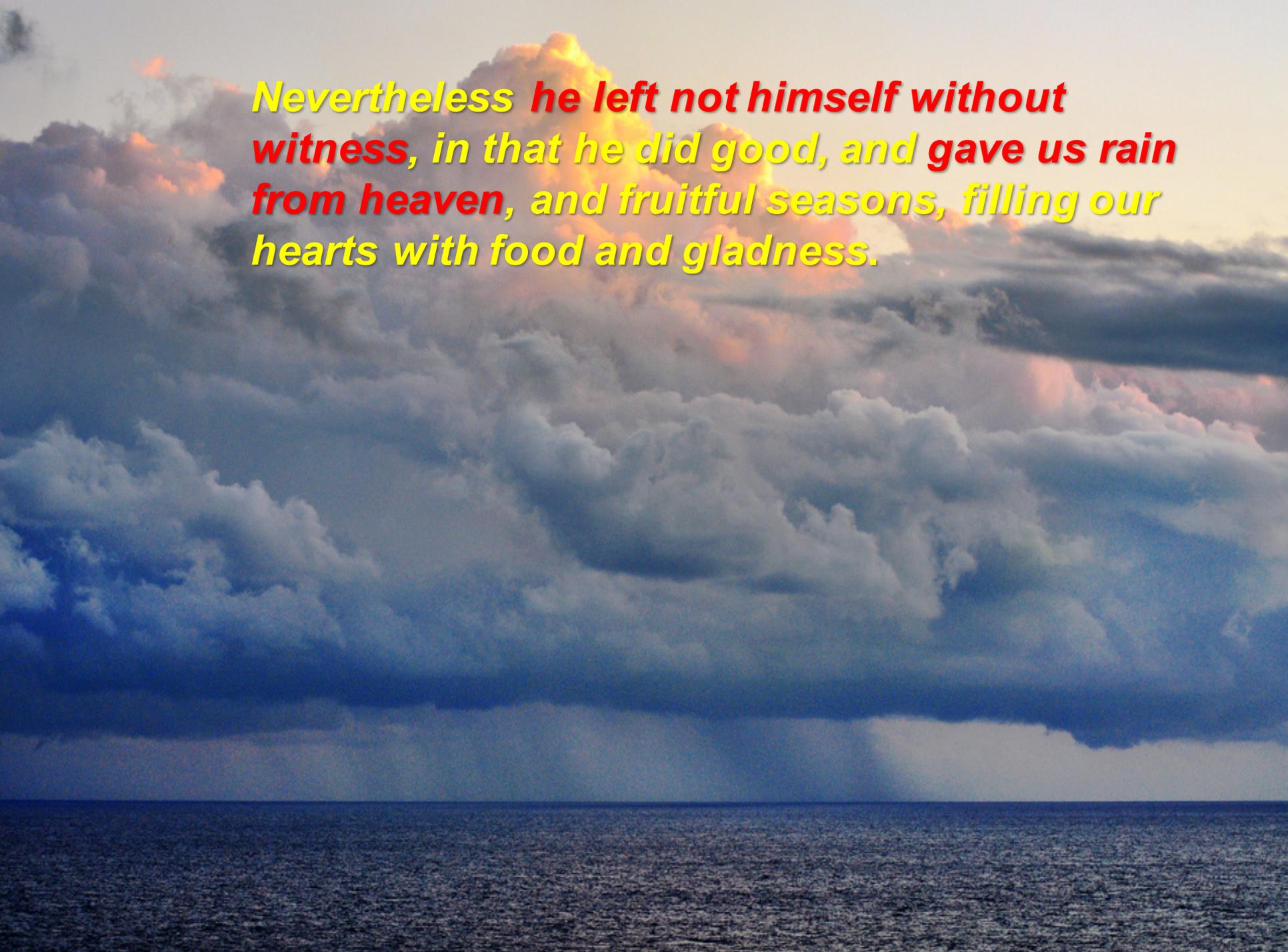
BACKGROUND



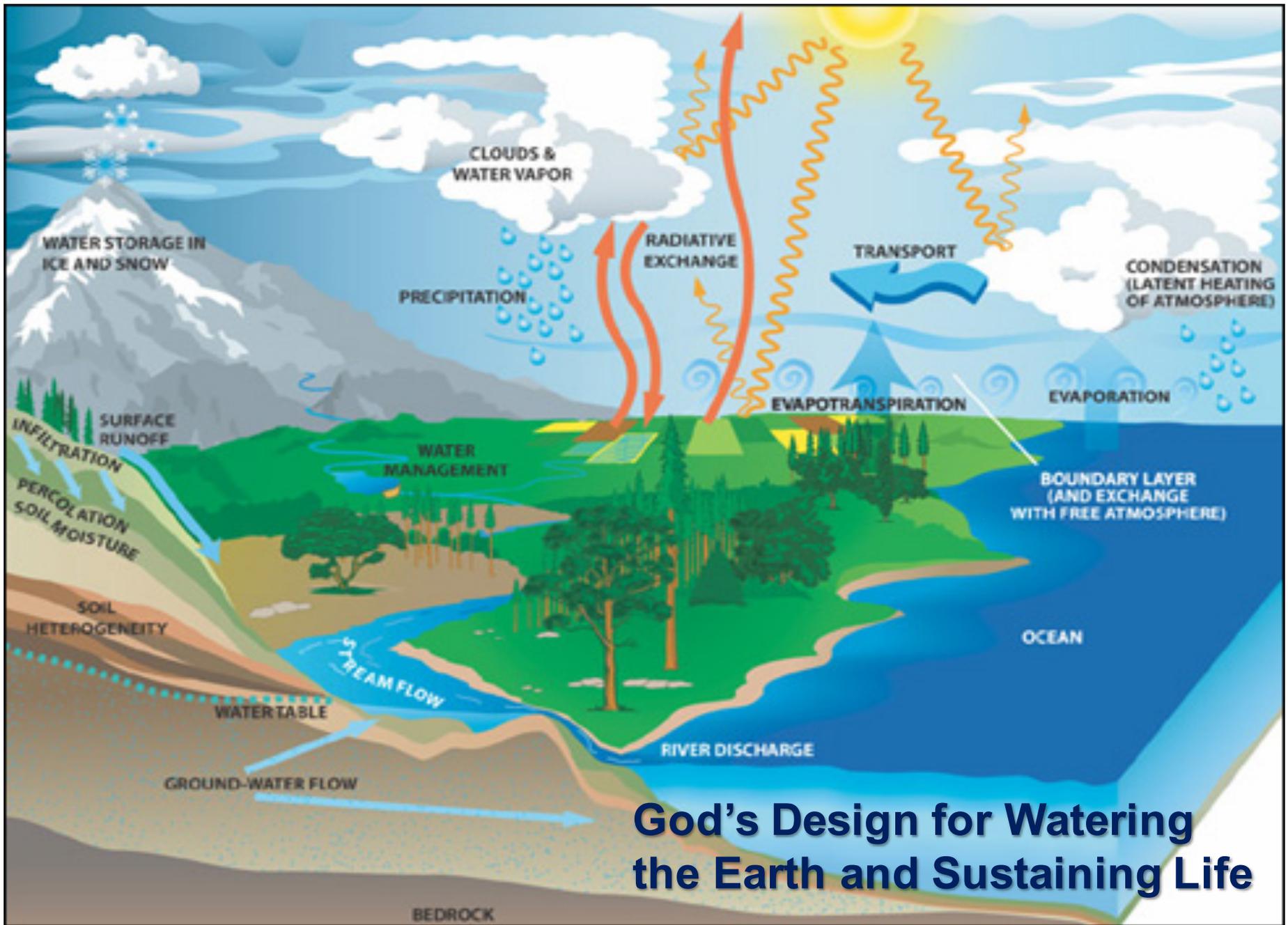
Acts 14:15 -17:

*And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should **turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:***

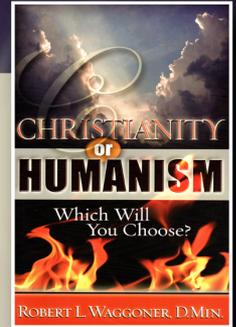
Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways."



Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.



**God's Design for Watering
the Earth and Sustaining Life**

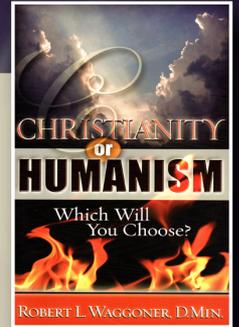


GOD LEFT NOT HIMSELF WITHOUT WITNESS IN THAT HE GAVE US RAIN

Facts to consider about God's complex design to water the earth.

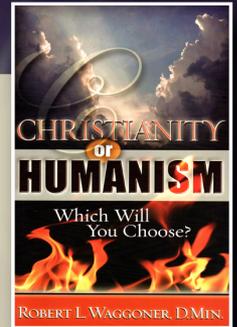
- Avg. yearly rainfall in North Carolina east of mountains and not near the coast: 40 – 50 inches.
- Area of state: 53,819 miles²
- Assume 40 inches/yr (0.00062 mile/yr) over entire state.
- $(0.00062 \text{ mile/ rain yr})(53,819 \text{ miles}^2) = \mathbf{34 \text{ cubic miles}} = 37.4 \text{ trillion gal. of water /yr desalinated from the oceans.}$
- 40 inches rain/yr , if continuous throughout the year equates to **71.2 million gal/min.**
- What would man's irrigation and drainage system look like?

BACKGROUND



- From the complexity, order, and design of the observable universe, God expects men to reason that He exists.

BACKGROUND



Rom. 1:18 - 20:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.

BACKGROUND

God expects man to reason from His special revelation (the Bible):

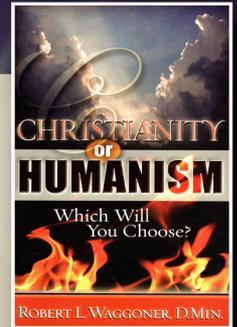
Heb. 11:6:

But without faith (the conviction, sure confidence in the belief of a proposition)

it is impossible to please him (God)

*for **he that cometh to God must believe that he is** (must have the conviction that God exists),*

and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

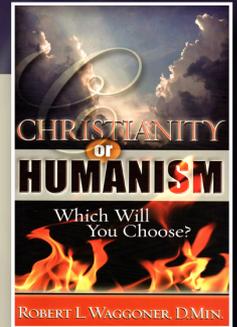


BACKGROUND

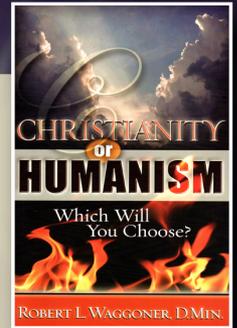
God expects man to reason from His **special revelation** (the Bible):

Heb. 11:1: *Now faith is the assurance (**a sure confidence**) of things which are hoped for, a conviction of things not seen.*

- Faith is a firm, unshaken, confidence, conviction, or belief in the truth of a proposition, based upon credible evidence and testimony concerning it (God's general and specific revelations to mankind).
- Faith is **NOT** believing in something that cannot be proven, for which there is no evidence.



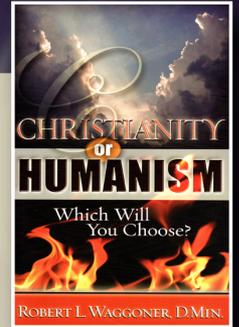
BACKGROUND



God expects man to reason from His special revelation (the Bible):

- **Rom. 10:17**: So then **faith** cometh by hearing, and hearing **by the word of God**.
- **John 20:31**: But **these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life** through his name.
- Faith (belief, trust) in God is based on the testimony and evidence in His special revelation to mankind.
 - Since we are to prove all things (I Thess. 5:21), how can we prove the Bible is God's special revelation?
 - "**Proving the Bible is God's Revelation**", sermon tonight by Steve Miller.

BACKGROUND



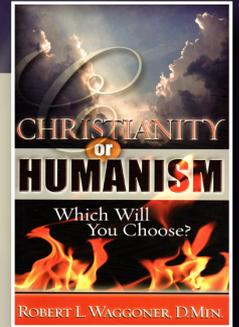
The religion of secular humanism excludes God's general and special revelations, and makes man the sole discoverer of all that can be known based on his reasoning ability and the extensive use of the tool he invented – science.

- The importance and capabilities of science and the employment of human reasoning is greatly overstated as will be shown in some quotations to follow.

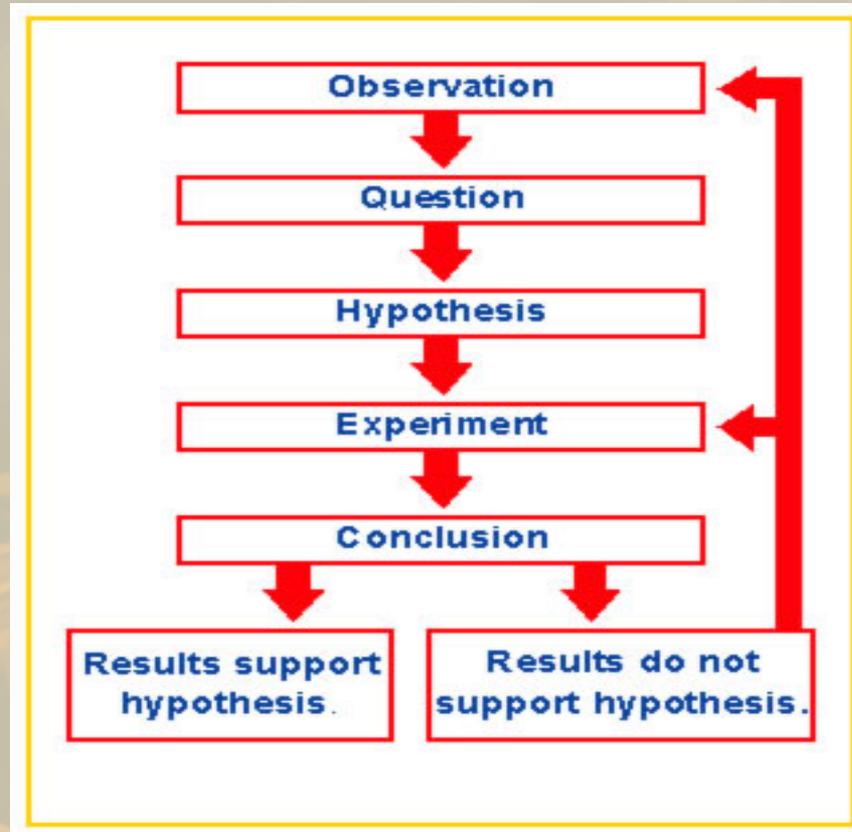
What is Science?

Science is an organized way of gathering and analyzing evidence **about the natural world**. It is a way of observing, a way of thinking, and a way of knowing about the world... science is a process.

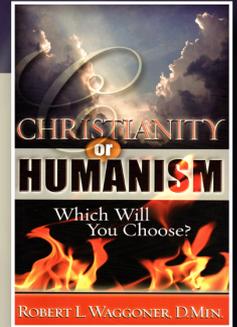
Miller and Levine Biology, Fort Mill High School Textbook, Page 5.



Typical Scientific Method

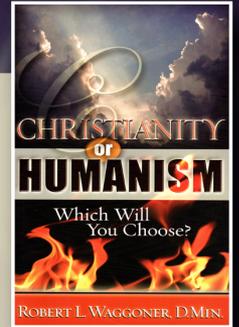


The Scientific Method



- **In practice, all steps of the scientific method are not used in all investigations.**
- **All experiments are not hypothesis driven.** Some are performed to determine what will happen if...?
- **“It is not a part of the requirement of a successful physical theory that everything be observable.** We know” a theory is correct “because it makes predictions that we can verify.” *Steve Weinberg, Nobel Prize winner for physics, University of Texas.*
- **It is not always possible to test a hypothesis with an experiment.** In some cases, researchers devise hypotheses that can be tested by observations. *Miller and Levine Biology, Pg. 9.*
- Forced with massive data, the approach to science of hypothesize, model, test, is becoming obsolete. **Computer statistical algorithms can find correlations and patterns in data that science cannot.** *The End of Theory: The Data Deluge makes the Scientific Method Obsolete, Wired, 6/23/08.*

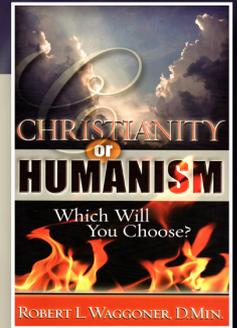
What is Science?



- **Scientific endeavors never concern, in any way, supernatural phenomena of any kind.** Scientists collect and organize information in an orderly way, looking for patterns and connections among events. **Scientists propose explanations that are based on evidence, not belief.** Then they test those explanations with more evidence.

Miller and Levine Biology, Fort Mill High School Textbook, Page 5.

What is Science?

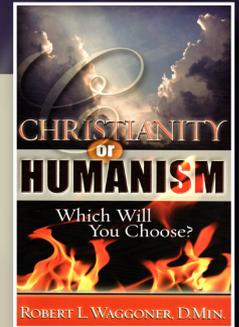


- From a scientific perspective, all objects in the universe and all interactions among those objects are **governed by natural laws.**

Miller and Levine Biology, Fort Mill High School Textbook, Page 5.

- **NOTE: Scientific inquiry can discover the natural laws of the universe, but cannot answer how these laws came into existence.**

What is Science?

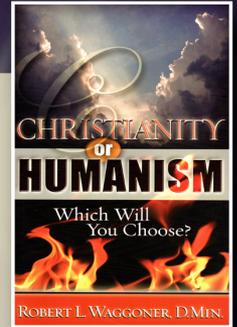


- From a scientific perspective, all objects in the universe and all interactions among those objects are **governed by natural laws.**

Miller and Levine Biology, Fort Mill High School Textbook, Page 5.

- Are the laws of nature inevitable – things are the way they are because there is no other way they might have been?
- Is the universe pure happenstance – it just turned out that way?
- Are things in some sense meant to be the way they are – purpose or intent underlies their existence?
- **People must reason from God's special revelation (the Bible) to answer these questions.**

What are some Limitations to Science?

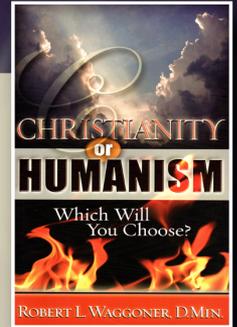


Because science involves those things or events which may be:

- observed (directly or indirectly); or
- subjected to testing or experimentation; or
- mathematically modelled which allows verifiable predictions to be made,

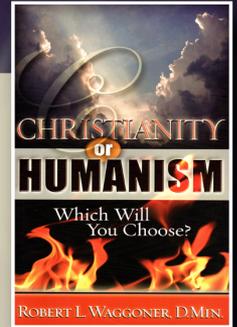
science (a process of investigation) is limited to only physical things or the physical aspects of living things, and repeatable physical events or processes.

What are some Limitations to Science?



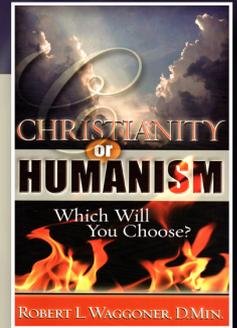
- **Science (a method of inquiry) cannot investigate non-physical or spiritual matters.**
- **Causes of, or mechanisms for one time, non-repeatable events such as the origin of the universe, the origin of life, or the creation of the natural laws of the universe cannot be legitimately addressed by science.**

What are some Limitations to Science?



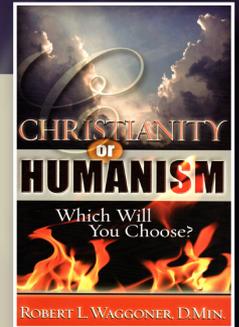
- Science can say that it is repeatedly observed that in a closed system, energy is conserved. Energy can change forms, but it is not created (from nothing) or destroyed (ceases to exist). This is the First Law of Thermodynamics.
- The universe is a closed system. Energy is not being transferred from somewhere out of the universe into it, or vice versa.
- The First Law of Thermodynamics does not state or imply that the energy in the universe is eternal – that it has always been or was never created.
- To say that energy is self-existing is not based on science, or evidence, but based on bias.

Secular Humanists Assert:



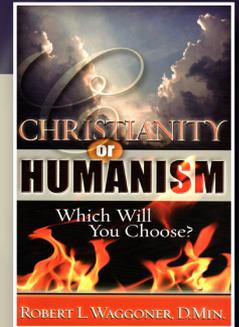
1. **Science and Reason** are the **ONLY** Methods of Acquiring Information about the World in which We Live.
2. The Existence of God is **NOT** supported by **Science and Reason**.
3. **Science and Reason** support the Theory of Evolution.
4. Morals should be developed by **Science and Reason**.
 - Next week: *The Ethics of Humanism* by Steve Miller.

Humanist Assertion 1: Science and Reason are the ONLY Methods of Acquiring Information about the World in which We Live



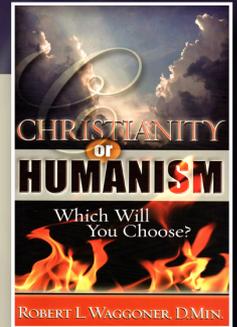
- We are committed to the use of the **rational methods of inquiry, logic, and evidence** in developing knowledge and testing claims to truth...reason and science...We know of **no better substitute for the cultivation of human intelligence.** *A Sec. Hum. Declaration.*
- **Any account of nature should past the tests of scientific evidence;** in our judgment, the dogmas and myths of traditional religions do not do so... **Reason and intelligence are the most effective instruments that human kind possesses.** *Hum. Manifesto II.*

Humanist Assertion 1: Science and Reason are the ONLY Methods of Acquiring Information about the World in which We Live



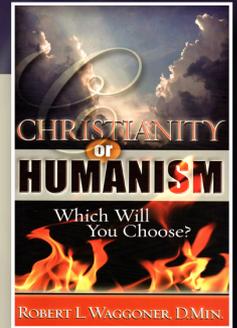
- Knowledge of this world is derived by **observation, experimentation, and rational analysis**. Humanists find that **science is the best method for determining this knowledge... *Hum. Manifesto III***
- We consider the universe to be a dynamic scene of natural forces that are **most effectively understood by scientific inquiry... We believe the scientific method, though imperfect, is still the most reliable way of understanding the world. Hence, we look to the natural biological, social, and behavioral sciences for knowledge of the universe and man's place within it. *A Sec. Hum. Declaration.***

Humanist Assertion 2: Science and Reason do NOT support the Existence of God



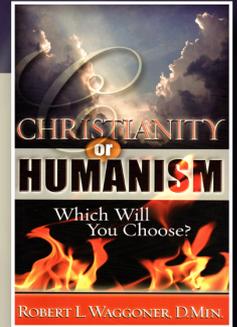
- We find that **traditional views of God** either are meaningless, **have not yet been demonstrated to be true**, or are tyrannically exploitative. *A Sec. Hum. Declaration.*
- We find **insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural**. *Hum. Manifesto II.*
- Because the existence of God is rejected, revelation of God to man is also rejected:
 - Secular humanism places trust in human intelligence rather than in divine guidance. *A Sec. Hum. Declaration.*

Humanist Assertion 3: Science and Reason support the Theory of Evolution



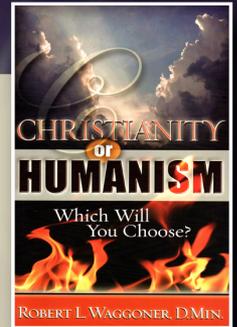
- Humans are ... the result of unguided evolutionary change. Humanists recognize nature as self-existing. *Hum. Manifesto III.*
- **The theory of evolution ... is ... supported so strongly by the weight of evidence that it is difficult to reject it. *A Sec. Hum. Declaration.***

Pervasiveness of these Secular Humanist Assertions



- The previous three assertions regarding science and human reasoning are being taught in secondary schools and in public universities (except in some private schools)
- Lesson 13 will be on The Philosophy of Humanism in Public Education.
- Excerpts follow from State Education Standards, and High School and University Textbooks demonstrate how the capabilities of science are overstated and how humans can reason illogically, being blinded by their biases (worldview).

South Carolina Education Standards for Biology 1, Biological Evolution



Standard B-5: The student will demonstrate an understanding of biological evolution and the diversity of life.

Indicators

B-5.1 Summarize the process of natural selection.

B-5.2 Explain how genetic processes result in the continuity of life-forms over time.

B-5.3 Explain how diversity within a species increases the chances of its survival.

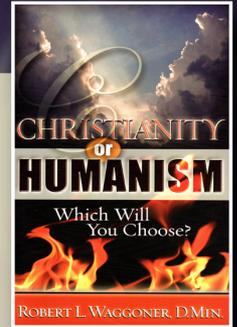
B-5.4 Explain how genetic variability and environmental factors lead to biological evolution.

B-5.5 Exemplify scientific evidence in the fields of anatomy, embryology, biochemistry, and paleontology that underlies the theory of biological evolution.

B-5.6 Summarize ways that scientists use data from a variety of sources to investigate and critically analyze aspects of evolutionary theory.

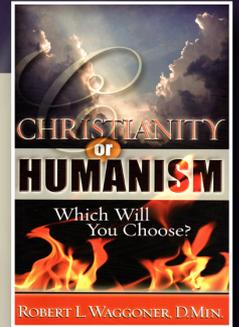
B-5.7 Use a phylogenetic tree to identify the evolutionary relationships among different group of organisms

South Carolina Education Standards for Biology 1, Biological Evolution



- This state “education standard” is consistent with Humanist Assertion 3: Science and Reason support the Theory of Evolution.
- The high school textbook *Miller and Levine Biology* complies with the state education standard in supporting the theory of evolution.

Secular Humanism is being Taught in Public Schools

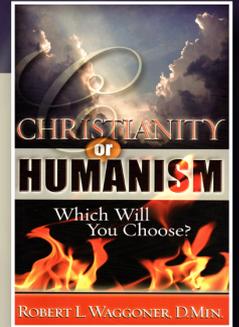


“Scientists propose explanations that are based on evidence, **not belief.**”

Miller and Levine Biology, Fort Mill High School Textbook, Page 5.

- In this context **belief = something for which there is no evidence or proof.**
- Scientists are humans and so are subject to biases. In practice scientists often propose explanations that are based on their biases, or based on the currently accepted way of thinking. Scientist are often not objective and disinterested in the outcome of their experiments. Their personal, passionate interest in the outcome of their testing makes them a poor judge in interpreting the results.

Secular Humanism is being Taught in Public Schools

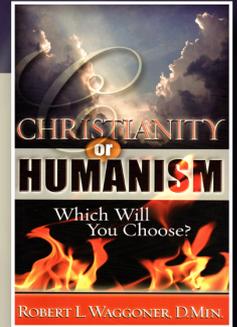


“Darwin developed a theory of biological evolution... proposing how modern organisms evolved through descent from common ancestors”

“Although it is clear that a great deal about evolution remains to be learned, **every scientific test to date has supported Darwin’s basic ideas**”.

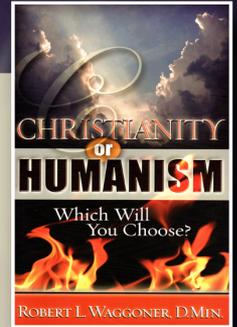
Miller and Levine Biology, Fort Mill High School Textbook, Pages 450, 465.

Secular Humanism is being Taught in Public Schools



- Is the statement **“every scientific test to date has supported Darwin’s basic ideas”** based on evidence, or bias?
 - What experiments have been conducted where one species was changed to another species resulting in an increase in genetic information by unguided processes? What experiments created life from non-living molecules? Or cells from non-cells? Or DNA by random mixing/reaction of chemicals?
- What is the implication being taught to the students?

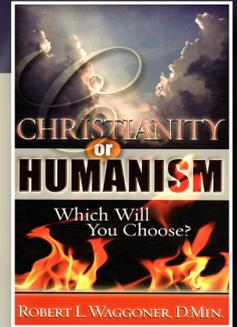
Secular Humanism is being Taught in Public Schools



The implications of the statement “**every scientific test to date has supported Darwin’s basic ideas**” are:

- There is scientific evidence from testing that supports Darwin’s idea that modern organisms evolved through descent from common ancestors.
- If the scientific evidence supports evolution, it cannot also support what special revelation teaches: **God created all living things.**
- If the scientific evidence supports evolution, it cannot also support the existence of God, the creator of all living things.

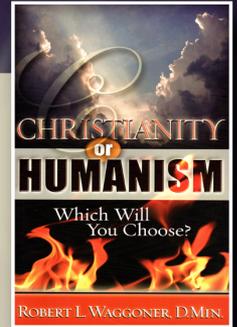
Secular Humanism is being Taught in Public Schools



The implications of the statement “**every scientific test to date has supported Darwin’s basic ideas**” are:

- Therefore, it is illogical to believe the biblical account of the origin of life because it is unsupported by experimental evidence, and so it is also illogical to believe in the God which the Bible says created all living things.
- Therefore, it is illogical to believe the Bible (written divine revelation) is a source of information about this world.

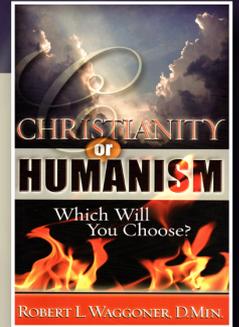
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The implications of the statement “every scientific test to date has supported Darwin’s basic ideas” are:

- Humanist Assertion 1 is implied to be correct: Science and reason are the **ONLY** credible methods of acquiring information about the world.
- Humanist Assertion 2 is implied to be correct: The existence of God is **NOT** supported by science and reason.
- Atheism is implied to be both scientific and rational.

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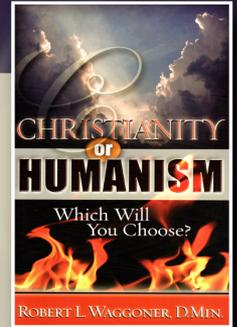


Excerpts from *Miller and Levine Biology*, Fort Mill High School Textbook

Darwin developed a theory of biological evolution that offered a scientific explanation for the unity and diversity of life by proposing how modern organisms evolved through descent from common ancestors... Recall that a scientific theory is **a well-established, testable scientific explanation of events in the natural world. That's exactly what evolutionary theory is.** (pg. 450).

In science, the word **theory** applies to a well-tested explanation that unifies a broad range of observations and hypotheses and that enables scientists to make accurate predictions about new situations....Today, **evolutionary theory is the central organizing principle of all biological and biomedical science.** It makes a wide range of predictions about organisms ... (pg. 13).

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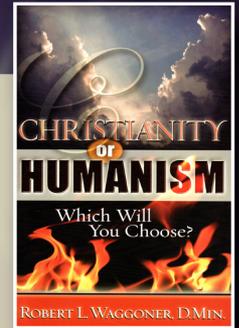
Principles of Life, David M. Hillis, David Sadava, H. Craig Heller, and Mary V. Price, W. H. Free and Company, 2012.

Page 2 -3:

“Life arose from non-life via chemical evolution...when we consider how life might have arisen from nonliving matter, we must take into account the properties of the young Earth’s atmosphere, oceans, and climate, all of which were very different than they are today.

Biologist postulate that complex biological molecules first arose through the random physical association of chemicals in that environment.”

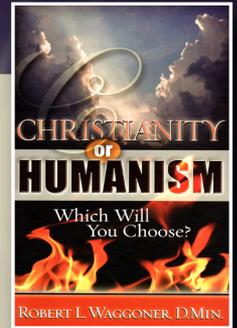
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Microbiology - An Introduction, 10th Edition, Gerard J. Tortora, Berdell R. Funke, and Christine L. Case, Pearson Education, Inc., 2010, pg. 57:

- “biogenesis, the claim that living cells can only arise from preexisting living cells”
- “Pasteur’s work provided evidence that microorganisms cannot originate from mystical forces present in nonliving materials.”
- **“Scientists now believe that a form of spontaneous generation probably did occur on the primitive Earth when life first began, but they agree that this does not happen under today’s environmental conditions.”**

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Principles of Life, David M. Hillis, David Sadava, H. Craig Heller, and Mary V. Price, W. H. Free and Company, 2012.

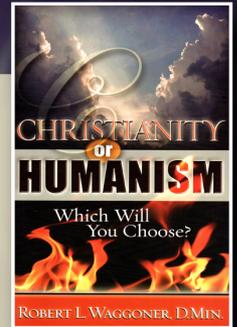
Pg. 57:

“Cell theory ... was the first unifying principle of biology and has three critical components:

- Cells are the fundamental units of life.
- All living organisms are composed of cells.
- All cells come from preexisting cells.”

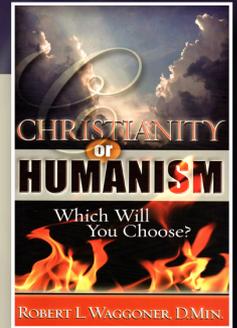
“***Life is continuous.*** All those human cells came from a single cell, a zygote (or fertilized egg)... The cells of the parents’ bodies were all derived from their parents, and so on back through the generations – **all the way back to the evolution of first living cells.**”

NOTE the inconsistency. Life is continuous all the way back in time; all cells originate from preexisting cells all back in time UNTIL the first non-living molecules spontaneously became alive, later resulting in cells from non-preexisting cells.



Secular Humanists assert that the Morals should be Developed by Science and Reason

- Humanism is firstly **a method of critical inquiry** which **should be applied in order to order to find** the best possible knowledge, and to look for **the best moral guidance and theories**. *Paul Kurtz, Multisecularism. A New Agenda, 2010.*
- **Humanity needs to reconstruct human values in the light of scientific knowledge**. *Paul Kurtz, Neo-humanist Statement, 2010.*
- Science can account for the causes of (human) behavior... **The controlled use of scientific methods ... must be extended further in the solution of human problems**. *Hum. Manifesto II.*
- For secular humanists, ethical conduct is, or should be, judged by critical reason, and their goal is to develop autonomous and responsible individuals, capable of making their own choices in life based upon an understanding of human behavior. *A Sec. Hum. Declaration, 1980.*
- Ethical values are derived from human need and interest as tested by experience. **Humanist find that science is the best method ... for solving problems ...** *Hum. Manifesto III.*



Secular Humanists assert that the Morals should be Developed by Science and Reason

- Ethical values are derived from **human need** and interest as **tested by experience**. *Hum. Manifesto III*.
- According to the philosophy of William James (1842 – 1910) **life is a continuous quest for workable solutions to difficulties** that are encountered. **Truth is that which works or yields satisfactory results in terms of our experience**. *Philosophy Made Simple*.
- According to the philosophy of John Dewey (1859 – 1952), our brute experience is the interaction between a biological organism and its environment. In the course of the organism's activities, it encounters situations in which it can no longer act. Thinking arises as a means of dealing with these disturbing situations, by working out hypotheses, or guides to future actions. The merits of these intellectual acts are determined by whether the organism can now function satisfactorily again. **Thought, especially scientific thought, is instrumental in problem solving**. *Philosophy Made Simple*.