



The Beacon

"The unfolding of Your word gives light" Psalm 119:130a

Wading River Baptist Church

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Darwin and Calvin: A Study in Contrasts

It's an ironic fact that this year marks four significant anniversaries involving two monumental figures in the history of Western thought. On February 12th, the scientific world celebrated the 200th birthday of Charles Robert Darwin (1809-1882), the English naturalist who introduced the world to organic evolution through the principle of natural selection (the survival of the fittest). On November 24th, another Darwin date of note will be remembered: the sesquicentennial of the publication of Darwin's most influential book, *Origin of Species* (1859).



Darwin's theory of evolution generated a fundamental shift in the scientific world. As a youth, Darwin was anything but brilliant; brought up by his sister, he was a poor student known for his lying and daydreaming. His father predicted he would be a disgrace to his family. He began studying medicine at Edinburgh University, but

failed in that pursuit. Although he was disgusted by medicine, he was fascinated by nature, especially marine life. After Edinburgh, Darwin went to Cambridge to study for the ministry in the Church of England, but there too failed, devoting his time to shooting, riding, and hunting. While there, however, he developed a deepening interest in natural history.

In 1831, he signed on to serve as a naturalist on the HMS Beagle as it surveyed the coast of South America and some Pacific islands. The trip lasted five years, and during it, he confirmed in his own mind the validity of Charles Lyell's doctrine of uniformitarianism (natural laws have functioned uniformly throughout time). He engaged in dangerous expeditions on shore, climbing mountains, and collecting fossils. His interest in geology eventually turned to natural science. After his return to England in 1837, his evolutionary views began to develop as a result of observing the process of selective breeding. He kept his opinions to himself at first, but later began writing them down, resulting in *Origin of Species*. This book sold out immediately and by 1872 had gone through six editions.

Darwin's theory of evolution was opposed immediately by the traditional scientific community, but even more by those who held orthodox religious beliefs. It was clear that if natural selection were fact then the creation account of the Book of Genesis

could not be trusted—at least not as literally true. God was not the Creator of each species of plant and animal "after its kind" (Gen 1:11-12, 21, 24-25). Three more books followed amplifying evolutionary theory, the most famous of which was *The Descent of Man* (1872). The latter part of Darwin's career was dedicated to the study and writing about plants. He suffered from severe disease during the latter part of his life, and died of a second heart attack in 1882.

It's interesting that Darwin's grandfather, Erasmus Darwin, was, by his second marriage, the grandfather of Francis Galton, the founder of the eugenics movement, and that Darwin's son, Leonard, was a eugenicist. Moreover, based on the relationship between socialism and evolution, Karl Marx sought to dedicate the English edition of *Das Kapital* to Darwin, but the latter refused.

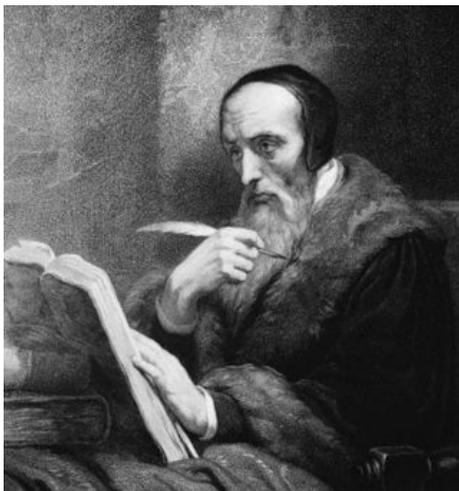
Darwin concluded that "from its manifestly false history of the earth, ... and from its attributing to God the feelings of a revengeful tyrant," the Old Testament "was no more to be trusted than the sacred books of the Hindoos, or the beliefs of any barbarian." As to the New Testament, he could "indeed hardly see how anyone ought to wish Christianity to be true; for if so, the plain language of the text seems to show that the men who do not believe, and this would be my Father, Brother and almost all my best friends, will be everlastingly punished. And this is a

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damnable doctrine.” Darwin could not believe in a God who imposed suffering on anyone. Perhaps no single individual in the history of Western civilization has done so much to undermine confidence in the sovereign power of God as Creator and in the reliability of the Scriptures.

On the other hand, this July 10th, we will mark the 500th anniversary of the birth of the great theologian and ecclesiastical statesman, John Calvin. Next to Luther, Calvin (1509-1564) is remembered as the greatest of the Reformers. The contrast between him and Darwin could not be more striking. Calvin was born in France, the son of a secretary to a local bishop. From the beginning, he was destined for a career in the church. After a college education in Paris, he studied law at the University of Orléans. He was an accomplished humanist in the mode of the famous Erasmus. Apparently sometime in 1533, however, Calvin was suddenly converted and became a Protestant, but because Protestants were being persecuted in France, he fled to Switzerland where he devoted himself to the intense study of the Bible, the church fathers, and the Reformers like Luther. In 1536, he produced the first edition of his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, initially an extended catechism. This work went through a number of revisions, the definitive and final one appearing in 1559—450 years ago this year. Written to vindicate the faith of those faithful believers who were being martyred in France, this—his magnum opus—was theology forged in suffering.



Calvin returned to France (Strasbourg) by way of Geneva, a Swiss city that had revolted against Catholicism and adopted Protestant thinking. He was persuaded by Guillaume Farel to lead the transition to Protestantism. Beginning as a public lecturer on the Bible and then as a preacher, Calvin’s ministry raised opposition. For three years, he returned to Strasbourg where he gained some valuable practical experience in church administration, but three years later he returned to Geneva, now married and with the promise to be given a free hand in establishing a Protestant regime. He focused on ecclesiastical polity and on education, the result of which was the development of Reformed (as opposed to Lutheran) Protestantism. As such, Calvin is regarded as the father of the Presbyterian and Reformed churches. He supported the efforts of refugee factions from other countries who had fled to Geneva to establish their own Protestant church groups. When they returned to their countries, they did so as missionaries for Calvinism. In fact, Geneva was sometimes called a “Protestant Rome.”

Perhaps no single individual in the history of Western civilization has done so much to promote the knowledge of and appreciation of God’s glory. It was Calvin’s passion; nothing was more important to him than the supremacy of God over everything. His sense of God was profound, and he in turn wanted all men to be convinced of the reality and majesty of God, doctrines that Calvin believed were the guardian of biblical orthodoxy. This burden became a hallmark of Reformed theology.

This passion was matched by an equal concern for the majesty of the Word of God. What a difference there was between Calvin’s attitude and Darwin’s! Calvin saw both the glory of God and his own sinfulness revealed through Scripture by the testimony of the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures are the very voice of God. This knowledge authenticated the Bible as God’s Word, and he devoted himself, no longer to

the authority of the Roman Church, but to the ministry of the Word. Subsequently, and in spite of extremely bad health, Calvin became the leading expositor of Scripture of the Reformation, lecturing and preaching often in Geneva (ten sermons every two weeks!). His method was that of systematic exposition, book by book. His collected lectures, sermons, books, tracts, and letters fill forty-eight large volumes!

Simply stated, therefore, Charles Darwin had no use for Scripture, denied God as the Creator, and saw man as evolving into a better condition. John Calvin, on the other hand, revered the majesty of God the Creator and Savior, cherished the Word of God as divine revelation, and regarded man as a hopelessly condemned sinner apart from God’s saving grace in Jesus Christ.

The conflict between the legacies of these two men is raging in our culture today. Generally, Darwin is revered while Calvin is scorned. But Calvin’s influence is still felt through the institutions of American government, built upon the conviction of man’s essential sinfulness and God’s absolute sovereignty. It is also felt wherever faithful men systematically expound the Scriptures. Darwin’s influence, however, has for decades permeated American education from the university level down to our elementary schools. Today, Darwinian evolutionary theory has become the accepted orthodoxy of the scientific community, as well as the pervasive philosophical foundation of modern atheistic humanism, including its doctrines of eugenics and scientific racism, seen prominently in anti-Semitism and the pro-abortion movement. Here is the ongoing conflict between the powers of darkness and the powers of light. In spite of the severity of the battle, however, we can rejoice that the powers of light will ultimately triumph. Happy birthday, John Calvin—and thank you!

— Pastor Ron Glass

Let's Get Acquainted

Sarah Elizabeth Chapman is a woman of strength, perseverance and determination to conquer all obstacles absent of self-pity. Her life has been full of obstacles but the Lord has strengthened her through the years to not only face her obstacles but to do so with an outstanding sense of humor. This is the Sarah Chapman that we know: full of life, smiling and always keeping us laughing.

She was born August 8, 1973, in Patchogue, NY, and most fortunately into a Christian family. Her father, Victor Bellard, was a dairy farmer and a University professor. Her mother, Reeva, was and is a seamstress. Her brother, David, is seven years younger.

Sarah accepted Christ in the third grade, attended Sunday School, and as she matured in the faith, taught Sunday School and assisted in the Awana program. True to her personality, Sarah put a humorous spin on her experience at a private school, believing that she was not accepted with open arms. She was a bit of a book worm, reading the *Nancy Drew* series and *Anne of Green Gables*.

Upon graduation from high school, she attended the Stony Brook University and the Suffolk Community College earning an Office Technology Associate's Degree. She became a nanny for awhile before meeting her husband, Carl Chapman.

She met Carl at an informal gathering in a private home and at first meeting he did not appeal to her, not in the least. Matter of fact, there was a mutual feeling of contempt for one another that dissipated once they became better acquainted with each other. Their relationship grew and they were married April 14th, 14 years ago, now with two sons, Stephen, age 12, and Jacob, age 8.

The Chapman's history at the WRBC began when Carl, as a young boy, attended WRBC with his family. As a couple, Carl and Sarah attended



Sarah Chapman

the church and at that time, Sarah worked with the Awana program. They left the church many years ago only to return a short while ago in spite of the distance they would have to travel from Stony Brook. They were searching for a church that would preach the gospel, rather than, in Sarah's words, "just singing about feelings all the time," and felt WRBC offered just that.

Most interesting is the Chapman's living arrangements. They live with Sarah's parents, who also attend the WRBC. In these times when our economy, our freedoms and the family unit are so weakened, they have a jump start on a relationship that just might be setting precedent.

To enter the shared home of the Bellards/Chapmans, there is a sense of old-fashioned values strongly supported by a working relationship that both parties have admitted they have to work at. Their Christian values are the base of its success respecting individual rights and privacy. Also impressive is the presence of an old America: home crafts throughout, trophies of hunting & fishing expeditions and a place to relax and meditate at their goldfish ponds.

About 8 years ago, Sarah was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. At the time it was devastating news but through her faith in God, she has learned to deal with her MS in a most courageous way. She praises God in how in spite of the MS she is able to enjoy fairly good health and is able to work part time at Yankee Candle located in the Smithhaven Mall.

Sarah still is a book worm and likes reading to relax. In addition, she does a bit of cross-stitching. She likes to sing and has joined the WRBC choir and even solos now and again, sharing with the church family her beautiful soprano voice. There is a common thread within the family in their singing abilities as we have experienced in their presentation of their quartet. The quartet consists of Sarah, her husband and her mother and father.

Sarah's MS at times keeps her from operating at a pace she once enjoyed; for example, she likes to garden but cannot do as much as she used to do. She also enjoys cooking but says she likes desserts a little bit too much! One of her best friends is the family's Bassett hound, Gibbs, that follows her around adoringly.



All in all, Sarah has her burdens but turns them over to God. She is a good mother, recalling her strength as a mother when her son had cataracts when he was 3 years old. She has an amiable sense of humor that keeps you laughing. And most of all, Sarah knows how to reach out to others in love. May we reach out to her with our prayers that God will continue to strengthen her and keep her MS at bay.

— Joan Tyska

Work Day



The physical image of the WRBC brings to mind a Kodak moment of a beautiful country church in the heart of Long Island. This image is maintained by volunteers of the church, not limited by age, ability or gender. On Saturday, May 9, 2009, in spite of the prediction of rain, a diverse collection of volunteers came together for a common cause to beautify God's house. Although it was considered a "work" day, there was a bit of fellowshiping, a coffee break and best of all, getting to know one another better. Hope to see you at the next work day. — Joan Tyska

Missionary of the Month

With summer just around the corner, it is most fitting that Phil and Shelly Ormsby of Child Evangelism Fellowship be selected for our missionaries of the month. Their summer agenda is quite full and in much need of our prayers.

Most recently, Laura and Tom Kelleher of the WRBC reached out to Phil and Shelly to help them bring God's Word to the children of a local neighborhood in great need of it. For a while, Phil was able to do so, but sadly, the program was discontinued due to raised violence in the neighborhood. We can pray that a seed was planted. It also brings us to an understanding that even our missionaries here on Long Island can be put in harm's way, and thus are in need of our prayers for their safety.

Pray for a young man named Peter who will be assisting Phil this summer.

Training school begins June 18th thru the 27th followed by a week at Hofstra University for a Chinese family conference at which the Ormsbys will be doing the children's program. The following week they have a unique opportunity to conduct the morning sessions for the hearing impaired and deaf children of the Northeast Deaf Family Conference at Keswick, NJ. The rest of the summer will be spent doing their 5-day club programs at



Phil and Shelly Ormsby
Michael and Nathan

various backyards, VBS's and day camps. Included in this agenda will be the Bible and Baseball Camp, August 3-7, at WRBC's newly renovated ball diamond (Foundation Field) in partnership with our own Steve Visconti.

A financial need is most definitely on the prayer list. The Literature Fund, an account that pays for all of their teaching supplies, lacks approximately \$4,000 for this year's budget to balance. (They are most grateful that their personal account does not have to pay for the Bible lessons, verse visuals, and other classroom supplies as they are asking God to provide for this need.) An added note: this fund provides not only for their teaching supplies, but

also for those of our other missionaries in the Greater New York City area.

On a personal note, they are pleased to announce that they have another child on the way, due to arrive November 7th. In the meantime, little Michael is finishing his pre-K year in the church's preschool program and loves everything about it. By fall, Shelly and Michael will be embarking on a homeschooling adventure together. Nathan is excited now that he is three years old and will be enrolled at the church's program for 3-year-olds in September.



So, for the family, please pray for them as they learn how to home school and in the preparations for the newborn. And pray for their boys' spiritual development as Phil and Shelly seek to train them according to God's pattern.

— Joan Tyska

The Salt of Gratitude

Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name (Psalm 105:1)

A little boy said, "Salt is what spoils potatoes when it is left out." Using the same kind of negative definition, we can say, "Gratitude is what spoils life when it is left out."

A disposition of continual thankfulness comes from an unshakable confidence in God's wisdom, power, and goodness no matter what our circumstances may be. People who possess the quality of gratitude may be

poor in this world's goods, but they are truly rich spiritually.

Some of the most appreciative people are those who have little material wealth, and some even live below the poverty line. One of Charles Dickens's characters said, "My not knowing at one meal where I shall get the next is a great help to thankfulness."

Riches, on the other hand, may be a handicap. A wealthy woman told her

doctor that she was frustrated by a restless desire to accumulate more and more things. He replied, "These are the usual symptoms of too much ease in the home and too little gratitude in the heart."

No matter what your circumstances, count your blessings. The salt of gratitude helps to make all of life taste better.

— Pastor Vince Ingolia

Can We Afford To Be Ignorant About Money?

We should all be familiar with the passage in Deuteronomy (25:15) that demands full and just weight. Every Israelite who acted unjustly according to this law was an abomination to God. Since “the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils” (1 Tim 6:10), we can expect evil rulers to try to attain power through unjust money.

If people rise to power through deviousness and deceit, it would seem that ignorance would make their jobs easier. Rulers with forked tongues can get people to swallow lies that make them work unwittingly for those in power and against themselves. After all, how many people would willingly support rulers whom they knew were robbing them?

The United States Constitution grants power to Congress to coin money, to regulate its value, and to fix the standard of weights and measures. The vast majority of the Constitutional Convention delegates were opposed to unbacked paper currency (fiat money) due to their recent Revolutionary War experience with inflation. Delaware delegate George Read equated paper money with the Mark of the Beast.

The Coinage Act of 1792 stipulated that one dollar equals 371.25 grains (about 77% of a troy ounce) of pure silver. If a U.S. Mint official was con-



*Our currency used to be redeemable for gold or silver.
Compare this certificate to the “money” presently in our wallets.*

victed of fraud or embezzlement concerning the money he was responsible for, the penalty was death! Obviously, the founders thought there would be no more serious a breach to the Constitution than this.

At the current silver spot price and coining costs, one dollar as defined by the Coinage Act of 1792 would cost 15.33 Federal Reserve Note dollars. If we consider that the Coinage Act pegged gold at 15 times the silver price and that gold currently trades at 65 times the silver price, the disparity is even more alarming! Is this just weights and measures?

Unbacked money makes it easier for rulers to wreak havoc because they don't have to honestly tell the people

what their schemes will cost. It is easier to have entries made on a computer to “pay” for things than to confront people with tax increases. This inflationary scheme forces people to have to put “money” into banks to try to maintain purchasing power. The interest rate for a certificate of deposit (CD) is usually not greater than the inflation rate. If we hide our “money” in handkerchiefs, we actually lose.

The 18th century German banker Mayer Amschel Rothschild asserted, “Give me control of a nation's money and I care not who makes her laws.”

— Carl Chapman

God is Never “Too Far Off”

by Grace E. Easley

Some people say God's “too far off”
To put bread on our table,
That this remains for us to do,
As long as we are able.
But where they got this notion,
Remains a mystery.
For I am certain God is but
A breath away from me.

He is part of daily life,
And everything I do,
He's always taken care of me,
And will continue to.

He didn't put me in this world,
To leave me all alone,
My deepest needs are His concern,
Because I am His own.

God is never “too far off”
His love is everywhere,
And in believing this, each cross,
Is easier to bear.
Within my life He always plays
The most important part,
For God is never “too far off”
Who lives within my heart!

God gives our blessings, but we have to receive them. — Pastor Vince Ingolia



June Bible Quiz Questions

- 1) Name Moses's two sons.
- 2) What is used as another name for Egypt in the Book of Psalms?
- 3) Name the Queen of Ethiopia mentioned in the New Testament.
- 4) Who was suspected of being drunk while praying silently?
- 5) Who was the progenitor of the Canaanites?

Bonus: Who held a synod in Rome denouncing iconoclasm and confirming the worship of images?

– Felix Acerra

May Bible Quiz Answers

- 1) Ebenezer (1 Sam 7:12).
 - 2) Daniel (1 Chr 3:1), also referred to as Chileab (2 Sam 3:3).
 - 3) In the valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor (Deut 34:6).
 - 4) False – just two gospels (Matt 15:32-39, Mark 8:1-9).
 - 5) James (Acts 12:2).
- Bonus: Luke (Col 4:10-14).

Submit the Bible reference and correct answers to: wrbc4Christ@hotmail.com. The correct answers will be announced in the next newsletter!

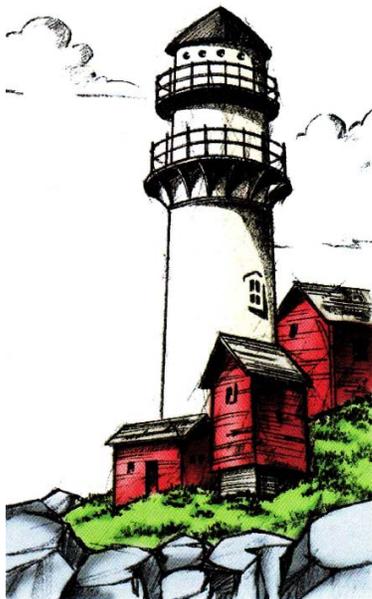
June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30 PM Bible Study – Mencke home - <i>Proverbs</i>	3 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting	4 8:30 AM Ladies Prayer	5	6 1:00 PM Senior Saints Fellowship
7 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship	8	9 6:30 PM Bible Study - <i>Proverbs</i> 7:00 PM Board of Deacons Meeting	10 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting	11 8:30 AM Ladies Prayer	12	13
14 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship	15	16 6:30 PM Bible Study - <i>Proverbs</i> 7:00 PM Missions Committee Meeting (tentative)	17 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting	18 8:30 AM Ladies Prayer	19	20
21 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship	22	23 6:30 PM Bible Study – Mencke home - <i>Proverbs</i>	24 7:00 PM Prayer Meeting	25 8:30 AM Ladies Prayer	26	27 2:00 PM Softball & Picnic Fellowship
28 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship	29	30 6:30 PM Bible Study – Mencke home - <i>Proverbs</i>				



PO Box 438
Wading River, NY 11792

Wading River Baptist Church



- ***For the Exaltation of God in All Things***
- ***For the Proclamation of Faith in Christ***
- ***For the Transformation of God's People***

Our Purpose

1. To glorify God through sharing the good news of salvation by God's sovereign grace through faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To nurture believers through a strong program of Christian education, youth ministries, and expository Biblical preaching.
3. To provide an opportunity for Biblical worship, service, and fellowship.
4. To extend our ministry throughout America and around the world through participation in home and foreign missions.

WRBC is affiliated with the Conservative Baptist Association of America and the Conservative Baptist Mission to the Northeast.