

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

15 December 2013

Topics

A.M. Bible Class: The Vine and the Branches

John 15

A.M. Lesson: Blessed Assurance

Hebrews 10:19-25

P.M. Lesson: All Who Obey

Isaiah 56

Wednesday: War at Ramoth-gilead

1 Kings 22

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

When the Case for God Is Strong, Skeptics Attack Christianity

J Warner Wallace

I'm currently researching and preparing for a second book effort, and I've discovered an interesting trend. I've been examining the alternative naturalistic explanations for the origin and apparent "fine tuning" of the universe, reading the latest books from atheist physicists, Lawrence Krauss, Stephen Hawking

and Victor Stenger (amongst many others). It's been a fascinating learning experience for me and I can't wait to start writing. These authors offer differing naturalistic explanations for what we observe in the universe, but all three are united in their rejection of Christianity. I found it interesting, however, that Christianity became the specific focus of their comparisons. I couldn't help but wonder if this wasn't in some way a tacit admission affirming the reasonable case for God's existence.

To illustrate this point, let me offer a quick mind experiment. Imagine we lived in a world without any historic theistic or deistic belief systems. No Christianity, no Islam, no Judaism, no Mormonism, no Bahá'í, no Buddhism, etc. In fact, imagine this generation of humans was the first to ever even consider the existence of God or any extra-, supra-, or supernatural realities. Given access to the science we have today, would any of us be inclined toward a belief in God? Would the evidence of a universe with a beginning, or even the speculation about a precisely calibrated multiverse generating "first cause", incline any of us toward some form of belief in the supernatural? Don't get me wrong, I'm sure these atheist authors, committed as they are to naturalism, would remain atheists. But for the rest of us who are less dogmatically committed to naturalism, would we evaluate their conclusions and reject theistic or deistic explanations as readily? I don't think so, and I think these atheist authors realize this as well. That's why they pick on Christianity specifically.

I realize this is a somewhat extravagant and controversial claim. But, when Antony Flew, the

famous atheist British philosopher and Oxford scholar, eventually changed his mind and became a deist, he did so based on the evidence of intelligent design...

<http://coldcasechristianity.com/2013/when-the-case-for-god-is-strong-skeptics-attack-christianity/>

7 Reasons to Love Sharing the Gospel

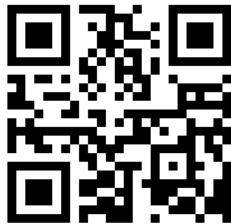
Greg Stier

1. It's like sharing with a person who is broke that they just won the Lotto (only better!)
2. You enter a struggle with the forces of darkness in a battle over a soul's eternal destination (Epic!)
3. When you share the gospel you are put in a position where you are forced to rely on the Holy Spirit for wisdom (James 1:5,6), courage (Ephesians 6:19,20), and clarity (Colossians 4:4.)
4. It's like sharing with a cancer victim that you just discovered the cure for cancer (only better!)
5. Evangelism is the communication of the greatest love story in the history of the world (sorry Romeo!)
6. It's like telling an orphan that [he will be] adopted into the family of the richest person in the universe (well, that's exactly what it is) [modified to conform with Scripture, e.g., Galatians 3:6-9].
7. The pressure is not on you to convert them but to share the gospel clearly, wisely and lovingly. The Holy Spirit does the rest [1 Corinthians 2:3-5]!

<http://pastors.com/7-reasons-to-love-sharing-the-gospel/>

December 10, 2008 – Al Gore predicted the North Polar Ice Cap would be completely ice free in five years.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxHBTbLCqus>



December 13, 2013 – Cairo had its first snowfall in over 100 years.

<http://www.latimes.com>



News

Ben Atchley lost his battle with cancer on Wednesday night. Viewing will be at the church building Monday, 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Services will be Tuesday at the church building at 3:00 P.M.

Anybody who wishes to provide a dish for a meal (before the viewing) for Ben's extended family, please bring it to the church building and leave it in the annex on Monday before 4:00 P.M.

There will also be a potluck dinner after the funeral service on Tuesday. Extra-generous portions are appropriate.

Jim Everett, Ken Knowlton's daughter's father-in-law, died. Prayers for the family are appreciated.

Tatyana Knowlton had foot surgery on Friday. Recovering.

Jillian, Billie Martin's daughter, had a major traffic accident – totaling her car. Jillian has bumps and bruises; but is otherwise fine.

Merwin Knowlton (Ken's brother) has bladder cancer.

Potluck today.

Prayer List:

Healing: Ben Atchley's family, Jerry Robinson's mother Norma. Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.

Back issues are posted at <http://saflfordchurchofchrist.org>

