

Hey everybody! Welcome to Christ Fellowship. My name is Rick and we are so glad that you are here, especially if you are a Mom. We are so glad to have you with us. Give them a hand, guys! We love you Mom, at all of our campuses. Thank you for all that you are pouring into our lives.

If you just joined us today for the first time, we've been in a series that we began back at Easter that we entitled "I Wish I Knew what to Believe." We said that in this series we basically are going to try to answer three questions, kind of fundamental questions of our existence. These questions are, number one, "Is there a God?" You may be here today and you might consider yourself an atheist. You might say, "You know Rick, I just don't think there really is a God." Maybe you believe evolution and you sort of bought into that idea, and that's where you are. So we've been kind of looking at that and talking about the evidence that proves the existence of God, - sort of versus evolution, if you will.

To answer that question, "Is there a God", if you have tracked with us to this point, we're still dealing with that question. The next question in a couple of weeks is going to be: "Okay, if we believe there is a God, then the question is, if you are an agnostic, is "Which God?" There are so many religions and faiths and beliefs out there. They all claim to be the truth. How can I know which god is the true God? I wish I knew what to believe about that." Then if you track with us further and you say, "Yeah! I believe the God of the Bible is the God", the final question is, "Does this God care about you, and does He care about me?" So that is sort of where we are headed. Now, with all of that said, I want to encourage you to open your Bibles, if you have one with you, to Hebrews, chapter eleven. If you don't have one with you, don't sweat it. It will all come up on the screen, and you can kind of follow along that way.

I want to set this up by sharing this with you. After I finished my graduate studies in preparation for the ministry, I sort of doubled back through college to study physics, chemistry, and biology because I thought God might be calling me to medical missions. Now, God never led me in that direction, but He did give me a love for chemistry, biology, and physics. Folks, I'll never forget day one in this particular biology class. I shared this with you before, but it fits what we are

talking about, because the professor basically walks in and says something to this degree, not exactly, but something like this. He says: “Class, here are the ground rules. We’re not going to talk religion in this class because this is a biology class, not a theology class.” He said, “While you are in this class, no God talk.” To which I thought, “Okay, I kind of get that. I’m not here to study theology. I’m here to learn biology, so let’s get on with the genetics, and the bacteria. Let’s get down to some serious biological studies.”

But folks, the very next day the professor comes in and instead of wading into biology, he wades into philosophy by asking this question. He asked it to the class: “How did life begin?” And he quickly reminded us that he had ruled God out the day before as a potential answer to the question. No God talk, to which I thought to myself: “Wait a minute. This guy is asking a question about the origin of life, but he has ruled God out before he even asks the question.” Now folks, it is highly unscientific to rule out answers before you ask the questions. Let me tell you, this is protocol in modern academia. As I told you before, it would be like going to a math class and day one the teacher says to the class: “Class, there is no such thing as the number four. The number four does not exist, so do not bring it up; no talking about the number four in this class.” The next day she comes to the class and says, “Class, what is two plus two?” Now, it is axiomatic to everybody that the answer is four, but she ruled out the number four apriority before she even asked the question. Folks, that is protocol in modern academia. They rule God out as a potential answer before they even ask the question. By the way, my professor after that began to build his case for evolution which he stated clearly was a scientific fact. He also made it clear that any evidence that would challenge evolution was inadmissible in his classroom. In fact, I felt like I was in a courtroom where the judge said that any evidence that would incriminate the defendant is inadmissible.

Listen: That experience was a catalyst that God used me to begin looking for the evidence that evolution actually happened. This is what I thought to myself after that. If scientific evidence proves that evolution actually happened, I don’t think I could go out there and preach this Book, because folks, have no illusions: Evolution and the Word of God cannot coexist in your mind.

Let me say that again. Evolution and creation in the Word of God cannot coexist in your mind because they are two diametrical opposed belief systems. In fact, in James 1:8, the Bible says this. It says, “*A double minded man is unstable.*” By the way: The phrase “double-minded” literally means to hold two opposite ideas, two opposing ideas, to try to hold two opposing ideas in your mind. You can’t do that. It will make you unstable.

Here is what I believe: I believe that a lot of Christians have an unstable faith, and they have an unstable faith because somewhere along the line they have been led to believe this; that evolution is a scientific fact, and that creation is blind faith. Let me say that again. A lot of Christians have been led to believe that evolution is a scientific fact, and that creation is a blind faith. What a lot of Christians are trying to do is hold those two opposing thoughts in their minds and I’m telling you, at best it will make your faith unstable, if not totally compromise your faith. By the way, I will add this: I think one of the reasons Christianity tends to be a mile wide and an inch deep in North America, very shallow, is for that very reason. It’s because in the back of a lot of Christian’s minds they are thinking evolution is a scientific fact, and creation is blind faith.

Folks, what we have been learning in this series for the past three weeks is that the scientific method actually teaches the opposite. The scientific method actually teaches that the Bible is science because it is based on observable evidence, and that evolution is actually blind faith because it is not based on observable evidence. Let me say that again. Evolution is not based on observable evidence. Creation is based on observable evidence.

Here is my proposition today. Listen to this: Science by definition – I said this last week – the scientific method by definition draws conclusions based on observable evidence. Let’s all say observable evidence, even if you don’t believe it, let’s say it together – observable evidence. Now the question is this: Is there observable evidence for evolution, or is there observable evidence for creation? Which is it? We are going to find out as we go back into this series that we have entitled, “I wish I knew what to believe”. How many of you have your listening guides, at all of our campuses, hold them up. If you are new with us, we love to take notes. How many of

you have your apps? Great! I want to give you two thoughts to take with you today. Number one: There is observable evidence for creation. There is observable evidence for creation. With that in mind, let's go back to Hebrews 11:1 one more time. Here is what it says:

*"Now faith"* - and he is talking about the Christian faith. He is talking about the faith of our belief. He says this: *"faith is the substance"*. In other words, it is not ethereal. It's not intangible. It is something you can get your hands on. *"It is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence."* We've been saying all along that God does not call us to blind faith. God does not want you to check your brain at the door when you come to church. In fact, God gave you that brain. God wants you to put that brain in gear so that you can follow, so that you can look at the evidence; and what does the evidence lead us to understand? What is it leading us to when we see observable evidence? Look at verse 3: *"By faith"* - Faith built on evidence; here is what happens when we see evidence: *"We understand."* Stop there again.

Understanding, again, comprehension is a phenomenon that occurs inside your brain. In other words, something is triggered in your brain that enables your brain to comprehend something; that enables your brain to understand. What is the force that triggers understanding? Here it is: Evidence: hard core evidence. Your brain will be hard pressed to believe anything blindly. Your brain needs evidence. Why? Because evidence takes away ambiguity. Evidence takes away speculation. Evidence takes away the guess work. Evidence generates certainty. Evidence allows you to be able to know what to believe. What does evidence lead us to believe? What does it lead us to understand? Look at what it says: Verse 3: *"By faith (That is faith built on evidence.) we understand."* What do we understand when we look at the evidence? *"That the universe was formed at God's command."* Again, the word "formed" there, from the Greek word *karkartizo* indicates design. It indicates engineering. It indicates complexity. What God is saying is, if you will look at the universe, look at the observable evidence, because when you do, it will be intuitive to your mind that it was designed. Because when you look at the universe, I don't care if you look out in the galaxy as far as you can look, or if you look far down into the molecular universe, into the atomic structure, what you see is design, engineering, and

complexity. When you look at that, it's just intuitive to your mind that this is not chaos. This is order; this is structure; that it was designed; that it was formed.

The evidence points to God. The evidence points to God. Romans 1:20 says: "*For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – What qualities? His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen. (This observable evidence of God) being understood, being comprehended – from what has been made.*" The word "made" there comes from a Greek word that indicates complexity; that indicates engineering; that indicates design. God is saying when you look at the complexity of the universe; when you look at the complexity. As we have looked at these in great detail, when you look at the complexity of these physiological systems, when you look at that and you see design and order and engineering, and complexity and precision,

listen: here is the point. It is intuitive to your brain. This was not chaotically made. This was structured. This was designed. This was engineered. That is axiomatic. It is self-evident. It was created. In fact, our constitution says this. "We hold these truths to be self evident." It is axiomatic. It is in your faith. It is intuitive. "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal." – In the eyes of God. You see, the observable evidence makes creation self-evident. Creation is scientific because it is based on observable evidence. In other words, in spite of being labeled un-scientific, creation is actually highly scientific. Why? Because there is observable evidence everywhere you look, and we are going to continue to look at the evidence. There is observable evidence that creation happened. We will continue to look at this a little more next week.

There is no observable evidence for evolution. There is no observable evidence for evolution. How many of you have seen the chart of human evolution? It shows the evolution of humans from chimpanzees to monkeys, to apes, to ape man, to man. We have all seen this. It shows up in Smithsonian in stuffed form. It shows up in museums, in scientific textbooks, in biological textbooks, and this is the gospel of evolution in graphic forms. Follow me here folks, because evolution basically teaches that mankind began as non-living matter. Let me say that again:

Evolution basically teaches that mankind began as non-living matter; that is the elements of the periodic table. Dirt: and somehow the dirt with no supervision, with no intelligence designing it, somehow non-living matter rose upwards in complexity to become living matter. That is called spontaneous generation. We spent a lot of time last week saying this is basically, even scientists say it is scientifically impossible that that could happen. It is mathematically impossible that it could happen. We are just going to go with the argument and say, non-living matter rose upward in complexity to form living matter like algae. Then evolution says algae then changed kind from algae to a completely different kind of frog. Then the frog rose upwards in complexity and changed to a completely different kind of being, into a different kind of monkey. Then this chart shows the different changes of kind from monkeys to ape man and all the way to modern day mankind. So the theory postulates that one kind of species changed into a completely different kind of species.

Now folks, this is the gospel of evolution. In modern day academia, and it is unchallengeable. It cannot be repudiated. It cannot be challenged. But here is what I want to remind us. The scientific method, by definition, draws conclusions based on observable evidence. Let me say that again. Scientific methods draw conclusions based on observable evidence, not somebody's imagination. That is so important to remember. Because you see, Darwin himself said this: "If man actually did transition from ape man to man, the evidence would be found in transitional fossils." In other words, the only evidence that could prove it would be these fossils that would show the link between ape man and man. In fact, Darwin said this. He said, "If the link, if the transitional fossils are not found, he said, my theory would completely break down." Why did he say that? Because there would be no observable evidence that it ever happened in the first place. So folks, the search began and after one hundred and fifty years of digging, a lot of students are led to believe that there is fossil evidence for this somewhere.

Here is what you need to know. The ape man to man chart is an imaginary drawing. You have got to understand: This is presented as a scientific fact, but the fact is, this was just Darwin's imagination. Here is another fact you need to know. The missing links are missing. Do you know

how much of this exists in fossil form? How much of this exists in observable evidence? Zero! None of it exists. All of this has been shown either to be mistaken identity or just full on fraudulent. Example in point: I want to give you the progression of this.

Number one: The Pit was alleged to be an ape man fossil that was found at the turn of the twentieth century. What was actually found was a tooth, a jawbone, and a thigh bone. But from a tooth, a jawbone, and a thigh bone, an entire imaginary man was drawn up. Folks, for forty years Pit was in our science text books saying that it was proof positive, it was scientific evidence, that evolution had actually occurred. For forty years! It wasn't until forty years later that National Geographic actually tested the bones and found those bones to be nothing more than the bones of a modern gibbon, a modern day monkey. For forty years that was in science textbooks.

Number two: The Piltdown Man. The Piltdown Man was discovered in 1912 by a guy by the name of Jean du bah. When The Piltdown Man was found, the consensus of the scientific community was that Piltdown was a literal transitional fossil. He was a literal missing link. He was dated between five hundred thousand and seven hundred thousand years old. Folks, let's check this out. Piltdown Man laid the foundation for millions of educated people to believe that mankind descended from monkeys; descended from apes. Piltdown Man was the holy grail that evolution had actually happened. But in 1953, forty one years later, Piltdown Man was carefully examined and found to be a total hoax. What du bah had actually done was this: He had taken a human skull and attached an orangutan jaw to it, then he chemically dyed the skull with iron salts to make it look old; filed down the teeth and then buried the skull in a hillside and dug it up himself. But that was written in science textbooks for forty-one years. Listen: For forty-one years hundreds of PHD dissertations were written saying that Piltdown Man proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that we had evolved from apes.

Number three: Nebraska man. Nebraska man was found in Nebraska. What was actually found was a tooth. It should be called Nebraska tooth, but from that single tooth, artists came up with a completely imaginary ape man who was alleged to have carried the tooth six hundred thousand

years before. It was the Nebraska tooth, the Nebraska man, that was used in the famous Scopes trial to prove that evolution happened.

How many of you have ever heard of the Scopes trial? Some of you may not have. Back in the early 1900's there was a trial, later made into a movie and shown on national TV, that pitted evolution against creation. A guy named Clarence Darrow, a lawyer, defended evolution, and a preacher named William Jennings Bryan defended creation. In this court case, Clarence Darrow takes a picture of the Nebraska man, the Nebraska tooth, and he waves it in front of William Jennings Bryan's face and said, "You Christians just won't believe the scientific evidence. Nebraska man is scientific evidence that we evolved from apes." That changed American education for years after. Folks, finally, in 1927 the tooth of Nebraska man was investigated and was found to be the tooth of a pig, but not before evolution was totally entrenched in modern education.

How many of you have ever heard of Lucy? Lucy was found by a man named Donald Johanson, in Ethiopia in 1974. If you have ever seen a picture of Lucy, she has an ape like face with a very large grilled forehead. It's interesting because Johanson was on Dick Cavett's show back in the day. Dick Cavett was sort of like David Letterman. Johanson was on the Dick Cavett show and Dick Cavett was actually holding Lucy's skull and he asked Johanson, "What are these brown spots on the back of the skull here?" Johanson sort of sleaks down in his chair and says, "Those are the chips that we found." Dick Cavett said, "You mean you didn't find the entire skull?" He said, "No, we just found those chips." Dick Cavett says, "Well, what is the rest of the skull?" "Johanson says, "It's plaster of Paris chemically dyed to make it look old." Cavett says, "How do you know she had this large grilled forehead?" He says, "Because evolution says she would have had a large grilled forehead." Cavett says, "You didn't actually find the forehead?" Johanson said, "No, we just found some chips." People believed that lock, stock, and barrel as evidence that evolution happened. It's unbelievable what people are believing.

The last three finds: Peking Man, Neanderthal Man, and Promagnum Man have all been revealed to just be the skulls and bones of regular human beings. Folks, it is interesting; evolution is called science, but it has no observable evidence. In fact, there is no observable evidence of evolution at any level. It is not there. Evolutionists will maintain that there were mutations that would actually change an animal from one kind of animal to a completely different kind of animal. But there is no fossil evidence for that anywhere. Now don't get me wrong. We know that God gives animals, and species, the ability to change in terms of adaptation. We know that. A bird's beak can actually adapt and grow longer, or shorter, or stouter. A fish's fin can grow stiffer, or stouter, or longer. We know there are adaptations, but listen, the bird stays a bird, and the fish stays a fish. There is not a change from one kind to another kind, which is what evolution maintains. By the way, in Genesis one, when God is talking about the reproduction of animals and creatures, He says they reproduce after their own kind. That phrase "after its own kind" underscores the fact that living creatures can only reproduce another creature similar to what it already is. In other words, a cat can only produce other kinds of cats. Dogs can only produce other kinds of dogs. A dog cannot produce a cat. A cat cannot produce a dog.

Listen: With the explosion of knowledge into genetics and DNA, the Bible is affirmed in that. Why? Because every life form, we know this now, Darwin didn't know this, every life form has a complex genetic code stored inside its DNA. That complex genetic code determines what it will be, because the code is analogous to a computer code, and it limits what that organism can be, no more and no less, what it can be and what it cannot be. In other words, there is not genetic information in the DNA to allow the organism, to allow the species to change into another kind of species, or another kind of organism. Mind you: We know that genes sometimes mutate. That is a given. We know that. But mutations tend to destroy information. They tend to alter information, not add information. Don't get me wrong. Let me say it again. We know that organisms, we know that species can change in terms of adaptation. Birds grow bigger beaks. Fish grow longer fins, but the fish is still a fish, and the bird is still a bird. There is no fossil evidence of change from one kind to another kind. There is no fossil evidence that this ever happened. Yet, many students are blindly led to believe that there is evidence here, and they

boldly declare themselves to believe in evolution, because they think there is evidence. What I am saying, I say in love. If you are here today and maybe you believe in evolution, you are not alone. A lot of people have believed this, and what I'm saying, what I'm speaking I hope you feel my heart. I speak the truth and I speak it in love.

I want you to take a look at this interview because it underscores the fact that a lot of students believe blindly that evolution occurred and that there is evidence for it. Listen to these questions asked of students, and their answers: "Do you believe in evolution?" Of course I do. Well, Darwin showed in his book: Evolution, Natural Selection is that we don't need to invoke any supernatural force or power to account for the development of life through time on earth beyond processes that are observable." "Do you think it is a belief? No, it is science. It's just the way it happened. "What is your major here at the university?" Biology. "Do you believe in evolution?" Yes. "What is your major?" Geology. Geology. Chemistry. I'm a physicist. BioChemistry. "Do you believe in evolution?" Yes, I do. "Are you a strong believer?" Yes. Yes. Absolutely. "Can you give me some observable evidence that evolution is true. Something I don't have to receive by faith? Some observable evidence." We can trace the evolution through the fossil record. "Be specific. Just give me one." Between sixty million years ago. Evolution is not testable over time. "Can you give me evidence of change of kind?" Fossil records shows through carnivores that cats and dogs were once linked, once united by a common ancestor. "How long ago?" This I believe was six million years ago. "I don't want something I have to accept by faith. I want observable." You are asking out here on the street. There is not much I could tell you in terms of observable evidence. "I would have to have faith then." You would have to have some amount of faith. "Can you think of any observable evidence that through evolution was a change of kind?" I haven't seen it myself, but I believe what the experts tell me about it. "So, you have faith in the experts?" I have faith in the experts, yes. "The scientific method must be observable and repeatable, so could you give me one piece of observable evidence?" Okay, I would point to one great example is, look at the genetics of the stickleback. "What is that?" The stickleback fish are a very interesting collection of species that were recently isolated after the end of the ice age. "What did they become?" They are various species of sticklebacks. "They are still a fish." Of

course. "Change of kind, you mean the evolution of one species to another?" Yes. We actually see that in Galapagos. We have an example from a group of birds called Darwin's finches. "What do they become?" The finches become genetically new and atomically new, a recognizable different species. "But they are still finches." Well of course, they are still finches. "So then evolution was not observable. It's not scientific." I guess so. "So, you believe it can be proven. Prove it for me." It's not observable. It's not scientific. You can't prove it." It can be proven. "Well, prove it for me. You can't prove it because it is unobservable. That's why. You are trusting the biology majors and biology teachers, and they can't even give me a change of kind. Well, there isn't one. If they don't give it, then I wouldn't say there was. I just thought what I learn from them. "Do you know what that is called? Blind faith!"

Charles Darwin said this in his own words, and I quote: "Why, if species have descended from other species by fine graduations, why do we not, everywhere, see innumerable transition forms? Why is not all nature in confusion, instead of the species being as we see them?" He saw no changes. He saw no transition fossils, no missing links, and he knew it. This is what he said in his latter years. "I have asked myself whether I may not have devoted my life to a fantasy. I am ready to cry out with vexation at my blindness and presumption."

You see folks, there is no evidence for this. There is just no evidence. But there is evidence everywhere we look, of the complexity, of design, of engineering, of precision, of irreducible complexity. Everywhere we look we see complexity and it is intuitive to our mind looking at the observable evidence. We are going to look at the universe next week. We are going out into the universe and down into construction. I'm telling you, everywhere we look observable evidence screams, forms, creative, design, intelligence. You say, "Well Rick, if evolution is devoid of evidence, then why do scientists hang onto it? Why do they do that." Here is what you need to know, and I say this reverently. Many scientists, not all of them, but many of them, are first and foremost atheists, out to disprove the existence of God, not out to find scientific truths. Let me say that again, and I say it reverently. Many scientists are first and foremost atheists, not scientists out for the truth. They are on mission to disprove the existence of God.

Here is the fact. Here is what the Bible says: *“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen.”* Here is what I want you to take away today. You are not a mistake. You are not a cosmological blunder. We love our moms. Our great, great, great, great grandmother was not a monkey. She was a person. She was a human being. She and you. Here is what I want you to walk away with. You were created by God. Here is what is so beautiful; in the image of God. That makes you incredibly special. In fact, God said when He created you that He created you in His likeness, *“When He created you, He created you in His likeness. You are not God, but there is something in you that is like God. In other words, when God looks at you, He sees something of Himself. It’s like when you look at your children, if you are a mom or a dad, when you look at your child you see something of yourself in that child. You see your eyes. You see your nose. When God looks at you, He sees something of Himself. You are very, very valuable to God.*

Here is what I want you to understand. This is what I am trying to get across to you. God has a plan for your life. That plan is very simple. He doesn’t have a religious plan for your life. He has a relational plan for your life. What He wants for you, He doesn’t want something from you; He doesn’t want to put a bunch of rules on you, and regulations. God doesn’t want anything from you. He wants something for you. He wants you and Him to have a personal relationship, where you talk to God, and He talks to you. You love God and He loves you. You walk with Him and He walks with you. He wants to have that relationship with you, not just in time, but forever. Here is the great news. You can begin that relationship today. At all of our campuses, you can begin that relationship with Him. You walked in believing who knows what. But you can walk out with a relationship with a God who made you, loves you, and created you. With that in mind, let’s bow our heads for prayer.