



Creation  
Weekend  
2017

INSPIRING  
Weekend!

The theme of Creation Weekend 2017 was “In Science and Faith, Worldview Matters”. Our speakers Carson Lueck and Dr. John Byl addressed this issue. Many people, in previous years, had indicated in questionnaires that they would be interested in presentations on apologetics. So here we were, considering worldviews. Naturally one might ask “What is a worldview? Why does it matter and how does it apply to our lives?”

### John Byl

Dr. Byl, in his second lecture entitled *Christian Worldview and Science* firstly defined worldview. He declared that a worldview involves fundamental questions of life (such as why are we here?) It consists of presuppositions

or assumptions that have to be made up front before any conclusions are drawn. This worldview involves a story or framework which serves as glasses on how we look at the world and evaluate things.

The Christian worldview centres on God, three persons in one, who are sovereign, holy, good and just. This is the key presupposition for the Christian and it contrasts with the secular presupposition that there exists only matter and processes working on matter. Coming from the basic first presupposition, the Christian accepts that God created the physical world and the spiritual world. Accordingly nothing happens by chance. History unfolds according to God’s plan. These views are encapsulated in the Christian view of knowledge which holds that from God we have received the

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*Celebrating  
Rhythm!*

by  
Margaret Helder

The 2017 award of the Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine to three Americans, Michael Rosbash, Jeffrey Hall and Michael Young, has served to stimulate our interest in a phenomenon that is actually well-known. We all know why people get hungry about the same time of day, or wake up about the same time, or suffer from jet-lag. It is because of biological clocks. So what was so special about the work of these three scientists? The story actually goes back to 1729!

It was in the eighteenth century that French physicist and mathematician Jean Jacques d’Ortous de Mairan turned his attention to the mimosa plant. The leaflets making up each leaf of this plant, characteristically open outward in the daytime and fold inward at night. He had supposed that the plant reacted this way in response to the onset of day or night. However when he placed the plant in a dark cupboard, it continued to open and close its leaves at the appropriate time of day even when there was no light. He did not know why.

Much later, in the 1930s, Dr. Erwin Bunning of Germany began a

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# NEW TO ALBERTA DINOS CENTRE

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can play and learn!*

**T**his summer during our annual family camping trip on a gloomy definitely-not-beach-weather kind of day, we discovered the **DINOS**

(Discovery Institute of Nature, Origins and Science) **Centre**. When someone suggested going to a new facility with a unique combination of indoor mini-golf, laser tag, and a café, as well as a Bible History Museum and an outdoor driving range, everybody agreed!

DINOS did prove to be a fun place! We all enjoyed looking at the life-like animatronic dinosaurs some of which the kids



were able to ride. With the op-

ah's ark, a diorama of the city of Jerusalem from the time of Christ as well as an *identical* replica of the Great Isaiah Scroll from the Dead Sea Scrolls. There are only a handful of these identical replicas on display worldwide at a few prestigious museums and institutions. Throughout the museum everything is presented with professional documentation and high quality explanations. **The value of the museum is that it helped us to appreciate that the historical record of the Bible is completely accurate from Genesis to Revelation, and that what it says is real and true.**

Since July, I have heard that the Bible History Museum now has a section that highlights some of the founders of modern science who believed the Bible as well as some science displays. For example, there is a tornado

that forms before your eyes and that you can touch! There is now also a Quantum Levitation demo using liquid nitrogen and superconductors, as well as, a scale model of the Apollo 11 rocket. Science is a tool that can be used to explore wonders of this incredible world that God has created.

DINOS Centre is located in Innisfail, Alberta. It is only 15 minutes south of Red Deer. To plan a trip, check out their helpful and easy to navigate website: [www.dinoscentre.ca](http://www.dinoscentre.ca)



tion to play a game of mini-golf with big and little dinosaurs and water features, or to play a game of laser tag, or just to tour through the laser tag arena which represents a hostile preflood civilization (complete with waterfall, river, tunnel, bridges, buildings, and animatronic surprises), we had some decisions to make. No matter what was chosen, everyone had a really fun time. The bonus is that whatever fun option we picked, we got to finish by touring through the impressive Bible History Museum.

In the museum just some of the neat things we saw were a scale model of No-



## Dialogue

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Its purpose is to discuss the creation model of origin in terms of scientific details.

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The best books are those that carry a compelling message and are interesting to read. Dr. Jerry Bergman's new book *How Darwinism Corrodes Morality* is such a document. It carries the reader along from story to story. His discussion demonstrates how, in the early twentieth century, certain individuals who were consumed with a passion for Darwinism, managed to transform the values and customs of society from morals based on Judeo-Christian thought to a rejection of standards of any sort.

By Darwinism we generally mean the process of natural selection which is presumed to lead to improvement in a population or what is popularly called survival of the fittest. This book is not about whether Darwinism really leads to evolution or not (is true or not). The book is about the implications of this idea for our culture. Whether one is a practicing Christian or an agnostic, one must recognize that Darwinian views lead to results that are harmful for society.

Dr. Bergman begins with British doctor Havelock Ellis (1859-1939), whom many of us have never heard of. But his views and career impact us still today. As Dr. Bergman points out, Ellis, based on the idea that Darwin was one of the most brilliant heroes of science, pursued the objective to make a wide variety of sexual practices socially acceptable. (p. 27) Indeed "Inspired by Darwin and eugenicists, he was one of the most successful revolutionaries to overthrow Judeo-Christian morality." (p. 37)

Living about the same time, was American Alfred Kinsey (1894-1956). This man is considered the father of the modern

Western sexual revolution. Darwinism was critically important in his lifelong crusade to overturn traditional sexual morality. (p. 39) As a result of the influence of a high school biology teacher, Dr. Kinsey rejected Christianity and became a militant campaigner against all forms of theistic religion. (p. 43) The author of several

leading biology textbooks, Dr. Kinsey actively supported Darwinism and eugenics (which basically aims to prevent individuals with "inferior" characteristics from reproducing). Kinsey wanted to see all taboos relating to sexual behavior swept away and in this he was amazingly successful, as society today attests. (p. 61)

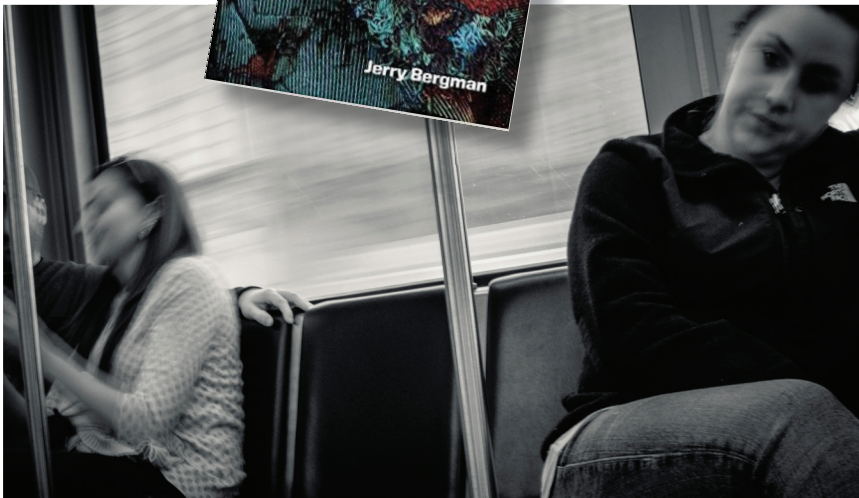
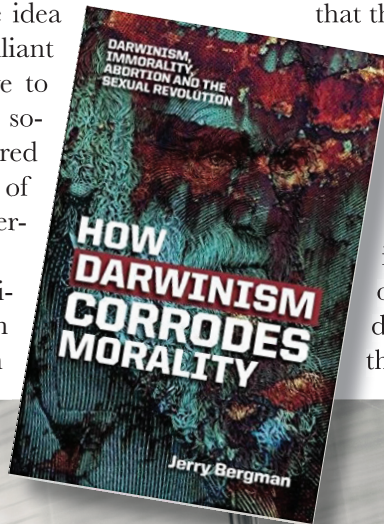
Another highly influential American was Margaret Sanger (1879-1966). She too based her views on Darwinism and her activities also led to a loosening in sexual morality. Raised a Roman Catholic, she rejected this in favour of Marxism, anarchism, secular humanism, free love and Darwinism. (p. 67) She was a strong supporter of eugenics programs, but today she is best known as the founder of Planned Parenthood which carries out a lot of abortions worldwide.

One of the better known disciples of Darwinism was German Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900). The son of a Lutheran pastor, he became a staunch atheist after studying Darwinism. (p. 128) His impact on academic thought was immense: "The relativism that is the foundation of 'post-modernism' was openly influenced by Nietzsche's teaching that there exist no absolutes, no God, no afterlife, all values that resulted from his anti-Christian philosophy." (p. 142) Also a supporter of eugenics, he declared "The weak must perish. And they should be helped to perish." (p. 148)

Dr. Bergman provides interesting biographical detail concerning a wide variety of people including Karl Pearson, founder of the science of statistics, and Dr. Benjamin Spock, the baby doctor. It is truly shocking how influential all these people were, but their words obviously fell

on receptive minds. The take home message is that Darwinian views matter! They have led to a wholesale deterioration of society. Every pastor, seminary student, teacher and thinking adult needs to read this book!

By Jerry Bergman  
(2017) Joshua Press  
pp. 312



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physical world, the Bible and Logic. These views provide the glasses with which we interpret all ideas and all information.

The challenge from mainstream science is the claim that nothing exists except matter and processes. According to this view, the only concepts that are needed to explain why we are here are evolution and long ages. Somehow this view has become connected in the popular mind with the idea that support for the traditional Christian view of a recent creation (as per the book of Genesis), is intellectual suicide. According to such Christian authors as Mark Noll (1994 in *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*) and Bernard Ramm (1954 in *Science and Christian Faith*) Christians need to support evolution theory if they are to be listened to at all by influential people. This strategy however entails abandoning the Christian worldview since mainstream science categorically rules out any role for God in nature.

What we find is not science versus Christianity but naturalistic explanations versus Christian explanations. The Christian worldview stresses sovereignty of God and the truth of His word. The Christian worldview concerns all aspects of life (culture, morality, man's relation to nature etc.) The Christian must think Christianly in all disciplines including science. Of course difficulties with the worldview of total materialists such as Ernst Mayr and Jerry Coyne are readily apparent. Dr. Mayr declared in an article in *Scientific American* (July 2000 vol. 238: 78-83 see p. 80) that laws and experiments are inappropriate techniques for explaining evolutionary

past events. Instead, he said "one constructs a historical narrative...." Similarly Dr. Jerry A. Coyne declared in 2003 that "evolutionary biology is a historical science, laden with history's inevitable imponderables." (chapter 7 p. 171 in a book edited by Cheryl Brown Travis) In other words evolution theory is full of things that cannot be understood. These prominent evolutionists declared that man has to make up his own origins story. For the Christian alternatively, God is a reliable witness and He has provided us with the creation account, we do not have to make it up.

More problematic for the Christian worldview are scientists who claim a foot in each camp (evolutionary and Biblical). For example, consider theologian Mark Noll who in 1994 declared that support for the creation account of Genesis 1-3 constitutes anti-intellectualism and this is a scandal and a sin. (*The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*) Dr. Byl declared that anti-intellectualism is a false issue and that Christians certainly insist that we should use our minds (Mark 12:30). As the apostle Paul declared: "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God..." (2Cor 10:5.)

In keeping with the ideal to use

one's mind, it seems obvious that in science the critical tool for study is observations. If this is so, then observations should always take priority over theory. That is, when observations turn out to be contrary to theories such as evolution, then the theory needs to be discarded. For example, Dr. Byl, in his book *God and Cosmos* discusses how the theories of events surrounding the Big Bang were modified several times in order to preserve the theory in the face of contrary evidence.

Later in his lecture Dr. Byl listed a number of problems with evolution theory which could/should lead to its rejection. There is no viable mechanism for the origin of information of any kind (such as mathematics). There is no viable explanation for the origin of genetic information. There is no viable explanation for the origin of life, or for consciousness or for cultural attributes of man which cannot be connected with a survival advantage (and the list goes on and on.)

Thus in summary Dr. Byl urged that Christians be very careful to read God's Word reverently and properly, applying Biblically valid principles of interpretation. The plain reading of Scripture must not be denied by mankind's inserting modern views onto the text. When the issue pertains to Scripture such as the early chapters of Genesis, we must not imitate the serpent who said "Did God really say?" The apostle Paul warns against knowledge falsely so called (I Tim 6: 20-21) and he contrasts "the foolishness of God"





with worldly wisdom (I Cor.1:25) Our worldview will be either God glorifying or God defying. As Christians we need to teach critical thinking which involves Bible knowledge, a discerning attitude and the ability to distinguish between fact and interpretation.

### Carson Lueck

The first lecture of the weekend was presented by Carson Lueck, trained in teaching junior high school science. He focused his message especially to youth who all too often encounter science teaching which contradicts the Biblical account. Carson began with two stories of typical young people. The first one rejected his Christian training after he encountered assertions that science has proved the Bible to be wrong. There was nothing to prevent this student from accepting the word of modern scientists in contrast to the Bible authors who were prone (so he believed) to error and the influence of contemporary pagan myths. The other youth approached issues of origins with the view that Scripture has priority and any difficult issues concerning the claims of science can be resolved. The theme of Mr. Lueck's talk then was that science sits at the feet of Scripture. Naturalism on the other hand produces a story (evolution), that is in complete contrast with what the Bible says. But do not waver, anything that contradicts Scrip-

ture, you know that there is an answer for it. You can be confident in Scripture because you know that it is God breathed.

Mr. Lueck proceeded to demonstrate that the Bible provides a unified message, a remarkable fact when one considers that it was composed by many authors over thousands of years. Mr. Lueck then reviewed various Old Testament events which point towards the work of Christ. This speaker began with the protogospel in Genesis 3:15, the promise that an offspring of the woman would restore man-

kind to a relationship with God. Carson continued that there is nothing in the Old Testament that happened by accident. This history is not something you can ignore or make metaphors about in order to dismiss its significance. Which of us could control 4000 years of history which point to Christ?

According to Mr. Lueck, details in the Bible matter. Nothing can be ignored as irrelevant. For example, the sacrificial system in the Old Testament was established by God to foreshadow the work of Christ, which would be a once-for-all payment for sin. Previously the work of the priests was never completed because their efforts were just an illustration of what was

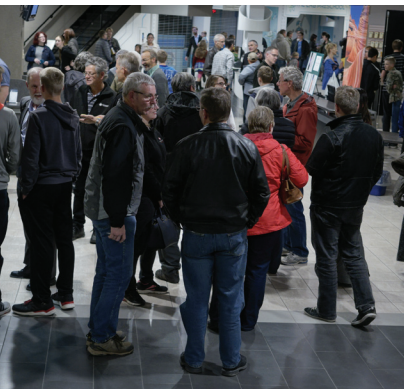
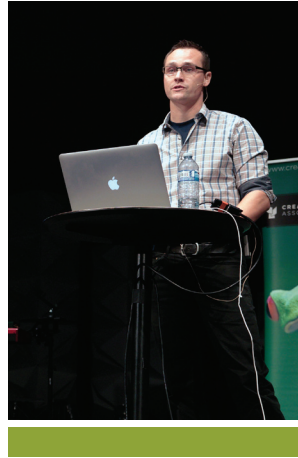
to come. It is interesting, therefore, pointed out Carson, that the tabernacle furniture (despite exhaustive detail) included no chairs. There was nothing upon which the priest could sit because his work was never done. But – according to Hebrews 10:11-12, Christ sat down at the right hand of God, because his work was finished. In like fashion, declared Carson, such obscure details as the presence or absence of a chair is highly significant. The details in all of Scripture are likewise significant. Thus discarding the details of the early chapters of Genesis is clearly very problematic.

Carson then reviewed Christ's view of the Old Testament. One account that he discussed involved Christ's declaration that the patriarchs that have died, nevertheless still live with God (quoting from Exodus 3:6 see Matthew 22:31-32 especially "He is not the God of the dead but of the living.") Christ based his argument on the *tense* of a verb ("I *am* the God of Abraham ...."). Thus we can see that details in the Bible matter, they have authority. Who among fallible mankind has the right to say that there are any details which we should ignore?

Lastly Carson reviewed the reliability of Bible texts. He declared that God has given us His word and made sure that it has been preserved. No other work from antiquity has as many manuscripts as the Bible and as short a time interval between the original writers and the documents extant today.

Therefore declared Carson Lueck, let us approach all learning confident that we can and must be critical consumers of worldly wisdom. We may not now know the answer to all claims of science, but we have a firm confidence in God and His word. What we must not do, is use science to reinterpret Scripture.

Next issue we will review the other two lectures from Creation Weekend 2017.



# Celebrating Rhythm!

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50 year program on such organisms as the common bean plant. Dr. Bunning's work provided a clear demonstration that there is an internal clock. Another scientist discovered that the time of emergence of adult fruit flies (from pupae) also exhibited a close, but not exact daily rhythm. Scientists then developed a definition of circadian rhythms. (*Circa* is Latin for "approximately", and *diem* is Latin for "day", so circadian means "about a day".)

These cycles are independently controlled inside the creature and follow a close, but not exact 24 hour cycle. This cycle is typically reset each morning with sunrise to follow an exact 24 hour cycle. While most chemical reactions including physiological processes double their rate with each 10 degree C rise in temperature, circadian rhythms are not affected by temperature. This is a very good thing. Imagine if your daily rhythms changed with the ambient temperature!

The search was then on to find out how many organisms exhibit biological clocks. Scientists had thought that

some kinds of organism might lack this capacity, but the 1998 discovery of a clear circadian rhythm in blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) demonstrated to them that basically all organisms exhibit a biological clock.

Another thing that scientists wanted to discover was where the clock is located in each organism. It was in fruit flies that Ronald Konopka and Seymour Benzer demonstrated in 1971 that a gene which they called *period* was involved in control of the time of emergence of the adult fly from its pupa. Also James Truman and Lynn Riddiford, using silk moths (which are *much* bigger than fruit flies!), were able to demonstrate a light receptor, a clock, and hormonal and nervous output from special cells in the brain which control the daily rhythm of emergence of individuals from the pupal state.

Now scientists wanted to discover how the system works. The team of Konopka and Benzer had begun this stream of research in the 1970s, but they died in 2015 and 2007 respectively. The Nobel Prize is awarded only to people who are living and Hall, Young and Rosbash, from two competing teams, further elucidated the chemical process in fruit flies. This was the beginning of an explosion of similar studies in many other organisms.

The details of the physiology can be illustrated as follows. Imagine that you own a very valuable document. It contains specific recipes for all sorts of valuable products. Naturally you do not want to lose or damage that document. When you desire a given product, you make a copy of the appropriate piece of text and bring that copy to



your manufacturing centre. Obviously, you need to locate the correct piece of information before you can make a copy. It would be ideal to have a marking system that hones in on the correct piece of information, especially if the total document is many volumes thick. Without a marking device, you will never find the correct recipe.

So it is with the living cell. Consider the nucleus as the information centre of the cell. To produce a needed molecule for the cell, a special marker protein attaches at just the right spot to the information bearing DNA. Then comes a different protein (polymerase) to the marker point, and the polymerase then proceeds along the crucial stretch of DNA, copying the information into another long molecule. The polymerase cannot find the right piece of DNA without the marker. The duplicating process is like something skimming along a line of text on a page and duplicating the order of letters in the words at the same time.

Next that piece of duplicated information (like ticker tape), then exits the nucleus into the surrounding part of the cell (called cytoplasm). There the duplicated piece of information chugs through a tiny machine and directs the production of the desired product (also a protein). But once that protein

by Margaret Helder







product is used in the cell, the system has to be repeated from the beginning to make more useful protein. It is just like spending money and earning more so that you can keep on spending.

One particularly interesting variation on the just described process involves timekeeping in living organisms. Fruit flies provide an excellent example of the situation. In certain cells of the fruit fly brain, a gene called *Period* directs the production of a protein labelled PER. Another gene *Timeless* directs the production of TIM. Both proteins are formed outside the nucleus in the cytoplasm. During the day these processes continue and more and more of these proteins accumulate in the cell proper (cytoplasm). Then as night falls, individual PER and TIM proteins link together and move through very particular gates in the nuclear membrane into the central nucleus. There they tie up the special marker proteins which attach at the beginning of the DNA where these genes are located. Thus production of PER and TIM stops. The process continues through the night so that by morning there is almost no PER and TIM left. When there is nothing left to prevent the expression of the *Period* and *Timeless* genes, these genes are then turned

on again and the cycle repeats. This is a simple feedback loop which controls a number of other physiological processes in the fruit fly such as time of mating and time of day for an adult fly to emerge from the pupa.

The biological clock therefore is basically a feedback system, or a simple loop. A gene directs the production of a protein which then slows down the action of that gene. Eventually other proteins were discovered which also affect the system. Each has its own feedback system which interacts with neighbouring loops. Expert John Tyler Bonner declared in 2004: "It became evident that the clock was controlled by a complex network of genes and their proteins; and that this was the mechanism that provided the underlying oscillations." [http://www.the-tls.co.uk/this\\_week/story.aspx?story\\_id=2107242](http://www.the-tls.co.uk/this_week/story.aspx?story_id=2107242)

Scientists had hoped, based on evolution theory, that a common mechanism would be found in all organisms. Dr. Bonner however declared concerning genes that control daily rhythms in different major groups of organisms: "They are similar in the way they behave and function, but they involve different DNAs and different proteins." This expert tried to accommodate the situation to evolution theory: "It may at first glance seem unlikely that such genes should appear spontaneously, but it is worth bearing in mind that they had many millions of years and many millions of generations for this fortuitous arrangement to occur." (This is not a promising argument!)

The discovery of a circadian rhythm in blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) in 1998 settled the question of

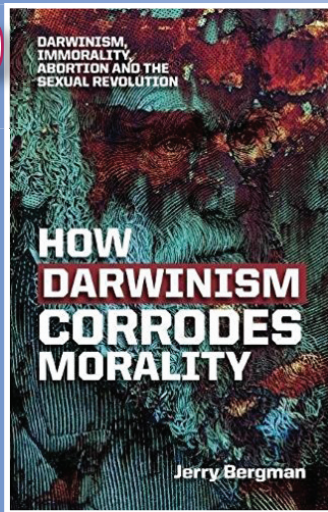
whether there was one common mechanism in organisms or many. Commentary in *Science* (vol. 281 September 4/98 p. 1429) points out that although the new system is similar "the proteins that make up the cyanobacteria clock are completely different from those of other organisms." Commentator Marcia Barinaga continues: "The findings help settle a debate over whether all biological clocks are descended from the same evolutionary ancestor, or whether clocks have arisen more than once during the course of evolution." And she concludes: "[C]locks seem to have arisen multiple times, recreating the same design each time."

Thus the claim to fame of the new Nobel laureates is that they were among the pioneers in the discovery of molecular controls of biological clocks. These processes produce truly amazing results such as the Monarch Butterfly migration ([www.create.ab.ca/monarch-butterflies-special-orientees/](http://www.create.ab.ca/monarch-butterflies-special-orientees/)). These butterfly clocks themselves include some unique components. We now know how amazing are the capabilities which organisms demonstrate, which are controlled by biological clocks. We also realize that biological clocks are a big problem for evolution theory. This wonderful system, with all its diverse chemical differences, was clearly designed by the Creator.



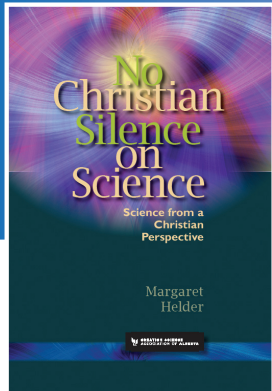
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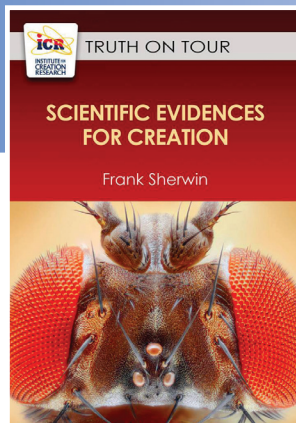
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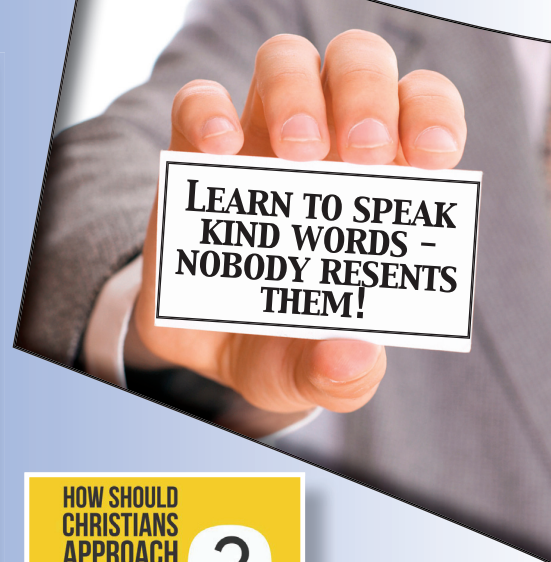
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