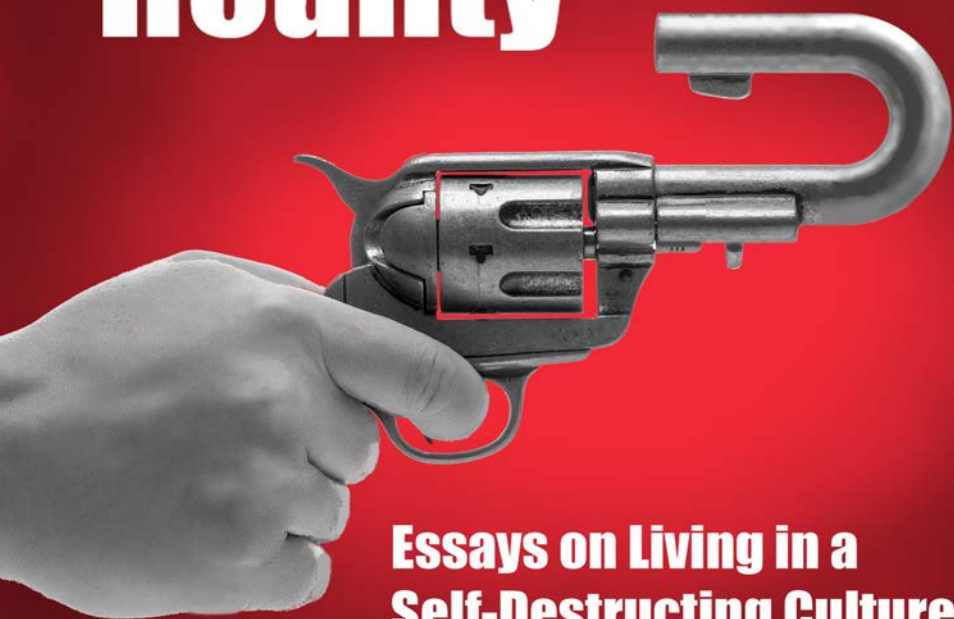


The War Against Reality



**Essays on Living in a
Self-Destructing Culture**

by Thomas Williams

**THE CHRISTIAN
Appeal**

Preface

Tom Williams was born in the duplex his parents shared with mine. We literally have been life-long friends, and that friendship has always blessed me.

During my earliest decades as editor of this magazine, Tom stepped up to serve as our Art Editor. Who would have dreamed that this guy who grew up in small West Texas towns like Littlefield and Turkey would one day design the book covers for best-selling authors like Billy Graham and Chuck Swindoll and Chuck Colson and Max Lucado? Who would have predicted that Tom's oil painting/portrait of C.S. Lewis would hang in the C.S. Lewis museum in Wheaton, Illinois?

Even more mind-blowing, though, is the fact that Tom's incredible artistic career as the most prolific religious book designer ever led to an even more amazing era of creativity. He has written more than a dozen books (both novels and theology), and in the past two decades he has co-authored cogent apologetic volumes alongside internationally known faith-defender Josh McDowell.

As we draw near to the end of our little magazine's sixty-year ministry, how blessed we are to be able to offer one more potent pro-Bible message by Tom Williams.

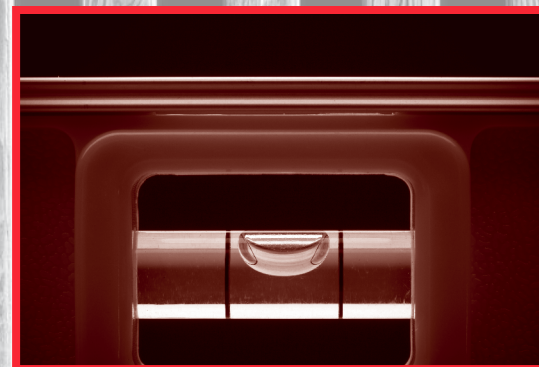
—Gene Shelburne,
Senior Editor

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**The very essence
of your words is truth;
all your just regulations
will stand forever.**

 **Psalm 119:160 (NLT)**

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The Reality of Truth

When first-grader Melinda brought her puppy to school for show-and-tell, the class wondered whether it was male or female. But none of the children knew how to determine its sex until one little boy raised his hand and said, “I know how we can tell.” The teacher, resigning herself to a discussion of the birds and the bees, said, “Okay, Kevin, how can we tell?” Kevin replied, “We can vote.”

Until recently Kevin’s answer would have evoked a chuckle as a cute story. But today it reflects our culture’s approved method of determining any truth. A 2022 Barna survey found that 71 percent of Americans “now contend that human beings rather than God should be the judge of right and wrong.” Forty-two percent said you should be guided by “what you feel in your heart,” and 29 percent said morality should be based on majority rule. Only 29 percent said biblical principles should be the basis for truth and morality.

This shift shows that whatever people feel, choose, or vote for now carries the weight of truth. It explains why practices condemned by biblical morality—abortion, homosexuality, gender fluidity, euthanasia, pornography, and sexual freedom—are widely accepted today. Absolute standards for truth are deemed non-existent.

It is within man’s power to determine some standards. The standards for weights and measures, for example, are appropriately set or modified by human governments. But other standards, such as the standard for measuring time, are dictated by factors beyond the reach of human manipulation. The length of a day is determined by the rotation of the earth. A legislative decree lengthening a day from twenty-four to twenty-five hours would throw our days out of sync with the sun, plunging all human activity into chaos. The standard for truth is like the standard for time; it is an unchangeable absolute not subject to human manipulation. Truth is another term for reality.

So how is our self-determined “truth” working out for us? Does it bear any responsibility for the skyrocketing increases in divorce, single motherhood, abortion, crime, violence, depression, addiction, and suicides? These societal collapses show that by challenging absolute truth we are butting our heads against unyielding reality. Where will this lead? Proverbs 14:12 tells us: “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”



The War Against Reality

The Unyielding Wall of Reality

The rules that govern music were not invented; they were discovered. They are based on how the ear and mind interpret sound. Over time, musicians learned by experimentation that certain tonal combinations could evoke emotion and drama. These discoveries were codified into rules, enabling composers as varied as Bach, Gershwin, and Lloyd Webber to move us with their compositions.

The avant-garde composer John Cage, however, thought rules constricted music. He devised “indeterminate” pieces composed of sounds produced by chance. In his piece “Inlets,” performers fill conch shells with water and tilt them to create bubbles which gurgle at random intervals. Cage’s “music” expressed his belief that the universe operates by sheer chance.

Cage loved mushrooms. When picking them, he carried a field guide to determine which were poisonous. When asked why he didn’t pick mushrooms with the same abandon reflected in his music, he explained that to do so would be fatal. Obviously, Cage could not live consistently by his chosen “truth” about the nature of reality.

A teacher recently tweeted that the mathematical equation $2+2=4$ “is cultural, and because of western imperialism/colonization, we think of it as the only way of knowing.” A respondent concurred, tweeting, “Standards aren’t objective. Math isn’t objective either. It’s always down to interpretation.” You can bet that these tweeters abandon this “truth” when reconciling their bank statements, filling out tax forms, or measuring medicinal doses.

A biological woman who decides she’s a man will find that claim challenged at every turn. Her “truth” will clash with the rights of others in her use of restrooms and dressing facilities. Success in men’s sports and jobs requiring men’s strength will be impossible. Half the fixtures in men’s restrooms will not accommodate her anatomy. Neither surgery nor hormone therapy will alter the female genetic code embedded into every cell of her body.

As these examples show, one’s chosen “truth” will always clash with absolute truth. Authentic truth is synonymous with reality. Lives lived by self-constructed fantasies cannot be consistently maintained. Reality inevitably intrudes. A life divided between a fantasy world and the world of reality cannot be integrated, which by definition means it lacks integrity. The hard fact that must be faced is simply this: No one can win the war against reality. It is a war against the truth of God that infuses all creation.



The War Against Reality


The Suicide of Humanity

The human race is killing itself. Not by polluting the planet or consuming processed foods or morphing humans into obese couch potatoes, but by scorning God's very first command: "Be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:28). To keep the Earth's population constant requires a total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.1 births per woman. No nation outside the African continent is now maintaining that level. The TFR of European and Asian nations ranges from 0.81 to 1.8, with only France coming close to replacement with 2.03. The present U.S. TFR is estimated at 1.73.

Three generations ago families teemed with children. My father had nine siblings and my mother seven. Why have family sizes plummeted? Not because we ran out of land where we needed children as farmhands, but because we came to see the luxuries and conveniences booming from America's postwar economy as necessities demanding a greater allotment of time and budgets. Multiple children became unaffordable.

As modernity encroached on domesticity, other secularities drove down the TFR. When feminism devalued motherhood and herded women into careers, the average age of female marriage increased from 20 in 1945 to its present 28, greatly decreasing women's childbearing years. Men placing career over home often saw children as burdens. Environmental concerns prevented many couples from producing more humans to pollute the planet.

Christians understand that none of these rationales for childlessness is valid. As in many cases, overriding God's command will invoke the law of natural consequences, which in the case of the planet's plummeting TFR will be disastrous. A shrinking workforce means a diminished tax base, unfunded entitlements, empty buildings, crumbling infrastructure, and an aging population requiring more care but with fewer caregivers. Add to this the personal tragedy of aging couples or widows isolated in lonely apartments that could have been filled with the joy of children and grandchildren.

Seeing children as encumbrances is a modern outlook that would have baffled our great-grandparents, not to mention the entire culture of God's people in Bible times. Women saw childbearing as their ultimate fulfillment—an attitude utterly fitting to nature and to the God of life. Can you think of any honor God has bestowed on humans greater than that of partnering with him not merely in populating the earth, but in launching living beings that can experience ecstatic joy throughout all eternity? 

The War Against Reality

The Mask Comes Off

The history of abortion in the U.S. reveals the downward trajectory that evil always follows. In 1973 the Supreme Court legalized abortion. For more than two decades, however, leftists, knowing the public to be morally conflicted about the decision, disguised abortion as a health measure rather than a lifestyle choice. Abortion, they said, should remain "safe, legal, and rare."


As public acceptance of abortion increased, pro-choice activists dropped the word "rare" because it suggested women should feel apologetic for getting abortions. To overcome the stigma, they encouraged women at pro-choice rallies to "shout your abortion." Boast that you killed your baby. The pro-choice label was exposed as a sham. In reality the left was pro-abortion.

Meanwhile, activists chipped away at restrictions on abortions imposed by various states until several legislatures legalized partial-birth abortions (killing babies as they pass through the birth canal). Some advocated allowing babies that survive abortions to die unattended. They had now descended from pro-abortion to pro-infanticide.

In the rage that followed the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, activists vandalized many pro-life pregnancy centers that aided women who chose to bear their babies, crying, "If abortion isn't safe, then neither are you!" Activist lawyers began proceedings to shut down these pro-life centers (with the endorsement of the U.S. vice president). The truth becomes increasingly clear: not only do leftists want abortion to flourish, they want aid and protections to women wanting to bear children to diminish. Not only do they increase death; they attack life.

In a December 2022 Planned Parenthood fund-raising letter, the truth they had long tried to hide came out. The lead line of the letter read, "We ♥ abortion"—which is literally a way of saying, "We love killing babies." The pro-choice mask is now off, revealing the insidious evil driving the abortion industry.

The left could not have advanced these evils without the acquiescence of the current culture. A recent poll revealed that 52 percent of Americans believe overturning *Roe v. Wade* was a "step backward." Only 31 percent approved. Clearly, diabolic forces have gained traction toward their goal of destroying God's creation.

What can we do? First, we must pray. Second, we must affirm the value of life in word and action, which means protecting every life God places in the womb of a woman. 

The War Against Reality

Teacher of the Year


Billy Green is a high school chemistry teacher in New York City. He describes himself as “Puerto Rican, black, gay, and too many isms.” He paints his fingernails in bright colors and sometimes wears women’s accessories. He believes teaching his students social activism is as important as teaching them chemistry. His previous school fired him for putting this philosophy into practice. This past year his students’ scores were the lowest in the entire school, and only 9 percent of them made a passing grade in his classes.

How did New York react to Billy Green promoting activism over academics? Did they discipline him? Warn him? Fire him? No. They honored him as the State of New York’s 2023 Teacher of the Year.

“Well, that’s New York,” you may say. “Our local public schools are nothing like that.” Are you sure? During the COVID pandemic many parents were appalled at what they found being taught in local schools. Even in conservative middle America, homosexuality, transgenderism, critical race theory, and feminist standards are taught and encouraged. Administrations often hide these curricula from parents. Parents objecting at school board meetings are ignored, treated as radicals, or sometimes even investigated by the FBI.

We’ve long known our kids’ Christian values are at risk when they enter college. Now that danger threatens even in K-12 public schools. As a result, a growing number of Christian parents are opting for private schools or homeschooling. But private schools are expensive, and even they are not immune to educational wokeness. And homeschooling may present impossible economic hurdles for some families.

To offer a one-size-fits-all solution would be presumptuous, but two suggestions present themselves. First, from the time a child is able to talk, activate the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4–7), which instructs parents to saturate their children with biblical teaching 24/7. Embed biblical principles too deeply to be uprooted by secular influences. Second, guard your child as much as possible from the corrupting influences of companions who have absorbed the secular standards of our increasingly godless culture. This means strictly regulate smartphones, which in immature hands are open gateways to corruption. Regulate your child’s social life—including social media—with accountability and by denying participation in what “everyone is doing.” This won’t be easy. But it must be done for the sake of your child’s eternal future.

“Teacher of the Year” is the title you must assume for yourself—or rather for the sake of your children. 

The War Against Reality

The Inanity of Profanity


Among the collateral victims in the war against reality is clean speech. As the culture became more profane, so did ordinary conversation. In my youth, my father forbade profanity in any form. Even “golly,” “darn,” and “heck” were off limits. The real curse words were seldom uttered in public. I first heard “damn” and “hell” on the grade school playground. I don’t remember hearing the “F,” “S,” or “BS” words until my teenage years.

How things have changed! We now hear the full gamut of swearwords in everyday conversation. When I asked a colleague why he uses profanity, he replied, “For impact. It strengthens language, adding emphasis to drive home your point.”

Not so. My friend mistook shock value for strength. Shock value fades quickly. After a few repetitions, profanity no longer shocks; it merely bores. Swearwords become clumsy crutches for speech crippled by lazy vocabularies. The half-dozen common swearwords have specific definitions, all associated with judgment, excrement, and crude sexuality. Yet they are dropped indiscriminately into discourse on any subject, displacing definitive words and robbing conversation of vividness and specificity.

Although swearwords quickly lose their shock value, they never lose their original associations. The odor of excrement will always linger about the s-word. The crudity of aggressive sexuality will always contaminate the f-word. Why anyone wants his speech polluted with excrement and crude sex is beyond me.

If we who desire clean speech subject ourselves to pervasive profanity, we risk an embarrassing slip in an unguarded moment. It happened to me. After spending hours in a printing pressroom checking proofs with men whose language reeked with swearwords, the word “damn” sprang from my tongue as if on its own accord. It shocked me more than anyone. Garbage in, garbage out. Whenever possible, I now avoid overexposure to profanity. Particularly in movies. I’m not a purist on the point; I realize a film can be worthwhile despite an occasional swearword. It’s the pervasiveness that lowers our guard.

Aside from these practical principles of purified discourse, there is a better reason for avoiding profanity. We Christians are enjoined to keep our speech pure. James finds it outrageous that “out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?” (James 3:10–11). Our speech should consistently reflect the purity of our heart. 

The War Against Reality

Embracing Our Created Purpose

On leaving the Jerusalem temple, Jesus and his disciples encountered a man who had been blind from birth. Influenced by the accepted Jewish belief of the day, the disciples assumed the man's blindness was the result of sin. They asked Jesus whose sin caused it—his own or his parents'. Jesus replied that it was neither. The man was born blind "that the works of God should be revealed in him" (John 9:3). He then proceeded to heal the man.

I wonder what this man might have thought of Christ's explanation for his blindness. "What! You mean God inflicted thirty-eight years of blindness on me just so he could use me as an object lesson to show off his power?" To modern ears this complaint may seem justified, which shows how far we are separated from the biblical attitude of willing submission to God and his purposes—regardless of the cost to us.

We forget that we are not our own. God created each of us to meet a specific need. As Paul tells us, potters make pots for both high and lowly uses. One is formed into an exquisite Grecian urn and another into a lowly chamber pot. Given the fact that he makes both because both are needed, does either have the right to complain, saying, "Why did you make me thus?" (Romans 9:20).

I wonder how much of our present cultural dysfunction is due to people refusing to accept the role they were created to fill. Women rebel against patriarchy. Gays against normal sexuality. Feminists against childbearing. Men against marital domestication. Youth against authority. Transgenders against their own bodies. At the base of all these rebellions is rebellion against the God who made each of us to be whatever was needed to fill the many varied roles vital to a functioning society.

We have come to think we were created for happiness, whereas God created us for holiness. Secular culture urges us to follow our own desires and make ourselves into what we want to be despite clear evidence that God created us for something else. But we find joy and fulfillment only in the counterintuitive act of giving up our own ambition and submitting to the role God has assigned.

Like Job, we must learn to say, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust Him."

CA

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Unwrapping Creation's Greatest Gift

Nothing in God's creation is more beautiful, meaningful, and delightful than being male and female in the God-ordained relationship of marriage. Consider how many elaborate gifts God has enclosed within the wrappings of committed marriage.

Marriage gives us lifelong companionship, the deepest love relationship possible on planet Earth, heart-soaring romance, and an intimate sexual partner. (Statistics show that marriage delivers much greater sexual satisfaction than promiscuity.) Marriage blends two lives in commitment to common goals, infusing both with meaning and fulfillment. It provides mutual support in times of trouble. It unites complementary physiques and abilities to share the tasks of creating and maintaining a home. Marriage is the ordained fountain of human life. It provides a protective environment for nurturing, raising, and forming character in the children it produces.

Marriage benefits extend even beyond the home. Homes founded on committed marriages are the building blocks of stable societies. They form solid communities, which in turn form solid cities, states, and nations.

Given the enormous pleasures, fulfillments, and social benefits of marriage, you would think every society would go all-out to protect this priceless treasure. But today major influences in Western culture are attempting to destroy marriage and dismantle the home.

Radical feminism initiated the assault, vowing to liberate women from the slavery of patriarchy "by destroying the American family." The feminists gained allies in the LGBTQ movement, which redefined marriage to include combinations other than male and female. When no-fault divorce dissolved the integrity of a vow, divorce rates soared as marriage rates plummeted. Cohabitation became socially acceptable. Single parenthood became a new norm, producing fatherless young men who often joined gangs and became predators on women, spiking crime rates, out-of-wedlock birthrates, and prison populations. Undermining marriage has destabilized our nation.

Why this war against a relationship offering such beauty, pleasure, joy, and stability? The answer is simple: marriage requires selfless love, calling us to refocus our lives not on ourselves but on our mates and children. This often means compromise and sacrifice—concepts foreign to today's culture of narcissism, which shuns binding ties and restraints on any desire.

Our task today is to unwrap the gift of marriage and expose its beauty for all to see—to demonstrate by our own marriages that we find relational joy in giving up ourselves and living in the glory of committed love.

CA

The War Against Reality

Is Free Will an Illusion?


You've seen videos of amazing robots that walk, jump, pick up objects, avoid obstacles, keep their balance when hit, and right themselves when they fall. These incredible machines have no options in their behavior. They merely do as their programs direct and make automatic adjustments in response to built-in sensors monitoring their environments.

This, says atheistic physicist Richard Dawkins, also describes the nature of humans: "We, and all other animals, are machines created by our genes." He claims we have no power of choice. Every action is dictated by the highly sophisticated computer we call a brain. The late physicist Stephen Hawking concurred, saying, "Free will is just an illusion."

The term for this philosophy is determinism, which claims that all our actions are dictated by previous actions, external stimuli, and mental programming. We have no capacity for choice. Everything we do is as inevitable as the trajectory of a struck billiard ball.

Despite the claims of determinism, when we select a tie, a car, a career, or a mate, we feel that we are choosing freely from alternatives that we could as freely reject. This assumption is infused into us. Hawking explains this, saying nature hid from us the awareness that we are automatons and gave us the illusion of choice. This illusion is necessary, he says, for to survive we must act as if we have free will. Hawking admitted that "even people who claim everything is predetermined and that we can do nothing to change it, look before they cross the road. . . . One has to adopt the effective theory that one has free will and that one is responsible for one's actions."

Hawking understood that to adopt determinism openly would destroy society. Determinism undermines order and justice by eroding responsibility for destructive behavior. We cannot justly punish a murderer if he's just a robotic machine that cannot help doing whatever it does.

According to Genesis, free will is a reality, a defining attribute of humanity that gives us the power to choose our destiny. The freedom we experience each time we make a choice exposes determinism as a lie at war with reality and clearly reveals free will as valid truth. It is imperative that we use our free will for its intended purpose—to choose sides in this great cosmic war that engages us all. 

The War Against Reality


If It Walks Like a Duck

Naturalist Richard Dawkins admits that everything in the universe appears to have been designed. But that appearance, he claims, is an illusion: everything evolved naturally. His claim requires us to deny not only what seems obvious but also realities affirmed by science and reason. He asserts that despite the scientific fact that life cannot emerge from nonliving matter, it did. Despite the fact that chaos cannot produce order, it did. An explosion scattered atoms throughout space, where they ordered themselves into a finely tuned universe. Though logic says that nonrational matter cannot produce reason, it did. Man's reasoning mind emerged from insentient material. Dawkins offers a universe built on logical impossibilities that defy the basic tenets of science. Yet he derides Christians who believe the universe was created by a supernatural God—a belief he labels as medieval, irrational, anti-science, and based on blind faith.

But is belief in God truly a matter of blind faith? Let's address the question by asking another: how did the universe come to be? There are only three possibilities: (1) Matter existed always and shaped itself into its present forms. (2) Matter popped into existence uncaused out of nothing. (3) Matter was created by an intelligent, eternally existing being. Which of these options can science explain? None of them. Which forces us to admit that the beginning of the universe was inevitably supernatural? All of them.

Option 1 defies nature, because nature says everything must have a beginning. Option 2 defies nature, because science says absolute nothingness cannot produce anything. Option 3 defies nature, because nature cannot account for a self-existent being. All three options show that the origin of the universe must have occurred outside nature, which is to say it is supernatural.

Given that truth, the naturalistic theories of origins are no more rational or scientific than the Christian claim that God is the self-existing, supernatural creator of everything. All require stepping outside nature into the supernatural realm where science has no access to data.

So, since the universe appears to be designed and science cannot support any alternative, the appearance of design obviously reflects reality. As the old syllogism says, if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, flies like a duck, and swims like a duck, it's likely that it really is a duck. 

The War Against Reality


A Fence That Can't Be Straddled

Today confidence in science is so high that when scientific pronouncements clash with biblical orthodoxy, many Christians assume it's our theology that needs adjusting—not our trust in science. That, I suspect, is a primary rationale for belief in theistic evolution. On the surface it seems a reasonable compromise between evolution and creation—a way of pleasing both orthodox believers and evolutionary scientists. More often, however, theistic evolution tends to earn the disdain of both camps.

The doctrine is fatally flawed by two theological problems. First, it slanders the character of God. Theistic evolution claims God brought humans through countless intermediate stages of development before they reached perfection. The process spanned millions of years “red in tooth and claw,” as these brutish, evolving creatures slaughtered each other competing for food, territory, and mates.

How can we imagine that God would create using such a ravaging process and have the audacity to call it good? Whatever emanates from God must reflect his nature, and to think a good and perfect God would ordain pain and death as instruments of creation belies both his goodness and his perfection. What he creates must be perfect because he is perfect, whereas theistic evolution says God created imperfectly and then inched his creatures toward perfection.

Second, theistic evolution undermines redemption. According to Genesis, pain and death did not exist prior to the Fall when man's sin brought these evils into God's perfect world. But if theistic evolution brought man to perfection, then pain and death—necessary effects of evolution—had to exist before man sinned. This makes the Fall meaningless, and if the Fall is meaningless, so is Christ's sacrifice to redeem man from its consequences. Thus evolution voids God's entire plan of redemption.

We Christians have utter confidence in true science, for we know it reflects the hand of God. But in today's post-truth culture, much of what passes for science is not true science; it is scientism—philosophical assertions illegitimately disguised in the language of science. Theistic evolution weds theism to scientism, which is like wedding truth to a lie. The two are inherently incompatible. The scientism of evolution remains on the far side of the fence from reality and thus from biblical truth. It's a fence that cannot be straddled by the compromise doctrine of theistic evolution. 

The War Against Reality


What I'd Like to Say But Won't

In my writing and conversations with unbelievers, I avoid strident language that might close their minds. I counter their unbelief with respectful replies and courteous rebuttals. I don't intend to change my approach, but it's often frustrating to bottle up what I would really like to say.

What would I really like to say? Just this: “How in thunder can you cling to atheism when it utterly defies science and logic?” Too harsh? The psalmist put it even stronger: “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” It's true: atheism is foolish because it has no rational underpinning. The atheists I know are not stupid, but to maintain their disbelief they manage to close their minds against rational conclusions drawn from clear data. For example, they assert that no supernatural realm exists outside the natural world—a claim that science cannot confirm but reason strongly refutes. They adopt obvious irrationalities to explain reality, claiming that everything came from nothing, life emerged from dead matter, and our rational minds arose from nonrational sources—all of which contradicts rational thinking and established science.

To maintain disbelief, atheists assert the opposite of the obvious. Dawkins admitted that everything appears to be designed but insisted that nothing is. Hawking insisted that determinism rules all human actions but admitted that survival depends on the illusion of free will. Though entropy shows everything to be running down, evolutionists insist that life is advancing and improving. Evolution has no scientific or rational proof. Its sole foundation consists of “just-so” stories linked to contrived evidences. If you find this claim incredible, check it out for yourself.

Considering the blatant irrationalities of atheism, where do nonbelievers find the audacity to accuse God-believers of stupidly relying on blind faith? They get by with it because their distortions of science align with the spirit of the age, which has banished God. As physicist Richard Lewontin famously put it, “We cannot let a divine foot in the door.”

So there you have it. Atheists afflict on themselves blindness to scientific realities simply to avoid God. That's why I want to grab them by the collar and shout in their face that to disbelieve in God on such irrational bases is nothing short of foolishness and self-imposed blindness. But of course, I will never write or say anything like that. 

The War Against Reality


The Zombie Stalking Science

When I write or tell my naturalistic friends that there is no real proof of evolution, they often counter by saying, “Oh, but there is. We see it in the controlled breeding of livestock to produce more useful animals.” No one denies this obvious process of adaptive changes within species (microevolution). Our objection is to the use of these changes within species as evidence for one species evolving into another (macroevolution). To claim microevolution as a basis for macroevolution is an unwarranted jump to an unsupported conclusion.

“But,” you may say, “there’s fossil evidence for evolution.” Not so. Fossil evidence has been discredited largely because it leaps to a predetermined conclusion using circular reasoning. It works like this: “We know that evolution occurs because we have found fossils of evolving species. We know that these are fossils of evolving species because we know that evolution occurs.” Darwin himself was deeply troubled by the absence of fossil evidence. This absence continues today, leading Oxford zoologist Mark Ridley to say, “No real evolutionist . . . uses the fossil record as evidence in favor of the theory of evolution.”

This lack of fossil evidence led Harvard paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould to pronounce Darwinism to be “effectively dead.” Yet he rescued evolution from burial and embalmed it with his new theory called Punctuated Equilibrium. He theorized that segments of isolated species mutated too suddenly for fossilization to occur. What evidence did Gould offer? None. It was merely another “just-so” story contrived to reanimate the “effectively dead” theory.

Paleontologist Colin Patterson of the British Museum of Natural History also grew concerned about the lack of evidence for evolution. Addressing his fellow evolutionists, he caused a firestorm by asking if there was anything any of them really knew to be true about evolution. No one could answer, yet they remained evolutionists, as did he, later complaining that his words were taken out of context.

Why such tenacity to an unsupported theory? Professor D. M. S. Watson of the University of London may have delivered the answer when he admitted that “[evolution] is a theory universally accepted not because it can be proved by logically coherent evidence to be true but because the only alternative, special creation, is clearly incredible.” This determination to banish God seems the most likely explanation for why evolution, though pronounced effectively dead, continues like a zombie to stalk the halls of science. 


The War Against Reality

Escaping the Culture of Death

When Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee to the Gadarene region, he met a man possessed by a legion of demons. These demons, knowing Jesus had been casting out their kind throughout Galilee, begged him not to send them into the abyss but to allow them to enter a large herd of swine grazing on the hillside. Jesus granted their request, and the moment they took possession of the swine, the maddened animals dashed toward the sea, hurled themselves over a bluff, and drowned (Luke 8:26–33).

This story presents a microcosm of what Satan and his demonic agents always do. They bring death. It’s what they are presently doing to humanity. We’re well aware of how Satan has stirred up strife, wars, racial hatred, injustice, inflicted diseases, and brought about disasters throughout history. Perhaps not so visible are the ways in which his corruption of morality also stifles life and inflicts death. For example, homosexual relationships are sterile and cannot generate life, and they shorten homosexual lifespans by an average of 30 years. Radical feminism disparages motherhood, which curtails human reproduction. Radical environmentalism also discourages human reproduction, which could accelerate the death of mankind much faster than pollution. Abortion inflicts death on millions of innocents. Proposals to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide are poised to dig even more graves.

Clearly, our current culture is driven by the same power that drove the Gadarene swine into the sea. It’s fitting that one of Satan’s aliases is Beelzebub, literally “lord of the flies,” the vermin that swarm around death and decay.

Compare the morality of Satan with the morality of the Bible. The God-created sexual union of man and woman is the wellspring of human life. Women who glory in God’s mandate to “be fruitful and multiply” rightly see children as blessings. To the godly, killing a child in the womb is an unthinkable horror. The Golden Rule promotes your neighbor’s flourishing, not his demise. God himself hates death so much that he took extraordinary steps to wrench Satan’s death-grip from the neck of humanity. If you trust your life to him, he promises to extend it throughout eternity. The choice is yours: Satan and death or God and eternal life. God’s call to his people rings across the centuries: “Therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live” (Deuteronomy 30:19). 

The War Against Reality


Can America Be Saved?

Recent surveys show consistently that 75 percent of Americans think our nation is headed in the wrong direction. This pessimism infects all phases of life—political, economic, moral, social, and religious. We really don't need surveys to tell us this. Skyrocketing crime, civil disorder, divorce, inflation, depression, addictions, and suicides show society to be crumbling around us.

God sometimes inflicted disasters or plagues to bring straying Israel back in line. Some suggest that he uses current disasters to achieve the same purpose. The truth is, we don't know whether any given disaster is an act of God or a random action of nature. But we can be sure that the law of natural consequences is always active. As we destroy the pillars of truth, morality, and Christianity on which our nation was founded, collapse into chaos becomes inevitable.

Can America's wayward course be corrected? Can a nation careening down the wrong road make a U-turn back to stability? It's possible. When Israel strayed and God sent disasters or allowed natural consequences to bring them to their senses, he pointed out the direction back to stability and prosperity. We find this direction in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

I realize, of course, that America is not Israel. We are not God's chosen people, at least, not in the same sense. But surely it's no accident that our nation flourished for 200 years after its founding on recognition of God's sovereignty. Surely the return to godliness that could have saved Israel can also save America.

Or is it too late? Has America passed the tipping point? I don't know, but evil nations have repented before—as did Nineveh. So national repentance is possible. In fact, there may be hope for a nation even if the majority remains unrepentant. Remember that Sodom would have been spared by the presence of only ten righteous citizens. Though America's churches are rapidly eroding, maybe the 29 percent of Americans who still adhere to biblical principles will provide the leaven that persuades God to spare our nation. So let's stay the course and stick to our prayers. 



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GUINNESS

..... Our task is not just to **believe** the truth, or even to **know** and **defend** the truth. Our calling is so to **live** in truth that we are **shaped** by truth in our innermost beings, until by the grace of God, we **become** people of truth.

HOW TO KNOW GOD EXISTS

SOLID REASONS
TO BELIEVE IN GOD,
DISCOVER TRUTH,
AND FIND MEANING
IN YOUR LIFE

**JOSH McDOWELL
THOMAS WILLIAMS**

Three questions
are etched into
everyone's
subconscious:
Who am I?
Why am I here?
Where am I going?

This new book by
Josh McDowell and
Thomas Williams shows
why nothing short of
God answers these
questions. The problem
is that God has largely
been banished from our
secularized culture,
which is why so many
now feel empty and
depressed.

- *How to Know God Exists* offers rational defenses for the existence of God, truth, morality, meaning, and reason.
- Reveals the irrationality of secular theories of origins.
- Uses reason, logic, experience, and common sense to show that God offers the truth required to make sense of reality and bring meaning and joy to life.



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