

THOUGHTS

By the father/son team
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SPEAKERS ON THE WORD TODAY

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2009

Thoughts
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Butterflies

Cancer is a horrible disease! Very often it can be treated and healed. Yet, at other times it continues to dominate in a destructive way that proceeds to destroy our earthly body.

In such cases of terminal cancer the person is informed that treatment can no longer help, surgery is impossible, and they are placed in a "hospice" condition where they are kept relatively comfortable while they prepare to die in the next several weeks.

This is when we want to be helpful. As Christians we know our earthly body will decay and perish. Yet, we are promised by Jesus our bodies will be raised again from the dead. It will be a perfect body, without sin! Scripture calls it a "glorified" body. There will be no imperfections, no handicaps, and no sin.

That's where the butterflies come in! They are a beautiful example of God's power and love. Look what God has made from an ugly caterpillar!

He will do even more for us. He loves us! He forgives us! He raises us from the dead! He gives us a perfect glorified body! It will be beautiful—and we will live with God in heaven in perfect joy and peace forever!

We will send a butterfly encased in a 4 x 4 plastic holder to help these people remember that God is going to resurrect them with a beautiful body someday in heaven. Let us know the name and address of anyone who needs this beautiful reminder.

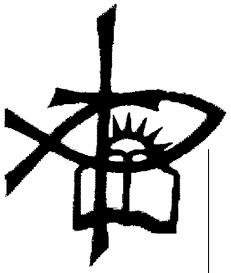
Sincerely,
Paul R. Schroeder

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VINDICATION SO QUICKLY!

You may recall several months ago that I mentioned the process by which Neo-Darwinism promotes a fossil as a "missing link", then over time as the challenges mount it becomes re-classified, thus removing its status as an authentic "transitional" fossil. The particular specimen in question was "Ida", a supposed example of a very early link between wet nose mammals and dry nose mammals. I always considered it to be a fossil of just what it looks like, a Lemur.

Usually these things take years to work out, but in this instance vindication has come early, as an AP Science article just this week announced, "...Ida is as far removed from the monkey-ape-human ancestry as a primate could be." Despite being given the name "Darwinius", despite the hoopla of a coordinated PR campaign involving a book release, television show and news reports – it's a non-starter for evolutionary evidence. Of course, all the other supposed links are the same, highly contested and eventually proven not transitional between families of creatures.



*The Bible is God's Word . . . Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh . . .
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

Nevertheless, I wonder if *Ida* is too valuable to pass up as fodder for the fertile minds of teens and college co-eds. Will this lame excuse for evolutionary evidence be used in textbooks *regardless of its veracity*? History suggests that it likely will. The Peppered Moth was staged, various human transition fossils were frauds, Ernst Haeckel's embryo drawings were claimed as bogus when they first appeared over 100 years ago, yet such insipid "proofs" still are used in various textbooks. In some cases the apologists for Darwinism have been caught delighting in the fact that erroneous illustrations are still used though inaccurate since they support the theory. Remember, Darwinism is all about soft science, that is, science conducted with lots of assumptions and little hard evidence.

ADULT PAGANS PARTYING HEARTY

I noted recently that Halloween now is an *adult* event. Move over kiddies, mom and dad want to dress up and act stupid! I consider the "maturing" of the Halloween industry to be a solid indicator of the Paganizing of America. It seems the nominal Christians now have no scruples about acting the part of vampires and whores.

I liken the spiritual involvement in Halloween to drinking a glass of "heavy water", you know, the water contaminated by radioactive elements. Millions of 18-35 year old adults now blithely swallow whole the pagan enterprise unquestioningly. The Pagan celebration is fraught with spiritual poison, but they seem not to mind. I bet they'd balk at drinking a glass of radioactive water; yet they can't see the danger in acting like Heathens temporarily.

DON'T HAVE TO BE DEAD TO BE A SAINT!

Despite what certain denominations suggest, it is perfectly fine to be alive and considered a saint. Further, one needs no miracles, nor impressive roster of evidences of pedigree to be considered such. The world has skewed the evening prior to the Christian celebration (All Hallowed Eve., i.e. the holy evening prior to All Saints Day) into a perverse carnal party. On the other end, the Pharisaical church hierarchy has established criteria by which one can be canonized, completely ignoring the persistent use of New Testament writers of the term "saint" for *any believer in Christ*. Paul typically addresses congregations, and at times *entire regions* of believers as "saints" (See 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1). If he doesn't utilize the term saint, he alternatively reminds them of their status as holy people (1 Corinthians 1:2; Colossians 1:2).

The point is clear, it's not your status in the congregation which makes you a saint, it's the shed blood of Jesus which cleanses you from your sin which makes you a "holy one". In other words, comparison of who's got more good works to honor dead Christians is not healthy for the Christian community. Saints are rightly recognized when it's seen that *God worked through them* his will in incredible ways. They are also inspirations for us to draw closer to God and live out our faith. But, they don't have to be dead, and they don't have to have a roster of miracles. They're simply Christians, people who take faith in Jesus seriously.

I sometimes address people at Our Shepherd as, or example, "Saint Tom!" It's a bit uncomfortable for them initially, but when we discuss the *reality* of being a "saint and sinner", how the Father views us as redeemed in Christ, it's a profound joy. So, be happy in the Lord, all you saints!

Blessings!
Douglas W. Schroeder

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