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Ein Prediger muss nicht allein weiden, also dass er die Schafe unterweise, wie sie rechte Christen sollen sein, sondern auch daneben den Wölfen wehren, dass sie die Schafe nicht angreifen und mit falscher Lehre verführen und Irrtum einführen.

Luther

Es ist kein Ding, das die Leute mehr bei der Kirche behält denn die gute Predigt. — *Apologie, Art. 24*

If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? — *1 Cor. 14:8*

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## Miscellanea

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### Science Falsely So Called

In *Bibliotheca Sacra* for April-June, 1946, an editorial appeared having the title "This Is Serious." It speaks of the unbelief parading under the name of science which is molesting the Church. We herewith reprint the editorial written by Newman Watts of Croydon, Surrey, England.

"A recent book had for its title *Ideas Have Legs*. No idea has had such long legs in this last century as that of evolution. An American magazine in a symposium of 'Books That Changed the Modern World' found Darwin's *Origin of Species* heading the list. The choice can hardly be challenged. Is this a serious or trivial matter? That is the subject before us.

"When Darwin's *Origin of Species* was launched upon the world in the year 1859, the rationalists saw in it scientific support for their disbelief in God, religion, and the Bible. Certain church leaders, on the other hand, saw in it a serious challenge to the authority of the book they looked upon as a divine revelation. If Darwin was right, Moses was wrong. T. H. Huxley, the agnostic, wrote: 'Evolution, if consistently accepted, makes it impossible to believe the Bible.'

"Unfortunately the church was not strong enough to stand up to the assault; she gave way over the creation story in Genesis, but failed to realize how evolution challenged not only Genesis but the whole Bible, not only the creation story but the whole gamut of Christian doctrine. The present-day decline of belief in and respect for the Bible and Christian truth generally is largely due to the widespread acceptance of the false theory of organic evolution both inside and outside the church.

"When the theory of evolution became dimly understood by the common man his interest naturally was not centered in geological strata, fossils, and the like, but in himself. Curious though it may seem he quite took to the idea that he had an ape ancestry. He did not in the least mind giving up the belief that the first man was created by God. Evolution reigned as the one force in the universe, ever pushing onward and upward. Progress was inevitable until we reached the superman. The Germans grasped this idea more firmly than others, adopted the cult of the superman, and ended by deciding upon the outline of their thousand years of progress under their newly adopted god — Hitler.

"Not only so, but the theory of evolution made it possible to account for the evil in man in a much more rational (?) way. The ape had a fall upward, which meant that he suddenly but naturally became conscious of a moral sense; and sin, wrongdoing, violence, brutality, etc., are therefore only throwbacks of our old animal nature which we are gradually overcoming. Here is a new excuse for sin. Two youths who committed a murder in

the United States were actually defended by their counsel in the court by this very argument. Of course, if sin is only the upsurging of animal instincts we can hardly be blamed or punished for it, and there was no need for Christ to be made a sacrifice for it. Here is, then, the reason for the abandonment of the doctrine of the atonement by modern theologians.

"Worse than all of the effects of this scientific nostrum was the atheistic element inherent in it. 'The god idea is doomed,' cried the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism; 'God did not make man, did not create the planets, did not set the stars in their courses. Evolution is only another instrument in the hands of men for pushing God farther and farther away until, to most, He does not exist and to the rest He does not matter.' Then what about Christ, the Son of God? How can He be fitted into the evolutionary scheme of things? Most people modern enough to accept this view of man find it hard to believe in the virgin birth of Jesus or His conception by the Holy Ghost. The only alternative is that Jesus Christ was a descendant of the ape—a horrible, blasphemous thought indeed.

"All this means that evolution has dealt a terrible blow to all that Christians believe to be the truth; and as truth and conduct, belief and ethics stand or fall together, it is not surprising that with the collapse of Christian doctrine has come the bankruptcy of Christian moral ideals.

"Before the second World War visitors to Soviet Russia could see the antireligious museums by which the Communist antireligious societies illustrated their atheistic creed. Half of the exhibits were concerned with proving that evolution made God and religion unnecessary. According to Marxist philosophy Communism is the next step in the inevitable progress of mankind whereby man outgrows the false ideas of God, religion, and the spiritual world. On the other hand, totalitarianism as it arose in Germany also grew out of the evolutionary idea. The cult of the superman, the survival of the fittest, progress by war and conquest—the bases of Nazism—grew out of the belief in evolution. Both Communism and Nazism threw over not only Christian belief but Christian moral ideals. The six years of war have been a melancholy example of the inevitable progress we were taught to expect; but evolution as a scientific dogma is too deep-rooted to be affected by such a slight setback.

"In the great democracies where neither communistic nor nazist ideas hold the reins, the breakdown of Christian moral ideals has been tragic. The widespread irreligion, the increase in separation and divorce, in fornication and adultery, in juvenile delinquency and adult crime, in alcoholism, gambling, and other elements of moral looseness are evidence of evolutionary thought. Evolution is atheism in thought and anarchy in conduct. It is therefore a major tragedy that evolutionary propaganda should be persistently broadcast by radio, literature, and pulpit, and

especially that it should be taught to our children and young people in schools, colleges, and universities all over the world.

“This idea with long legs has sprawled across the earth, not only churning up the fossils but heeling into the ground the truths and influences which have blessed mankind for centuries and by which alone civilization can be preserved. It is about time someone trod heavily upon the toes of this monster and made it squirm. This modern Gulliver needs pegging to the ground. This monstrous lie needs nailing to the counter. *This is serious.* Such a menace cannot be allowed free rein among mankind. The truth must not be left undefended. Science ‘falsely so called’ must not be allowed to bring Christian civilization to ruins. The Christian church must not go on supporting this doctrine which is eating away its very vitals. A positive and aggressive testimony must be given exposing the errors of evolution and proving the truth of the Bible. An urgent and vital duty lies before our Christian leaders in this matter.”

