

Mere Christianity

Wednesday Bible Study – Week 3
Our Savior Lutheran Church & School, Lansing, MI

Chapter 4 – What Lies Behind The Law

“The Law of Human Nature, or of Right and Wrong, must be something above and beyond the actual facts of human behavior. In this case, besides the actual facts, you have something else – a real law which we did not invent and which we know we ought to obey.” P. 21

Two views of the physical, created world

Materialist View – matter has always existed and behaved a certain way, and we are all here by random and accidental forces. “a sort of fluke”

Religious View – what lies behind the universe is more like a mind – conscious, with purposes and preferences.

Life Force View – there is some force that is guiding an evolutionary process, although it may not be necessarily a person. This C.S. Lewis calls wishful thinking at its best.

Eric Metaxas – *Is Atheism Dead?* (Salem Books 2021) Looks at the reluctance of scientists to admit that the universe was expanding and evidence of a so-called ‘big bang’ starting point, before which the universe was not. Even Albert Einstein, whose theories were critical in proving the expanding universes, admitted that he was adamantly against this idea but not for scientific reasons. It was “the greatest stupidity” of his life.

Fine Tuning Argument = Size of the earth / Location in the solar system / the size of the mom / Location in the galaxy / Mass of the Universe / Four Fundamental Forces / Water and Sunlight / Ice floats / “it just so happens...”

Abiogenesis = Life from Non-Life. No closer than 1952 Miller-Uray Experiment.

Complexity of Life = the mechanics on a cellular and molecular level for living organisms is astounding!

Back to C.S. Lewis

“You cannot find out which view is the right one by science in the ordinary sense.” P. 22

Observational/Empirical Science =

Historical/Speculative Science =

We can look at our human experience for the “insider information.”

It is more like a mind than anything else we know. This is information simply from observing the world around us and reflecting on our inner human nature.

Chapter 5 – We Have Cause to Be Uneasy

Isn't this just old religion again? Turning the clock back?

1. Sometimes, to be 'progressive' is to step back when you are in error and recalculate. "It is pretty plain that humanity has been making some big mistake."
2. This is simply observing the world around us and human nature to come to some conclusions about God.

a. From the universe:

b. From human nature

What does God really think of us?

Nature gives us an unsettling impression!

The terrible fix we are in... p. 30

Laying the groundwork for Christianity. First the Law, then the Gospel. P. 31.

For next week, read Book 2, chapters 1-2

Email questions or insights to Pastor Wangelin – pastorw@oursaviorlansing.org