

Study Guide for Christian Leaders and Parents
With Dr. Don Johnson's Books "Programming of Life"
or "Probability's Nature and Nature's Probability-Lite"

It takes effort and dedication to become equipped to counter the pseudo-scientific speculations that are portrayed as science. However, many Christians have the view "The Bible says it, I believe it, and that settles it!" While "blind faith" may be easiest, the Bible never encourages God's followers to take the easy road. We are told to "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Pet 3:15). We are also told to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Mt. 22:37). Our heart cannot rejoice in what our mind rejects as false. By learning real science (from Latin "scientia," meaning truth), "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32). That freedom includes freedom from the nagging doubts planted in minds by the purely naturalistic scenarios for origins of life and species.

The author's experience may help you see the importance of becoming scientifically equipped. I became extremely interested in science by age 8, and developed into a staunch evolutionist by age 10. My parents and Sunday School teachers were unable to answer my science concerns that seemed to contradict the Bible. Thankfully, God drew me into His Kingdom, and I accepted Jesus as savior at age 12. But nobody was able to counter what I erroneously believed was scientific truth, so I continued to believe in and teach chemical and biological evolution for another 18 years after becoming a Christian (you can't argue with "truth," after all). Only recently, when prayerfully contemplating why God let me believe and teach lies for so long, did it occur to me that it was important for me to doubt the "natural" scenarios because of scientific evidence, not religious faith. I believe that God has not only equipped me with strong science credentials, but has put the desire in my heart to equip others, especially those in leadership, to teach real truth. Remember, "For the Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding" (Pr 2:6). Most of the greatest scientists were Bible-believing Christians.

Many people find my books and presentations challenging, mainly because they don't have the background or desire to learn science. Because current science has the evolutionary scenarios as the basis, Christians tend to avoid learning science because of the damage such learning can do to Biblical faith. For the sake of those God has placed in

your care, it is important that you become equipped to at least point them to material that is scientifically accurate, and not faith-destroying. For example, my books can be valuable reference materials to consult when hearing a PBS "science" program, newscast, or other source that seems to eliminate the need for anything beyond undirected nature. The books can serve as focus points for discussions with children. Be assured they will learn the naturalistic scenarios as "science" on a daily basis on TV and in school. Children need to be able to obtain accurate scientific answers for any concerns that are raised. My books are totally secular so they could be used even in a public school environment (the evidence is scientific, rather than religious). A well-equipped student is able to ask probing questions to a teacher presenting unsubstantiated speculation as science. If questions having no naturalistic answers are repeatedly asked, a teacher may avoid such teaching, rather than enduring the embarrassment of being caught teaching speculation as science.

Some Christians have objected that God isn't identified as the designer or programmer, but that identification would limit the audience and can't be proved scientifically (though the facts are compatible with the Biblical God). If I could prove that the God of the Bible is the Designer, faith would be unnecessary since the Christian God would be proven scientific fact. I don't try to hide my Christianity, but I don't advertise it for my books or secular presentation since the evidence (being purely science) presented does not depend on my faith. The books can break down the intellectual barriers that prevent seeing the reality of design, and have been used for breaking the hardened ground that prevents people from seeking truth. We can trust God's promise "Seek and you will find" (Mt 7:7). God is "clearly seen, being understood from what has been made" (Rom 1:20), and life is "fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Ps 139:14).

The Bible IS reliable and can be trusted – "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching" (2 Tim 3:16), and our knowledge on any subject is limited – "Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror" (1 Cor 13:12). We recognize that the world is blind to many truths (Rom 1:18-32, 1 Cor 1:18-2:16) – "They exchanged the truth of God for a lie." "Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like man and birds and animals and reptiles" (Rom 1:22), which is what evolution teaches (God didn't make us, evolution did).

Please prayerfully consider how best to equip yourself and those who God has placed under your authority.