

Inside this issue:

What is "Contending 4 Christ?"	1
Exclusive Truth with an Inclusive Love	1
The Scream of Creation	2
God's Power in Creation	3



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What is "Contending 4 Christ?"

by: Daniel Weierbach, Assoc. Pastor

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 1:3)

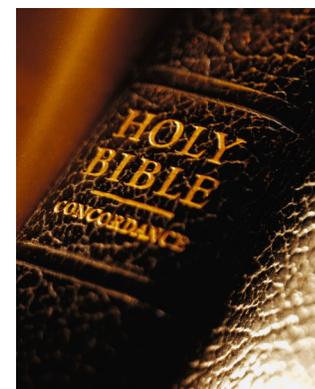
Contending 4 Christ is based on the Scripture passage found in Jude 1:3. While Jude was initially wanting to write a letter regarding the "common faith," the Holy Spirit led him to change course and encourage believers to "contend for the faith."

The word contend carries the idea of a struggle or battle. And for what are we struggling or battling? The faith. And how are we to do so? We are to do it earnestly, zealously, passionately, and intentionally.

This is why the ministry Contending 4 Christ (c4c)

was started. We are seeing an increase of people who are creeping into God's house teaching lies and misleading Christians (Jude 1:4). The perfect word of God is being corrupted and compromised today while many (including those in Christian faith) are seeking wisdom through science and experientialism.

With God's help, we are committed to bringing back the truth's of Scripture. The need to contend for the faith is ever-present in this day of political correctness and societal appeasement towards secular society.



We thank God for this passion and endeavor and know that with His wisdom and guidance, this ministry will be fruitful in helping Christians gain confidence in defending and contending for the truth of God's Word. All praise and glory go to Him!

Exclusive Truth with an Inclusive Love

by: Daniel Weierbach, Assoc. Pastor

Just a Thought...

"Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian."

- D.L. Moody

To paraphrase Ravi Zacharias in his book *Jesus Among Other Gods*, Jesus' love is inclusive though his truth is exclusive; this gave me something to think about.

Many Christians want to divide this statement. On one hand, they attempt to make Jesus' truth inclusive, meaning no one religion is wrong, they all lead to God. This is

in complete error for it removes absolute truth and disregards the clear word of God (John 14:6 & Acts 4:12).

On the other hand, many promote that Jesus' love is exclusive as seen by the Calvinist's claim of predestination. Again, this contradicts the word of God which shows that salvation is freely available to anyone who comes to

him in faith (John 3:16, John 12:32, 2 Peter 3:9).

I'm glad that I serve a God who's truth is absolute and perfect. It shows us our wickedness, and how we fail to measure up. It also lovingly warns us of the coming penalty, while still offering salvation to *whosoever will*. Praise God that though His truth is exclusive His love is inclusive!

The Scream of Creation

by: Daniel Weierbach, Assoc. Pastor



Our Milky Way Galaxy is astronomical in size, yet it is believed to only be one of billions of other galaxies in the universe.

"In the beginning God created..." This one verse has caused many to fall, laugh, mock, and scorn. With the continued rise of evolution, Christians have been compromising the Word of God by accepting "scientific evidence" promoting Theistic Evolution (God used evolution to create life). Regardless of the compromising or rejecting belief of creation, God still warns that all people are without an excuse "for the invisible things of him from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" (Romans 1:20) So if God states that creation is *clearly seen* and that man is *without an excuse*, you'd think we would find his fingerprint in creation or at least a design; that is exactly what we see!

The Teleological argument, or the argument from design, states that a designer must exist since the universe and all living things exhibit signs of design in their order, consistency, unity, and pattern. Though this argument is believed to be subjective, the consistency and amazing pattern throughout creation points to a design.

The first thought on creation is the fact that there is something as opposed to nothing. Just as a painting requires a painter, and house requires a builder, so does a universe require a Creator. The Big Bang theory states that nothing plus nothing created everything; or to put it another way, nothing exploded. This is illogical and contradicts the scientific laws of First Law of Thermodynamics (energy cannot be created or destroyed) and Biogenesis (living things only come from other living things through reproduction). You can test this scientifically yourself; place an empty jar, with a lid on it, on your counter. Keep your eye on it and wait to see if something spontaneously appears out of nothing. Let me know when it happens.

"The Big Bang theory states...nothing exploded."

"If God states creation is clearly seen and that man is without an excuse, you'd think we would find His fingerprint in creation or at least a design; that is exactly what we see!"

Psalm 19:1 states that "the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." In the heavens above, we can see the awesomeness of our great God. It's amazing that there are an estimated billions of galaxies, each with hundreds of billions of stars in each one, yet we are told that our Creator knows each one by name (Isaiah 40:26). How wonderful, personal, and loving is our God!

Not only the fact that there is a universe cries out creation as discussed above. But also the cyclic process in what we see for sustainment of life. Has the sun ever failed to rise or set? How is it that the sunrise is always from the east and the sunset is always to the west? Day in day out, this process has never deviated and there is no sign of deviation today. Even the hydrologic cycle where water evaporates from oceans, goes into the air, comes down as rain, and pours into the ocean, only to continue the process, points to a design.

We also see God's design throughout our human body and nature. Evolution states that organisms go from complex to simple but yet we see quite the opposite. Consider your DNA, the building block of what makes you, you. Your DNA contains the information that gives your color, height, hair, etc. It's said that a single DNA strand the size of a pinhead has enough information in it equivalent to stacking books from here to the moon and back. And what about seeds and germination? Seeds are programmed to know when to grow, instructions so the roots go downward and stem upwards. And think of plants and breathing. You probably knew that plants emit oxygen, but did you know that they receive carbon-dioxide? The same carbon-dioxide that we breath out, the plants use to expel oxygen that we are able to breath in. And the process begins and, a perfect, constant recycling program which cries for a Creator. You see, information only comes from intelligence, something in which evolutionists can never answer on the origins of.



God's creation and design is visible in the beauty, recycling, and variations in nature.

So whether it's the enormity of the universe where the earth is perfectly aligned to sustain life, or whether it's the tiniest of seeds that is coded to take root and spring up, one thing remains sure if we are honest with ourselves, everything we see screams for a Creator!

God's Power in Creation

by: Daniel Weierbach, Assoc. Pastor

Whether it is mankind that He sovereignly uses (such as King Cyrus being the instrument to free the Israelites from Babylonian captivity, Isa 44:28), or nature that He commands with a single word (Mark 4:39), Scripture clearly reveals God's power over His creation. God's omnipotence is a characteristic of Him that should strike awe, fear, and reverence in who He is and what He can accomplish.

Consider Psalm 29:3, "the God of glory thundereth" or 2 Samuel 22:14, "The LORD thundereth from heaven." When we look at the correlation between God and thunder, we get an amazing understanding of His power and presence. The sound of thunder occurs when lightning strikes, heating up the air surrounding very quickly, causing the air to expand and contract quickly causing mini-explosions. These mini-explosions can be heard miles away. And the enormous energy that a strong thunderstorm holds is unfathomable; researchers at Texas A&M state that this energy can exceed the energy released by an atomic explosion. And yet God controls this phenomena with a single utterance of His voice, "peace, be still."

Forty days of rainfall caused a global flood in the day of Noah (Genesis 7:12). It's an event that skeptics critique and mock to this very day. However, when we study the clouds, it's amazing to see how much water a typical thunderstorm cloud contains. Professors in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at UW-Madison state there is enough water drops in a typical thunderstorm cloud to fill up approximately 275 million gallon jars; or about 2.3 billion pounds, or 1.1 million tons of water. To get a gauge on how much rain this is, it's equivalent to watching water fall from Niagara Falls for six minutes! And yet again, God controls it with a single utterance of His voice.

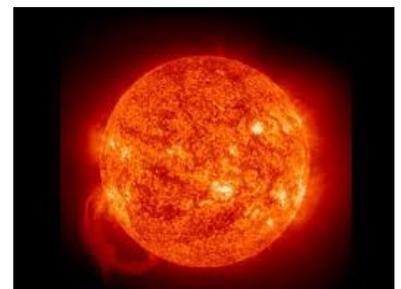
In Revelation 21:23 we are told that in New Jerusalem that there is no need for the sun for the "glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [is] the light thereof." This is astounding when you think of the sun and it's effect on us today. Even though it is 93 million miles away, it has enough heat to warm the planet and brightness to give it light. And did you know that every second the sun produces the same energy as about a trillion 1-megaton bombs! To put it another way, it is enough energy to power the globe for 500,000 years. And to think it is not the biggest star in our galaxy; VY Canis Majoris triumph's it by being 2,000 times bigger!

Whether it's natural phenomena such as thunderstorms, rainfall, or wonders in space, our God reveals His majesty and power by simply speaking these things into existence and commanding them at His will. Seeing and understanding these things then, how can we not praise God for His glorious honour of His majesty and wondrous works (Psalm 145:5)?



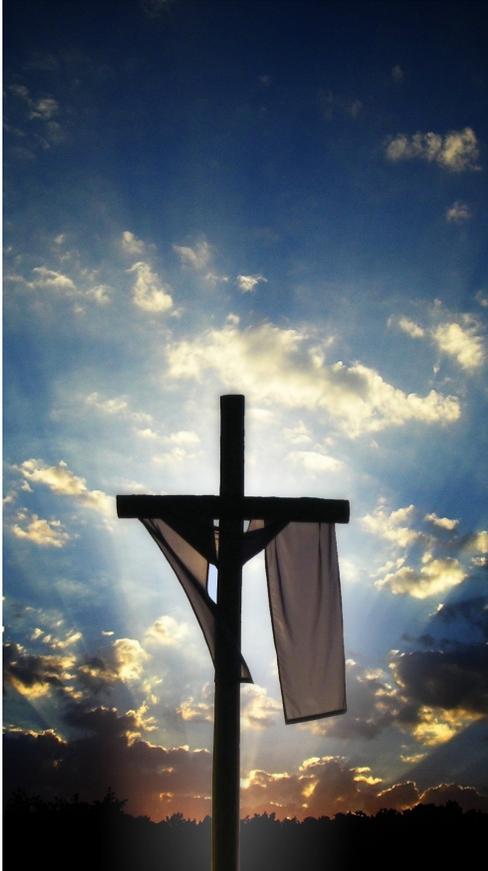
It is estimated that at any given moment, there are 1,200 thunderstorms occurring around the globe.

"Strong thunderstorm energy...can exceed energy released by an atomic explosion."



The core of the sun has a temperature of 27,000,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Be Sure Heaven is YOUR Home!



1. Recognize YOUR Condition: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)

No one is good enough to go to heaven on his/her own merit. No matter how much good we do, we still fall short.

2. Realize the PENALTY for Sin: "For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23)

Just as there are wages (payment) for good, there is punishment for wrong. The penalty for our sin is eternal death in a literal, real place called Hell.

3. Believe Jesus Christ Died for YOU: "But God commendeth His love for us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Jesus Christ's great love for us was shown when He died on the cross to pay our debt.

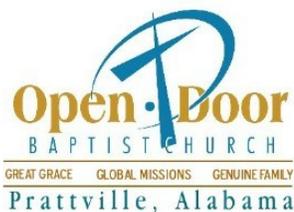
4. Trust Christ ALONE as Your Savior: "...But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Everlasting life is a gift purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ and offered freely to ALL those who call upon Him by faith.

Let us help you word a prayer. (Realize it's not the words that save, but your genuine faith in Jesus Christ):

Pray: Dear Jesus, I know I'm a sinner. Please forgive me for my sins. I ask you Jesus to cleanse me from my sin and save my soul from hell. I'm trusting you alone for eternal life and to take me to heaven when I die. Thank you for your sacrifice on the cross for my salvation, Amen!

If you prayed that prayer, and sincerely meant it, please contact us here at Open Door.



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Service Times

OD Café begins @ 9:15 am
Sunday Worship Service @ 10:00 am
Sunday Night Growth Groups @ 6:00 pm
AWANA Wednesday Night @ 6:30 pm
Wednesday Night Bible Study & Prayer @ 7:00 pm

Ministries

C4C (Apologetics Ministry)
GO Program (Outreach Ministry)
Od Café (Breakfast / Coffee Ministry)
Od Jobs (Resume Writing / Interview Ministry)
Od Men (Outdoor Ministry)
Od Women (Ladies Fellowship)