

Creator and Sustainer Proverbs 3:19-20

Darwin's theory of evolution is based on the premise that we all came from a common ancestor, that single cell organism that gained some semblance of consciousness in the primordial soup that began what we know to be life. This process is what they term "natural selection" that includes "descent with modification" – environmental adaptation. This is a change in genetic code over time due to survival of the fittest on a molecular level.

If that were the case, and this evolutionary process is making mankind stronger and better how then do they account for what they might consider to be genetic flaws such as blindness or deafness or autism or downs syndrome? It's no wonder then that those who hold strongly to such views are not averse to practices like abortion or euthanasia or infanticide or genocide. To them assisted suicide should be a plausible practice.

We could argue with evolutionists that the Latin term *ex nihilo nihil fit*, "nothing comes from nothing" is ludicrous. Why is it that they can believe something came from nothing and yet hold that what we believe is bogus – that in the beginning there was a higher being we called God and from nothing He created? By removing God from the equation they have summarily decided that we must have come from something so they cooked up this theory that the elements and conditions were just right to bring a single cell organism into existence and from that single cell here we are today. Balony.

Regarding this theory of evolution let me read an excerpt from an article.

Darwin's Theory of Evolution is a theory in crisis in light of the tremendous advances we've made in molecular biology, biochemistry and genetics over the past fifty years. We now know that there are in

fact tens of thousands of irreducibly complex systems on the cellular level. Specified complexity pervades the microscopic biological world. Molecular biologist Michael Denton wrote, "Although the tiniest bacterial cells are incredibly small, each is in effect a veritable micro-miniaturized factory containing thousands of exquisitely designed pieces of intricate molecular machinery, made up altogether of one hundred thousand million atoms, far more complicated than any machinery built by man and absolutely without parallel in the non-living world."

And we don't need a microscope to observe irreducible complexity. The eye, the ear and the heart are all examples of irreducible complexity, though they were not recognized as such in Darwin's day. Nevertheless, Darwin confessed, "To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable (unique or incomparable) contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree."

The credibility of his theory fails by his own admission. Take a watch apart and put it in a bag and shake it all you want for as long as you can and it will never produce a watch. On the other hand, there is irrefutable evidence that supports intelligent design and that intelligent designer is God. The writer of Proverbs gives his son a reminder of where things began. It's found in our passage for today. Please turn to **Proverbs 3:19-20**.

To hold a creation view we must begin with the premise that God exists. Scripture provides credible evidence of the existence of God. In **Genesis 1:1** we read "in the beginning God..." The Bible does not start with a discourse on the existence of God; it begins with the belief that He was already there before the creation of the world.

Psalm 90:2 “Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.”

If this part of the platform is the beginning of time when things were created, God was already there. If you go to this part of the platform when the angels came into being, God was there. He was in existence when there was nothing else. If you had God’s perspective and could see backward, God has always been. If you had God’s perspective and could look forward, God will always be. He is from everlasting in the past and everlasting to the future.

Louis Sperry Chafer wrote “the creation of the universe out of nothing is an achievement so beyond the range of human understanding that it can be received as truth only through a sufficient confidence in, and recognition of, the One who creates.” That One he refers to is God Himself.

God has always been and in this passage of Proverbs we see as we see throughout Scripture that He brought this world into existence. **What do scientists really know about the complexities of the smallest particle or the vastness of the universe?**

Now, since God existed we see two important truths come from this passage.

God in His wisdom had the power to create the world.

God in His wisdom has the power to continue the world.

I. GOD IN HIS WISDOM HAD THE POWER TO CREATE THE WORLD – v. 19

God’s creative work included His doing so by wisdom. Wisdom is a part of His character, His nature, His actions. It was through wisdom that He made it.

Now if He needs and acts through wisdom, we sure need wisdom also.

Think about all the laws of nature and consider that these are really the laws of God. There is one such law that whether we realize it or not is in motion right now. It is the law of gravity. If God hadn’t put that in place we would be floating around with nothing to hold us to this rock we call earth.

Some of you may remember the song by the group **Blood, Sweat and Tears**. “**What goes up must come down, spinning wheels go round and round.**” I’m not sure what riding a painted pony has to do with anything, but by the law of nature put in place by God gravity brings things back to earth. **There was a sign at a bird sanctuary that read: “What goes up must come down. Please do not feed the birds.”**

God in His wisdom created these laws so that there would be order. And gravity is just one of many laws He put in place to keep things in place. **Warren Wiersbe commented: “Obey these laws and creation will work with you; disobey them and creation will work against you.”** I am not foolish enough to think that I could make up my own laws of nature that would overrule the laws of nature God put in place to govern this world. I can’t stand on the pinnacle here and expect that if I jumped I would fly or float. I would quickly find out on the way down that His laws work, mine don’t.

From the dictionary we get this definition for the word create. “**To cause to come into being, as something unique that would not naturally evolve or that is not made by ordinary processes; to be the cause of.**”

“By wisdom the Lord laid the earth’s foundations, by understanding He set the heavens in place.”

God created the worlds and hung the stars in place. Everywhere you look God in His Wisdom has put His creative thumbprint on all of creation so that it is obvious who did it. **The brother of Uncle Johnnie, did the stone work on all the fire places at**

Barakel. Hi, as he was known, left his creative thumbprint on all the fireplaces. If you have been to camp admiring a warm fire on a cold day you may have missed that on the fireplace he built in a cross. If you drive by our old house you will see the cross on the outside about 2/3's up. God has left His signature in what He created.

Look at **Romans 1:20**.

Here is a clear indication of the power of God to bring into existence something/everything from nothing. He did not, as some people believe, start the thing and then just let it develop on its own. They call that theistic evolution. God's power started it and He finished it. **How do we know that?** Look at **Genesis 1:1; 2:1-3**.

He didn't pick it back up again on the 8th and continue to create something else. On the seventh day He did what? He rested. His creation was completed through wisdom with order. Think for a moment the precision that is required to land a probe or an astronaut on the moon. Without order such events would be unpredictable. It would be a total guess with chance as its level of success. There is intelligent design. I don't know if you read much in the news. Scientists are getting closer to discovering what they call the God particle. It's the particle they believe shows intelligent design. It's His thumbprint. I don't need million dollar equipment to find some particle that tells me God did it.

One day Sir Isaac Newton was visited by a friend who was an atheist. Newton had just finished working on a model of the planets with their respective moons revolving around the sun at their various speeds. It was a wonderful model built to scale and Newton's friend admired the model and asked Newton who had built it. Newton in whimsical fashion responded "no one, it just happened."

It would be like someone going to see Glen admiring a car that was in his driveway and being asked who fixed this beauty up? "No one, it just appeared. There was just a pile of dirt there 50 years ago and over time all the parts started appearing and today it's a car."

God, in His wisdom created. Period. Exclamation. **Proverbs 8:22-31**

Psalm 19:1-6

Hebrews 1:10 "He also says, 'In the beginning, O Lord, You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.'"

Ephesians 3:9 states that God "created all things." **Colossians 1:16** makes the same claim that "by Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth." This verse also explains why these things were created when it asserts that "all things were created by Him and for Him."

Psalm 33:6 "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of His mouth."

How do we come to accept these truths? **Hebrews 11:3 "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."**

When God through wisdom saw what He created He said it was good. Nothing else needed to be done. And He designed it to perpetuate life, to sustain life, to keep it going.

V. 19 God in His wisdom had the power to create the world.

V. 20 God in His wisdom has the power to continue the world.

II. GOD IN HIS WISDOM HAS THE POWER TO CONTINUE THE WORLD – v. 20

In His wisdom He created stability in the universe. If He put it in motion He did not then leave it to operate on its own. He sustains its operation.

Imagine with me if I had built a kite and I wanted to fly it. **What do you need to get it up in the air?**
Wind. **What do you need to keep it up in the air?**
More wind. God sustains what He created.

Psalm 145:15-16 “the eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.”

Hebrews 1:3 tells us that God **“sustains all things by His powerful word.”**

To sustain means to support, to hold or bear up from below; to bear the weight of.

Solomon is telling his son that the Lord sustains the earth through life giving resources. The earth needs water and the Lord sends it. We need it to live. God’s wisdom established this cycle of rain or dew or humidity and heat and evaporation and rain and so on to sustain the world we live in. There is also the cycle of plant life: seed to fruit and back to seed.

Now, I want to shift gears. Think about the creative, sustaining power God displays and how incredibly awesome His handiwork is. Now think for a moment what His creative, sustaining power does for you and me, not in the physical realm but in the spiritual realm.

A. God in His Wisdom Has Power to Redeem

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

They say that it takes an incredible amount of power from the rocket boosters to allow the shuttle to break earth’s gravitational pull. Without the power of those boosters, the rocket would get off the launch pad, but it couldn’t get into space.

We don’t have any power to break free from the gravitational pull of sin and God in His power came along and helped us break free. Through the finished work of Christ on the cross and His resurrection we can be spiritually set free from the penalty of sin. Only God could provide that.

But consider this as well. His power not only is able to free u from sin by redeeming us, His power is able to sustain us, to keep us forever. We are free from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and will be free from the presence of sin.

I brought a book with me. It’s the Who’s Who Among American High School Students for 1974-1975. My name appears on page 438. It was a big deal then but it doesn’t mean a thing. I’m not able to go into a restaurant and flash my book and have instant seating or a big, free dinner. I didn’t get a cool sports car or even the notoriety of the academic world. My picture didn’t appear on the cover of Time magazine. There’s another book I’d rather have my name appear in. Here’s what **Revelation 20:11-12, 15** says about that book: **“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”**

God in His wisdom has the power to redeem you and to keep you until that day and then for eternity – if your name is in the book.

B. God in His Wisdom Has Power to Restore

I John 1:9

Psalm 66:16-20

God loves you with an everlasting love. It will never diminish. It will never change. It will never stop. It is always the same. So when He says that He will forgive your sin whenever that occurs, believe Him and accept His forgiveness. Don't ever believe that your sin is too big for God to forgive. Don't ever believe that you're too bad a person. Don't ever believe you've sinned too many times. God is faithful to keep His Word and as a judge He is just to forgive. He sees your sin as having already been forgiven at the cross through Christ. Like the Psalmist, be grateful that God hears our repentant cries for His forgiveness and He restores our relationship.

God in His wisdom has the power to restore and He does what He says. **II Corinthians 5:17**
“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ...”

It's not just from sin that we need restoration. The difficulties of life can wear us down. We can get discouraged and become defeated. The daily grind of doing the same tasks gets laboring. We are beset with illness or other burdens of life.

I was having devotions this past week. Along with the Proverb for the day, I'm reading in the Psalms and I came to these verses, maybe you can identify with the opening statement.
Psalm 86:1, 3 “Hear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I call (KJV cry) to you all day long.”

What is going on in your life today where you know exactly how the psalmist feels? Have you ever cried out to God to help you through some difficult life event? Something might be going on in your life right now where you feel like you've been blindsided by a dump truck and all the contents have spilled out on you. Life's a mess right now

and so like the Psalmist cry out to God for help. Notice what the Psalmist is asking for and why.
Psalm 86:4-5 “Bring joy to your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you.” “Lord, my soul is in despair and I need you to restore joy because you love your people.”

I immediately went to **Psalm 23:3 “He restores my soul.”** God wants us to come to Him each and every time we need to be restored. He revives me. He refreshes me. **Psalm 19:7** speaks of God's Word being sufficient to revive the soul. When you're down in the dumps because something happened at work or at school or at home or on the way to work or to school or to home, find restoration in God's Word. God wants to restore you. He has the power. Ask. He redeems. He restores.

C. God in His Wisdom Has Power to Provide

Philippians 4:19 “But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus.”

That Paul refers to Him as **“my God”** implies the personal nature of God involved in relationship with us. This relationship assures He cares for us. He then refers to the promise of God who **“shall supply all your needs.”** He knows what you need. Then he speaks to the vast resources that are available to God. He has **“glorious riches.”**

God desires to provide for you. **What is it you need God to provide for you today?** He is the great I AM.

1. **God in His wisdom has power to provide comfort in times of loss.**

It can be any kind of loss.

It can be the loss of a loved one through death or through moving away.

It can be the loss of health or mobility through age or illness or disease.

It can be the loss of a job or the loss of income either because your company is downsizing or because they have elected to cut wages.

It can be the loss of a home due to fire or the loss of possessions due to theft.

We can experience loss in so many ways, but God is there to provide His comfort for you in those times of need.

II Corinthians 1:3-5

When you need comfort in such times God wants to be that comfort to you. Sometimes He uses His Word to comfort. The Psalms are great for that or the prayer of Jesus in John 17 or of Paul. Even reading the stories of how Jesus helped people in their time of need can be of comfort.

Sometimes God uses His Spirit in us to bring comfort. In **John 14:26-27** Jesus refers to Him as the comforter who will be sent so that our hearts won't be troubled.

Sometimes He uses His people. But a word of caution, be careful what you say. [I was recently at a conference on grief with Sarah March and one of the participants was sharing that in a session about a woman who was describing her loss of a child through a still birth had another well meaning, but misguided person remark "well at least you won't have to go through the terrible twos."](#) Let me give you some advice. Here's the best thing to say when you aren't sure what to say (silence). Don't say a thing. Just your presence is a great comfort.

Some misinformation had come to the Thessalonians by false teachers about the rapture. They said it had already taken place. Paul wanted to set the record straight about the events not so much as a chronological roadmap of what to expect but rather as a word of comfort, especially about those believers who had already died. He concludes **I Thessalonians 4** with this provocative thought: **"Comfort one another with these words."**

We all need comfort and God provides it for us through various ways. In the midst of the storm Jesus can make our seas calm again. There is nothing to fear when the Good Shepherd is with us.

2. God in His wisdom has power to provide peace in times of storm.

You know this only comes from God, because it's only produced through the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

We are told in **Colossians 3:15** to let the peace of Christ rule our heart.

We are told in **Philippians 4:6-7** that when the storms of life are raging all around and like Peter we're starting to sink because we've taken our eyes off Christ, that we are to pray and His peace guards our hearts and our minds with His peace, a peace that is beyond our comprehension. He gives us peace when the circumstances don't seem to be logical, when our mind would otherwise convince us through sheer reason that to think something else is insane. He gives us peace when the circumstances don't give us a warm fuzzy feeling. It may be circumstances that may be fearful or cast doubt or cause anxiety, but instead He settles our heart so that we are at peace.

In 1948 poet W.H. Auden published a work titled "The Age of Anxiety." Later on writer Alan Watts wrote a book titled "The Wisdom of Insecurity." The end of the last century was known as the Atomic Age and the Space Age. Someone has suggested that we should call this decade the Aspirin Age or the Ulcer Age or the Age of Anxiety.

In 2010 alone 46.3 million prescriptions were written out for the drug Xanax. That doesn't include the other anxiety drugs or ulcer medications or over the counter pills like aspirin. We look to so many other things for our anxiety, anything that will give temporary peace or a euphoric feeling other than the original and only source of true and lasting

peace. Now I'm not suggesting that medication is a bad thing, I'm just saying that many neglect going to God at all who has it readily available to give and the best thing is, it's free. Just ask for it.

On behalf of the Lord Isaiah pens these familiar and helpful words that should give hope in helplessness, comfort in chaos.

Isaiah 41:10, 13-14 “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand...For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, ‘Do not fear; I will help you. Do not be afraid, O worm Jacob, O little Israel, for I myself will help you,’ declares the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.”

Psalm 94:19 (NLT) “When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.”

In His wisdom, God provides you with His peace.

3. God in His wisdom has power to provide joy in times of pain.

James 1:2-4

We don't like pain, we don't like trials, but we see here in this passage that it has a purpose and if there is a purpose then there must be the capacity to rise above the pain in order to experience joy, the thing we desire when we are in pain. The purpose we note here for trials is so that we mature spiritually. God wants to use these circumstances to bring about Christ likeness in our character. He wants to use these difficulties to make us more like Him. If the silver did not go through the refining process it could not become pure. Impurities would still be embedded in its properties. The only way to get rid of the impurities is to go through trials. Trials are not punishment, they are the necessary means by

which God removes the impurities in our lives. And while we're going through these trials, we are to respond with joy. Someone wrote that “we count it all joy when we escape the trial.” James says we are to “count it all joy” when we face the trial, when we are in the trial. God is able through His power and wisdom to help you experience joy in the midst of your trials. God will provide joy. (Psalm 51:8)

This past Thursday I spent the evening sitting through an awards ceremony sponsored by the Hartland Optimists club. Doug Carl was getting an award so I went to watch and cheer for him. The guest speaker, Denise Brennan –Nelson, shared a number of things with those in attendance that evening. It was all stuff about being positive and encouraging, looking for others to help – the bedrock principles that the optimists believe, pursue and encourage in others.

She said, though, something that troubled me. She was describing how we all have obstacles that we face in life, challenges that mold us. She described how we need to persevere and be strong, believe in yourself in those times. Some will be relentless in order to overcome those obstacles, like those who were receiving awards. Others would buckle under the pressure. The difference is what you've got in here (pointing to her heart). And then she said that you need to work hard to overcome because *there is no manual for life*. You strike it out on your own and you learn from others and you overcome obstacles by sheer determination and will power.

While much of what she said I could agree with, I took exception to her comment about not having a manual for life. God has provided us with a set of guidelines in the Bible, the most time tested writings of any age. Its wisdom through the likes of Solomon offer guidance that will last for eternity if you heed its principles and obey its author. It first begins with a personal relationship with His Son by faith. Then it flourishes through obedient faith that what He says is true.

God's manual even speaks to the creation of things.
You don't have to wonder. You didn't come from
the primordial soup of some selective process in
nature. There is enough evidence to support that He
not only created the world, but that He sustains it.
And spiritually speaking He sustains you and me.
He redeemed us, creating us to be a new person.
He restores us when our soul is lost or in need of
being refreshed because we are weary in the journey
He provides for comfort in loss, peace in storms,
and joy in pain.

Do you need His redemption today?

Do you need His restoration today?

Do you need His provision today?

Do you need His comfort today?

Do you need His peace today?

Do you need His joy today?

As He is the only source of creation, so is He the
only source of comfort, peace and joy.