

Il Faro, International Baptist Church

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Pastoral Pensieri

Why is it so hard for Christians to get along? Jesus taught that those outside the church would recognize His disciples by the way they love one another. Sunday mornings they would be at the worship service early to greet *everyone*. They would turn off their iPhones and iPads so they could socialize, share their lives, and salute guests. Disciples wouldn't wait to be greeted, but they would race to be the first ones to welcome loved ones. Like a pure fountain, their words would be sweet not bitter, blessings not cursing. Disciples understand that, "The wisdom from above is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere" (James 3:17). Do you find it hard to get along with *every* believer? Did you ever wonder if you really are a disciple?

-- Dr. Timothy A. Monahan



Recommended (English) Book

Christians ought to be thinkers who reason through their spiritual assumptions and value systems. Nancy Pearcey has written a book titled, *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity* in which she explains how faith and fact have become relegated to two different levels: public and private. Though Pearcey blames Thomas Aquinas and not Immanuel Kant for our dilemma, the book is thought-provoking and informative. This book is written for thinking Christians.

Apologetic Interaction

This week I will begin answering some difficult questions that people ask. If you have any questions you would like answered, write to the pastor's office and I will seek to answer your question.

The first question I will address is this: "*How can the universe have a beginning when science says energy is eternal?*"

In his book, *A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes*, Stephen Hawking admitted that the Big Bang theory created problems for scientists because it indicated that the universe had a beginning. This demonstrated the veracity of the Bible. However, scientist believe that energy is eternal. The First Law of Thermodynamics states that "energy cannot be created." The amount of actual energy in the universe remains constant. However, the law does not state where the energy comes from, so there is no contradiction with the Bible.



The Second Law of Thermodynamics states that the amount of usable energy in the universe is decreasing, which indicates the universe is not eternal since it would have run out of energy a long time ago. If the universe had an infinite amount of energy, it would never wind down. The Second Law of Thermodynamics supports the biblical assertion that the universe was created.

Essentially, there is no factual contradiction between science and the Bible about the universe having a beginning, there is a difference of opinion of how it began.