

F. LaGard Smith answers the question: What is the greatest threat to Christianity today?

Discussion and study guides / questions / topics for your consideration.

1. Although materialism is not assigned the greatest threat to the church, there is a great deal of concern about its affects upon the Church and Christians.
 - a. What is materialism? The video distinctly asserts it is not, necessarily, consumerism.
 - b. It is seeing a world – or, having a world-view - that does not have spiritual implications. Why is this a significant statement?
 - c. Instead, the emphasis of living...of a life being overtaken by and consumed by...is that of a carnal perspective. A condition which can overwhelm so as to exclude spiritual growth (what does Paul write to the church in Corinth – 1 Cor 3.1-3).
 - d. This can be evidenced how? (The emphasis of our activities throughout the week – are they spiritual or worldly based?)
 - e. What are we teaching our families about priorities and truth?
2. The greatest threat to Christianity is Darwinian evolution. What do you think?
3. Evolution postulates that we (not just humans, but everything in and on the earth as well as the earth itself) are here, we exist, by some chance process in a universe that is itself also here by some change process.
 - a. If we believe that this is true, then these must objectively follow:
 - i. There is no God.
 - ii. There is no revelation from God of His will to man – no guide.
 - iii. There is no morality.
 - iv. There is no judgment of our actions to be held accountable for.
 - v. There is no hope for life eternally.
 - b. What do you think? (Ps 14.1-3; 36.1-4; Prov 30.5-9).
4. Everything is on the line with this question: Where did we come from?
 - a. Why?
 - b. Secondly: Why are we here? and Where are we going?

- c. How many 'self-help' books have been written on these topics?
 - d. According to God the Creator, He created us. Gen 1.26-28.
- 5. If we truly accept evolution as taught in every school (including Christian colleges) and almost every children's book – we have no hope. Period.
 - a. What do you think?
 - b. What is the point of Romans 1. Or of even the remaining scriptures if evolution of true?
- 6. Evolution, as taught and accepted today, cannot be fought with scripture. Why or why not?
 - a. What about the Genesis account of creation? Genesis 1.1 simply assumes the presence and power of God. (Really think about that...)
 - b. Why would a person who accepts evolution, and therefore, assumes no God... accept Genesis 1 on the merits?
- 7. Evolution is described as flawed science. And as flawed science, it must be attacked on its own terms.
 - a. In very broad and general terms, we have all been exposed to evolution theory to some degree. And so we grasp the general nature of its origins and ideas.
 - b. But what difficulties might this context of attack present to a faithful, yet 'ordinary', Christian?
 - c. How might Christians begin to arm themselves, or the church body, for this fight? What if we start in Acts 17:16-34 and Romans 1.1-32.
 - d. What if we really allowed the Holy Spirit to transform us (Ro 12.1,2) so that Col 3.12-21 and 4.2-6 and 1 Thess 5.12-22 are daily reflections and actions in our life.
 - e. What if we studied 2 Tim 2.11-13; 3.1 - 4.4; and 2 Pet 2 to learn what Paul and Peter are teaching us about ourselves and those who would come into our fellowship and our homes?

8. Recently we reviewed the idea that persecution of Christians exists and is growing globally and in the US. Do you think there is any connection between persecution and evolution?