



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

12TH JULY 2020



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Science and Religion

The great Albert Einstein, whose theories on matters such as matter and energy, space, and time revolutionised what was then known as Newtonian physics. Although Einstein would have been far from an orthodox believer, he knew enough to recognise that science and religion both have a valid place in human experience and understanding. Whereas today's new atheists, would like to wipe religion off the planet. Einstein said the scientific method teaches how facts are related to and conditioned by each other. Pursuit of that knowledge was heroic though definitely Limited. We could have the clearest and most complete knowledge of what is, yet not be able to deduce from that what should be our human aspirations. Religion traditionally filled that role; I gather Einstein found the highest principles for our aspirations and judgements expressed within the Jewish-Christian tradition.

Hence his often-quoted statement:

"Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind." The one knows what can be done, the other knows what should be done, but if it ignored the world as revealed by science it is groping in the dark. Former Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks with views on God which differed from those held by Einstein believed any conflict between religion and science is misconceived. Sacks argues that science and religion should be complimentary, not hostile. "Science," he says, "takes things apart to see how they work. Religion puts things together to see what they mean."

I searched for other thoughts, I felt I really needed to find a better understanding of this Science / religion subject. Some years back I had an overnight visitor who assured me that Christian beliefs were wrong as they cannot be proved. I commented yes, but there are many things that can't be proved and many things that will never be proved, one doesn't have to think about it for long to come up with a list of things that we can't prove. He was not interested, and the discussion stopped there.

The Christian faith has within its doctrines many statements which make it unacceptable to the person and perhaps atheist that seeks proof of everything. There are many things of life that cannot be proven, is the alternative to have faith?

I found a statement which to me sound acceptable: Science breaks things down to their component parts. Religion binds people together in relationships of trust. Science tells us what is. Religion tells us what ought to be. Science practices detachment. Religion is the art of attachment, self to self, soul to soul. In the early days of science, the two worked hand in hand. Is it that religion is in urgent need of updating, so that could happen again?

- Dennis Brown

A Psalm of Adoration:

Your unfailing love, O Lord, is as vast as the heavens.

Your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,

Your justice like the ocean depths. You care for people and animals alike, O Lord.

How precious is your unfailing love, O God!

All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings.

You feed them from the abundance of your own house,

Letting them drink from your rivers of delights.

For you are the fountain of life, the light by which we see.

Psalm 36: 5-9



Bible Reading Romans 8 Verses 1 - 11.

Life through the Spirit, taken from the Life Application Study Bible. New International Version.

Not guilty, let him go free - what would those words mean to you if you were on death row?. The fact is that the whole human race is on death row, justly condemned for repeatedly breaking God's holy law. without Jesus we would have no hope at all. But thank God! He has declared us not guilty and has offered us freedom from sin and power to do his will The Spirit of life is the Holy Spirit, he was present at the creation of the world, Genesis 1 : 2 and is the power behind the rebirth of every Christian. He gives us the power we need to live the Christian life.

Jesus gave himself as a sacrifice for our sins.

Paul divides people into two categories - those who let themselves be controlled by sinful natures and those who follow after the Holy Spirit. All of us would be in the first category if Jesus hadn't offered us away out. Daily we must consciously choose to centre our lives on God. Use the bible to discover God's guidelines and then follow them. "What would Jesus want me to do?" We will want to continue following Jesus because this way brings life and peace.

Have you ever worried about whether or not you really are a Christian. A Christian is anyone who has the Spirit of God living in him or her. The Holy Spirit is God's promise or guarantee of eternal life for those who believe in him. The Spirit is in us now by faith and by faith we are certain to live with Christ forever.

St. Andrew's

Tuesday 14th July at 11:30 AM | **'Welcome Back Friendship Club Gathering'**

Stall, raffle, hot meal and entertainment from the Ashburton Organ club skiffle Group. Welcome to all.

Wednesday 15th July at 10:30 AM | Rakaia Fit Kids with Miranda

An all age programme so bring the older children along over the school holidays. Fun, dancing, and Morning tea.

Wednesday 15th July at 1:00 PM | Steady As You Go

Balance, strengthening and gentle exercises for senior folk's health and well-being.

Thursday 16th July at 12:00 - 2.00 PM | **'End of Holiday SHOUT'**

Community Meal for all, just come along, enjoy, and learn the skills of Karate with Tayla Davidson. A few "Moves" will be taught. A grocery item for the local foodbank, if able to, would be welcomed.

Information Dorothy 3027595 & Sina. Thank you.

Opportunities to Share God's Love in Rakaia

The Community Shed based at St Mark's Church | Take what you need and give what you can

St Andrew's Grocery box in the Foyer (given to the Rakaia School)

St Marks Goodwill through the "OP Shop" contact Sina Mead

During the School Holidays, goods can be left at Dorothy's home.

We look forward to hearing the MESSAGE from Rev John at St. Andrew's Rakaia on Sunday at 9.30 am
ALL WELCOME. We do have a good church heater.

Sunday Services for July

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|------------------|----------|---------------------|---|
| 12 th | 9:30 am | St. Andrew's Rakaia | Rev. John Titlow Pastor Paul Eden & Worship Team |
| | 10:30 am | St. John's Methven | |
| 19 th | 9:30 am | St. Andrew's Rakaia | Pastor Paul Eden & Worship Team Rev. Neville Burns |
| | 10:30 am | St. John's Methven | |
| 26 th | 9:30 am | St. Andrew's Rakaia | Rev. Neville Burns Rev. Arii – combined with Staveley |
| | 10:30 am | St. John's Methven | |

PRAYER

Grant us good Lord, the spirit to think and do those things which are good in your sight:

That we who struggle to do good without you,

May, by your grace be able to live according to your will.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.