



The BCC Connection

July
2022

Bancroft Congregational Church
Pastor Todd Evans

217 S. Shiawassee St., P.O. Box 98, Bancroft, MI 48414 989-634-5724

Sunday Worship Hours

Christian Education Hour 9:45 am

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

There are Nursery and Jr. church programs available for children during our worship service.

Basic Bible Facts

Provide the answers for these Bible basics.

1. The Bible contains this many books. _____
2. The number of books in the Old Testament. _____
3. The number of books in the New Testament. _____
4. This Bible book has the most chapters. _____
5. The "Hall of Faith" is found in this Bible book. _____
6. This book of the Bible contains the story of Noah's flood. _____
7. These four books of the Bible are the writings call the Gospels. _____
8. This man wrote the book of Acts. _____
9. This book was given to its writer when he was on an island. _____
10. These three books of the Bible contain the wisdom of Solomon. _____



In God
We Trust

Answers
1. 66
2. 39
3. 27
4. Psalms
5. Hebrews
6. Genesis
7. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
8. Luke
9. Revelation
10. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs



From Your Favorite Pastor!

Last time we saw how relativistic/subjective truth has started to gain a foot hold within the body of Christ, which started gaining steam about 20 years ago in the emerging church movement. This relativistic move believes that the Bible is something that we can't truly know as truth and that it is a "human product, rather than the product of divine fiat." (words of Rob Bell, "pastor" at Mars Hill in Grand Rapids) In other words, the Bible is a fallible human book rather than an infallible, Spirit-inspired word from God. This belief is permeating everything in our society as well, leading to many in the church not understanding nor being able to defend the idea of absolute/objective truth and where that comes from. To summarize this problem: more and more people in both the secular world and the church believe that truth cannot be truly known or fixed. This belief has also started to permeate more evangelical churches as they strive to be accepted by the culture around them, which we've seen become more apparent since the start of Covid and the BLM riots of 2020. So should we fight back against this and if so, how?

In his book *The Truth War*, John MacArthur argues that this is exactly the thing we are to fight against within the church. We see the call to watch out for and fight these false doctrines from multiple authors in the New Testament. Paul speaks of it multiple times in his epistles, it is one of the main reasons for the book of Jude, and we see Jesus making this fight a priority in His addressing of the religious leaders of the time (Matthew 7, 23). Jude stresses this fight right off the bat in v.3, *"Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to His holy people. I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."* MacArthur breaks this down a little more for us this way, "The expression 'contend earnestly' is translated from a strong Greek verb *epagonizomai*, literally meaning 'agonize against.' The word describes an intensive, arduous, drawn-out fight. There is nothing passive, peaceful, or easy about it. Jude exhorted them- meaning he urged and commanded them- to wage a mighty battle on behalf of the true faith." This is a fight that has been going on for all of church history, going back to the very apostles themselves. Many of our most important church councils have come about because of this particular fight and people willing to "wage a mighty battle on behalf of the true faith." This entire battle is raging in all segments of society as we see it permeating many areas of culture through CRT, which is discussed by Voddie Baucham and Owen Strachan in their books on the topic. It is clear that we are to fight this battle, but now what?

First, we have to understand, believe, and stand on objective truth. Objective truth does not change, cannot change, and is not subject to the whims of emotions. We must have a truth that doesn't change if we are to have the opportunity for salvation through Christ. Subjective truth eliminates the power of Scripture and that hope in Christ, as well as goes against Scripture itself. The Gospel of John in particular delves into this area quite a bit, laying down the foundation of who Christ is and where His authority and power comes from. John 1 speaks of Jesus being God, having always been and always will be. Telling us that He is the Word, meaning that He was the author of Scripture. This is really important when we then see Jesus speak about how right doctrine (orthodoxy) and right living (orthopraxy) are essential and inseparable for the true Christian. John 8:31-32, *"Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, (continued on the next page)"*

‘You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” If truth can change, then there is no truth to set us free and the teachings of Christ in Scripture are just the ramblings of a lunatic.

Second, we are to have a love for the truth. True Christians (people who accede to Christ being the Son of God, God Himself, perfect, crucified as the perfect sacrifice, the conqueror of death, the forgiver of sins) are to “know and love the truth.” MacArthur puts it like this: “Scripture says one of the key characteristics of ‘those who perish’ (people who are damned by their unbelief) is that ‘they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved’ 2 Thess. 2:10.” As a true Christian, we are to desire, love, and seek out truth in all things with the ultimate truth being Christ the Messiah. There is no middle ground. Brian MacLaren’s claim that genuine people in other faith’s are seeking the same Jesus and God cannot stand when we take Scripture as objective truth and God’s Word. The message of the Bible is not a popular one, and Jesus warned us that we will be hated because of it. *“If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you.”* (John 15:18-19)

Establishing Scripture as truth is a much longer process than what we have here. I encourage you to not take my word for it but to seek out answers in both Scripture and other resources, many of which I have listed in this and previous newsletters. We will continue to reach into these topics in an attempt to equip you for the work in the world that God has called you to, which ends with us fulfilling His commandment: *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* -Matthew 28:19-20.

Scripture work this month: Matthew 28:19-20, Jude, 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, John 8:31-32

Be blessed & be a blessing



PT

Resources

Awake and Alive to Truth by John Cooper

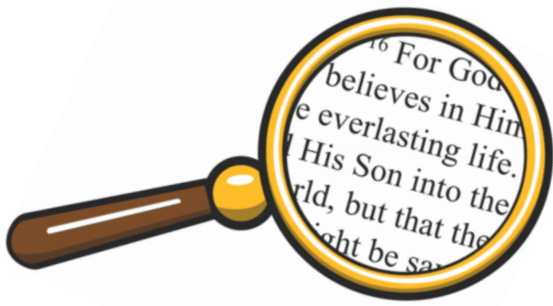
The Truth War by John MacArthur

Fault Lines by Voddie Baucham

Christianity and Wokeness by Owen Strachan

The Faith by Charles Colson





Apologetics



Evidence for God: Cosmological Argument

By Frank Turek

Apologetic Bible Pg 422

In philosophy, the cosmological argument for God's existence says:

All things that begin to exist have a cause of their beginning to exist.

The universe began to exist.

Therefore, the universe was caused to exist (by inference, *God* is the cause).

Does science support this? Absolutely. Overwhelming scientific evidence tells us that the universe exploded into being out of nothing at some point in the distant past. Now some Christians have a problem with the Big Bang theory. They'll ask me, "Oh no! You don't believe the Big Bang, do you?" as if I'm giving up on the Bible. My response is always the same. "Yes, I believe in the Big Bang – I just know who banged it!"

There are five main lines of scientific evidence -denoted by the acronym SURGE – that point to the definite beginning of the universe. They are: The Second Law of Thermodynamics, the Expanding Universe, Radiation Afterglow from the Big Bang Explosion, Great galaxy seeds in the Radiation Afterglow, and Einstein's Theory of General Relativity.

The conclusion that the universe had a beginning is virtually certain (see chapter 3 of *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*), and the evidence that it began via a Big Bang explosion is very strong. According to the evidence, the universe began from nothing – literally no thing physical, temporal, or spatial. Once there was not time, no space, and no matter and then it all banged into existence out of nothing.

What caused this creation event? To answer this, it's important to realize that the Big Bang was not an explosion in space by the explosion of space. It was not an explosion in time but the beginning of time. It was not an explosion of pre-existing matter, but the creation of matter itself. Therefore, the cause of the universe must be something beyond space, beyond time, and beyond matter – a Being who is spaceless, timeless, and immaterial. Those are attributes of God!

An atheist might ask, "Why couldn't some natural force or process have caused the universe?" The problem is nature and natural forces did not exist before the Big Bang, so they could not have caused it. That means the cause of the universe must be something beyond nature – something supernatural.

Agnostic astronomer Robert Jastrow said, "That there are what I or anyone would call 'supernatural forces' at work is now I think a scientifically proven fact." He also wrote, 'The astronomical evidence leads to a Biblical view of the origin of the world' (God and the Astronomers). Robert Wilson, winner of the 1978 Nobel Prize in Physics, observed of the Big Bang, "Certainly, if you're religious, I can't think of a better theory of the origin of the universe to match with Genesis" (quoted in Show Me God). And as David wrote, "For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens" (I Chronicles 16:26).

In summary, the universe began to exist. Nothing in nature could have caused this beginning, for all of nature originated at the Big Bang. Hence, the universe was caused to exist by a supernatural force: God.



Standing on the Promises

July



- Day 1: Deuteronomy 31:6
- Day 2: 1 Chronicles 28:20
- Day 3: Joshua 1:9
- Day 4: Exodus 14:14
- Day 5: Psalm 91:9-10
- Day 6: Psalm 91:11-12
- Day 7: Psalm 91:13-14
- Day 8: Psalm 91:15-16
- Day 9: Isaiah 54:17
- Day 10: Isaiah 43:1-2
- Day 11: Jeremiah 29:11
- Day 12: Isaiah 41:10
- Day 13: Isaiah 41:13
- Day 14: Psalm 27:1
- Day 15: Psalm 34:17
- Day 16: Psalm 50:15
- Day 17: Matthew 6:25-26
- Day 18: Matthew 6:31-33
- Day 19: Matthew 7:7-8
- Day 20: Matthew 7:9-11
- Day 21: Phillippians 4:19
- Day 22: Isaiah 1:18
- Day 23: John 3:16
- Day 24: 1 John 1:9
- Day 25: 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Day 26: Acts 2:21
- Day 27: Romans 10:13
- Day 28: John 14:13-14
- Day 29: Hebrews 13:5-6
- Day 30: Romans 8:28
- Day 31: Revelation 3:5

Pastors Scripture Work for this Month: Matthew 28:19-20, Jude, 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, John 8:31-32

Kingdom Bloggers

Groups Hometown Nazareth

Where Jesus was a Kid





Matthew 19:14
 “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”



**Thanks to all
 who came
 and participated,
 worked
 and prepared!**



You're Invited



July 23rd 1:00 to 4:00pm

Weekly Service Schedule for July 2022

Service	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Greeter	Walt Reed	Sally Labadie	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed	Walt Reed
Greeter	Marion Reed	Jr. Love	Cyndy Habermehl	Karla Reed	Marion Reed
Nursery	Cathy Taber	Brian Reed	Jenny Habermehl	Tracie Zander	Layne Valade
Nursery	Laurie Valade	Karla Reed	Paula Wahl	Patty Hewitt	Daphne Valade
Sound	Matt Post	Jade Evans	Jazz Evans	Matt Post	Isaac Zander
Computer	Kaylee Siddens	Sarah Bias	Aaron Zander	Maddie Bias	Vaeh Cooke
Welcome/Call to Worship	Layne Valade	Carl Cooke	Brian Reed	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post
Prayer Elder	Brian Reed	Matt Post	Carl Cooke	Layne Valade	Brian Reed
Jr. Church Teacher	Becky Durling	Charlotte Adolf	Diane Lepior	Paula Wahl	Becky Durling
Jr. Church Helper	Cathy Taber	Cevin Valade	Shana Post	Jenny Habermehl	Cathy Taber
Scripture Reader Message Prayer	Sandy Braid James 5:1-12	Maddie Bias James 5:13-20	Dan Bryant Psalm 46:1	Jordan Owens TBD	Carl Cooke TBD
Benediction	Pastor	Carl Cooke	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post	Layne Valade
Financial Team	Layne Valade	Tom Wahl	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed	Carl Cooke
Financial Team	James Huguelet	Brian Reed	Matt Post	Dan Bryant	Layne Valade
Communion	Carl Cooke				



Please remember if for any reason you are unable to meet your scheduled obligation, **please contact someone from your team to take your place as soon as you know you are unable to fulfill your obligation.**

The changes however, will not be printed in the bulletin.

Thank you for your service to our church!

Weekly Service Schedule for August 2022

Service	7th	14th	21st	28th
Greeter	Sally Labadie	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed	Walt Reed
Greeter	Jr. Love	Cyndy Habermehl	Karla Reed	Marion Reed
Nursery	Cathy Taber	Brian Reed	Jenny Habermehl	Tracie Zander
Nursery	Laurie Valade	Karla Reed	Paula Wahl	Patty Hewitt
Sound	Matthew Zander	Jade Evans	Jazz Evans	Matt Post
Computer	Kaylee Siddens	Sarah Bias	Aaron Zander	Maddie Bias
Welcome/Call to Worship	Brian Reed	Layne Valade	Carl Cooke	Lee Habermehl
Prayer Elder	Carl Cooke	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post	Layne Valade
Jr. Church Teacher	Charlotte Adolf	Paula Wahl	Becky Durling	Diane Lepior
Jr. Church Helper	Cevin Valade	Jenny Habermehl	Cathy Taber	Shana Post
Scripture Reader Message Prayer	Laurie Valade Job 1:1-5	Vaeh Cooke Job 1:6-22	Layne Valade Job 2:1-13	<i>No Reader Needed</i>
Benediction	Pastor	Carl Cooke	Brian Reed	Lee Habermehl
Financial Team	Tom Wahl	Matt Post	Brian Reed	Gary Hammond
Financial Team	Lee Habermehl	James Huguelet	Carl Cooke	Dan Bryant
Communion	Layne Valade			

This Month's Cause for Celebration!



5th	Amber Bias
8th	Cyndy Habermehl
10th	Patrick Siddens
11th	Linda Malloy
21st	Karli Rancour
27th	Rose Bryant Larry Gaboury Gabi Gaboury
28th	Barb Compton
29th	Vaeh Cooke

Ephesians 5:19

...[speak] to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.
Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.

18th	Todd & Amber Evans
21st	Patrick and Jill Siddens



Kids Corner

Simple But Oh So Pretty



Directions:

1. Add blueberries and raspberries (or cut strawberries) to ice cube trays. Add water and freeze.
2. Once frozen add these pretty ice cubes to sparkling water or soda.



Fun...

Easy...

Festive...



Patriotic Necklace Craft



- String or thin yarn
- Scissors
- Scotch tape
- Blue pony beads
- Red straws (We used some red striped paper straws we had on hand.)

**Beads and small pieces of straw are choking hazards. Never leave your work unattended when there are very young children around.*

Directions for Patriotic Necklace Craft

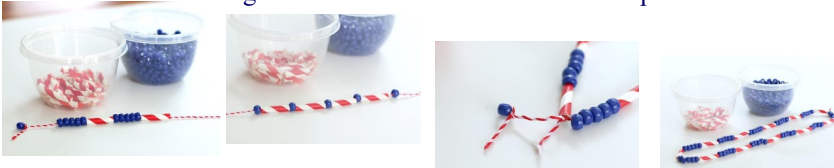
1. Cut your red straws into one inch pieces and set them out with some blue pony beads.
2. Cut a piece of string long enough to fit over your child's head when tied. (Be sure to leave a little extra for tying the finished necklace together.)



3. Tie a pony bead to one end of the string. This will keep the beads and straws from slipping off while you are stringing. On the other end of the string, wrap a piece of scotch tape. Making the end of the string sturdy with tape will help you thread more easily.



4. Begin threading your beads and straw pieces onto the string. You can create any pattern you'd like! We started out alternating between one bead and one straw piece.



Tip: Smaller children will find it easier to use pipe cleaners for threading rather than string. They can turn their finished creations into bracelets!

Mission News!

“And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.” Matthew 9:37



Our Community Hands Summer Outreach

Our community Hands Mission outreach dates will be:

Friday, July 8th, in the evening
Saturday, July 9th starting at the church at 8:30 a.m.
Friday, July 15th, In the evening
Saturday, July 16th starting at 8:30 a.m. at the church
Friday, 29th, in the evening
Saturday, at 8:30 a.m. at the church



- ♦ The evenings will be scheduled sometime after 4, and when our people are available, Starting somewhere between 4 and 6. We will discuss the time in our group.
- ♦ Saturday work days will be provided with a lunch.
- ♦ We will have water and snacks too, but you may also bring some. We encourage you to bring enough water to drink for your day!

We will meeting briefly before church July 3rd at 10, and July 10th at 10 a.m.

***There is also a signup sheet in the overflow room, if you already know you are available on these days, please sign up! It will give us a better look at our number available.
Thank you for being a part of this ministry!***

Our next Mission Meeting is Monday, July 13th, at 10 a.m.



OCC- Our collection of the boxes is only a few months away! Can you pack a box for us?

Grandma's Kitchen

4th of July Snack Mix



Ingredients

- 1 cup milk chocolate chips
- 4 cups Rice Chex cereal
- 1 1/4 cups powdered sugar
- Peanut M&M's in red, white, and blue
- Whoppers Candy

Instructions

1. Line a large baking sheet with wax paper or parchment. Put your 4 cups of cereal in a large mixing bowl. Set both aside.
2. Put the milk chocolate chips into a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high for 30 seconds. Stir. Repeat in 30 second intervals until the chocolate is fully melted.
3. Use a large spoon to drizzle the melted chocolate over the cereal. Gently mix as you drizzle, making sure to coat the cereal evenly.
4. Place the powdered sugar in a 1-gallon zip-top bag.
5. Carefully scoop the chocolate-coated cereal into the bag with the powdered sugar. Seal the bag and shake it to cover the cereal with the powdered sugar.
6. Let sit for 1-2 minutes, then spread it out onto the prepared baking sheet. let dry for 1 hour.
7. Put your cereal back in the large bowl and gently mix in the Whoppers and M&Ms.

4th of July Firecracker Dogs



Ingredients

- 1 can refrigerated breadstick dough
- 2 packages -16 hot dogs
- 16 thick slices Colby cheese
- 16 skewers

Cooking Directions

1. First take your skewers and stick them all the way through your hot dogs leaving about an inch and a half exposed out of the top of each hot dog. Then take a piece of breadstick dough and carefully wrap it around the hot dog until you get to the top. Place the wrapped dogs on a silpat (non stick baking liner) or parchment paper and bake according to the package directions for the breadstick dough. It took us about 20 minutes at 350.
2. While the hot dogs are cooking take out your cheese slices, the key to this step is to go to your grocers deli counter and ask for them to slice you pieces of cheese that are 1/4"-3/8" thick. Then using a small star cookie cutter cut out your stars. Depending on how big or small your cookie cutter is will determine how many stars you get out of each slice of cheese. We could only get one star out of each slice.
3. After your dogs have cooled for 2-3 minutes stick the star through the skewer at the top.
4. We used a pail with a Styrofoam ball hidden by crinkly papers to display them here, which would also be a great way to display them at a gathering. You can also just layer them on top of each other on a plate. Enjoy!

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Bancroft Church Phone Number:
 989-634-5724
 Secretary: Diane Lepior
 Office Hours: 9-2 daily
 Tuesdays by appointment
*Please use the church phone or Facebook
 to contact the office during office hours.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 	4 	5	6	7	8	9 8:30 am 
10 Young Adults 5:30 pm Valade's Home	11	12	13	14	15	16 10 to Noon 
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Jade Evans' open house 1-4 pm
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Weekly activities: No small groups in the summer.

As inflation and gas prices continue to rise, we are doing our best to keep costs down here at the church. Both Pastor and your secretary will be working remotely more often. If you need to get into the church and have no key, please call a day or two ahead to make sure someone will be at the church to let you in. Thanks! Also, please refer to the QR codes posted in the church for your weekly bulletin. It will also be posted on our website if you'd like to print it out at home.



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