



## **WRESTLING WITH “THE PROBLEM OF EVIL”....**

It was what Einstein said prevented him from becoming a Christian. It was what some observers believe drove Darwin from his theistic moorings (his wife and father were devoted Christians) to his eventual full fledged embrace of a Godless process to explain how life originated.

The “it” is what Christian apologists call “the problem of evil”. Philosophers pose the problem in many ways—one of the most common is this:

“If God is all loving, all powerful, all knowing, then why does evil exist?”

If you have ever tried to respond to a grief-stricken loved one who earnestly asks “How could a loving God allow my child to be killed by a drunk driver?”, you are wrestling with the problem of evil.

The issue is one of the oldest and most intractable issues that pastors, theologians, and apologists must deal with. The book of Job, which many scholars believe was written before Moses wrote Genesis, is one attempt to understand the “why” question.

Rich Lawson, who has addressed our group before, will tackle this issue from a Christian apologetic and philosophical approach this Saturday.

Rich is a vice president of Verizon, and a graduate of Fuller Seminary with an emphasis in Christian apologetics.

Rich will share with us an approach to responding to the problem of evil posed by those who would use it to claim that either a) God does not exist, b) if He exists, he must not be all powerful, or c) If He exists and is all powerful, He cannot be all good and loving or else He would banish evil for ever.

Come learn the flaws in this seemingly logical argument which has caused so many otherwise deep thinkers to reject Christianity.

## **...AND THE RNA ORIGIN OF LIFE ISSUE....**

### **“Chemist Shows How RNA Can Be the Starting Point for Life”**

Such were the headlines a few months back in the New York Times. The Austin American Statesman article on the same study almost breathlessly claimed that this dealt a fatal blow to creationists and those who deny Darwinism.

But did it? RTB scholars have responded to these claims. Dr. Patricia Fanning, an Austin biochemist who is an expert on RNA matters, will explain what RNA is, unpack the claims, and provide a

rebuttal. See back for more background on Patricia.

**DOUBLE HITTER  
PRESENTATIONS  
10 A.M. SAT.  
HILL COUNTRY  
NW. SEE P.2  
FOR MORE.**

Patricia Fanning has provided us with a brief background sketch on who she is. Some of it is excerpted below:

**\*Educational Background:\*** B.S. Biology & Chemistry, equivalent of B.S. Computer Science, PMP (Project Management Professional - Certified by PMI), Six Sigma Green Belt, Ph.D. Structural and Molecular Biochemistry specializing in catalytic RNA structure and function

**\*Professional experience:\*** The majority of my career was in Software Development and Project Management. I returned to college in my mid-40's to fulfill a high school dream of earning a Ph.D. in Biochemistry.

**\*Current Activities:\*** No longer working because of back problems. Training for leadership in a Christian ministry called Celebrate Recovery, training as a volunteer apologist for Reason to Believe, member of several small groups in my church, Grace Covenant Church in Austin.

**\*Hobbies and interests:\*** Sewing, politics, biochemistry

**\*Family:\*** Married to a wonderful man, Mike, who has been instrumental in my growth as a Christian through his loving spirit. We have three grown and married children who live in Chicago, New York City and Newport RI.

## Austin REASONS TO BELIEVE Monthly Meeting

**10 am Sat. July 11, 2009**

Hill Country Bible Church NW  
Agenda

1. Introductions
2. First presentation: The Problem of Evil
3. Second presentation: RNA and origin of life
4. New and old business

### Directions to our meeting place:

- Come to HCBC NW see map below (1 1/4 mile W of 183 on RR 620)
- Park near Building A. Look for RTB sign.
- Take elevator or stairs to 3rd floor. We will be in Room 3.310 to 3.314

