

WESTMINSTER CONFERENCE ON
SCIENCE & FAITH
+ GOD AND MATERIALISM -

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, PHILADELPHIA

APRIL 8-9, 2011

Are human beings and the rest of nature the result of purposeful design or undirected matter and energy? During the last decade, high-profile “new atheists” such as Richard Dawkins and Daniel Dennett have asserted that modern science proves materialism, while in 2010 renowned physicist Stephen Hawking published an article in the *Wall Street Journal* proclaiming “Why God Did Not Create the Universe.” Even those who reject materialism increasingly seem willing to concede that science depends on “methodological materialism” in order to flourish. Yet what is the actual scientific evidence for a materialist worldview? Does materialism help or hinder the operation of good science? And what impact has materialism had on culture, including Biblical studies and theology? Explore these vital questions and more at the second annual Westminster Conference on Science and Faith to be held April 8-9, 2011 at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

Speakers will include Westminster faculty **Vern Poythress**, author of *Redeeming Science*; **K. Scott Oliphint**, author of *Reasons for Faith*; **Jeffrey Jue**, author of *Heaven Upon Earth*; **Brandon Crowe**, Lecturer in the New Testament; and Westminster President **Peter Lillback**, author of *George Washington’s Sacred Fire*. Speakers will also include Discovery Institute Fellows such as astronomer **Guillermo Gonzalez**, co-author of *The Privileged Planet*; molecular and cell biologist **Jonathan Wells**, co-author of *The Design of Life* and author of *The Myth of Junk DNA* (forthcoming, 2011); philosopher of biology **Paul Nelson**; philosopher and theologian **Jay Richards**, editor of *God and Evolution: Protestants, Catholics, and Jews Explore Darwin’s Challenge to Faith*; and social scientist **John West**, author of *Darwin Day in America*.

Conference sessions will examine the conflicting worldviews of theism and materialism; the widespread impact of materialism on science, ethics, society, Biblical studies and theology; the latest scientific evidence against materialism and for intelligent design in biology and cosmology; and the positive implications of modern science for theism. This conference will be of special interest to seminary students, college students, and pastors and other church leaders. The conference will also highlight practical resources (curricula, videos) that churches can use to incorporate science and faith issues into their ministries.

The conference is jointly sponsored by Westminster Theological Seminary (WTS) and Discovery Institute’s Center for Science and Culture (DI). The conference is free for students (with a valid student ID) and for Westminster faculty. The cost for everyone else is \$30. Conference registration covers admittance to sessions and conference materials, but not meals. A box lunch for Saturday is available for an additional fee.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (PRELIMINARY)

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

6:15 pm Registration Opens
 7:15 pm Welcome
 7:30 pm ***God versus Materialism*** (Vern Poythress, WTS)
 Q and A
 9:00 pm Dismissal

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

8:00 am Registration Opens
 8:45 am Welcome
 9:00 am ***Materialism, Darwinism, and Culture*** (John West, DI)
 Q and A
The Uselessness of Methodological Materialism and the Fruitfulness of Design in the Conduct of Science (Paul Nelson, DI)
 Q and A
 Break
 11:30 am ***Breakout Sessions***

SCIENCE	BIBLE AND THEOLOGY	APOLOGETICS
“The Glory of God in Logic” (Vern Poythress, WTS)	“God and Evolution: Protestant, Catholic, & Jewish Perspectives on Darwin” (Jay Richards and John West, DI)	“Foundations of Apologetics” (Scott Oliphint, WTS)

12:30 pm Lunch
 2:00 pm ***The Myth of Junk DNA: Why Francis Collins and Others Are Wrong About the Genome*** (Jonathan Wells, DI)
 Q and A
 3:00 pm ***Breakout Sessions***

SCIENCE	BIBLE AND THEOLOGY	APOLOGETICS
“Intelligent Design in Biology: How Genomics is Revolutionizing Our Understanding of Biological Relationships” (Paul Nelson, DI)	“Answering Skepticism about the NT Text: A Response to the Challenges of Bart Ehrman and Others” (Brandon Crowe, WTS)	“The Apologetic Significance of Intelligent Design” (Jay Richards, DI)

4:00 pm

Breakout Sessions

SCIENCE	BIBLE AND THEOLOGY	APOLOGETICS
“What Is Stephen Hawking Thinking? The Growing Evidence for Intelligent Design in Cosmology” (Guillermo Gonzalez, Jay Richards, DI)	“Impact of Materialism on Theology” (Jeffrey Jue, WTS)	“Apologetics and Ethics” (Peter Lillback, WTS)

5:00 pm

Wrap-Up

5:15 pm

Conference Ends