

as merely figurative.

2. All groups of evangelicals will want to hold firmly to the principle that faith must go beyond reason, but not against reason. We are not to make science our God; but neither are we to disregard the discoveries of science. An anti-science view usually erects barriers between ourselves and the people we want to help. Wherever it does not erect such a barrier, it at least introduces an irrelevant factor into our discussions of important, eternal truths. We need to exercise great caution so as not to damage our youth by insisting that they adopt questionable positions with regard to the Biblical teaching on creation and the age of the earth. When a student adopts an unsupportable position, thinking that it is a part of true Bible doctrine, and then later learns the actual facts as they are being observed in the earth, the resulting shock often causes him to place a much lower value on the entire Bible.

3. We should try to keep ourselves properly informed concerning modern discoveries. Dwelling on the past to the extent of reverting back to views which man developed before he possessed the technologies for investigating the deeper strata of the earth is an unfortunate and restricting way of thought wherever it occurs. If we will openly face the facts which have been discovered, and admit their validity, we will avoid the embarrassment of being found fighting a pointless war against prehistoric time as an imaginary enemy.

4. Once we have recognized the principles of the inspiration and historical nature of the Genesis account of creation, we should always be willing to reconsider and rethink our position on creation in the light of the objective observations of science. (Note here that we are recommending primarily the objective data discovered by science. We are not asking Christians to rethink their position on creation in the light of scientific theory, or even in the light of the general consensus of scientific opinion. Theories are necessary for the advancement of science, but the fact that they may fluctuate greatly is a reason for caution in their use.)

5. The future ministry of evangelicals can be improved by a stronger emphasis on scientific studies within our Christian institutions. This will provide a foundation so that the abundance of scientific data now available can be properly understood and used. The non-radiometric time indicators should be given more attention, as these are more easily understood by the general public. These can be an extremely helpful aid in illustrating the greatness and wisdom of God, in contrast to the widespread conception of God as small and time-bound. The long periods of time seen in these indicators can help us present a clear picture of the magnitude and extent of God's creative and sustaining works in the earth.

6. Future conflicts and misunderstandings can be reduced greatly by making a clear-cut distinction between the question of great age and that of evolution, just as many of the early evangelical leaders in America did. The separating of these two issues can be of untold value, both in promoting mutual understanding between Christians and