

- A. A recent television commercial says: in these days of uncertainty, we turn to the most certain thing there is: science. Why would an ad make such a statement?
- "Scientism" is what this is – the idea that science provides the only certain knowledge that can be. It's an audacious thought, and a lot of people fall for it. But you don't even have to be a Christian to see the fallacy of it. After all, the statement "all truth has to come from a test tube" itself did not come out of any test tube! Someone thought this up. The problem is not science itself, but what people make of it.
 - Carlyle wrote almost 200 years ago, "*Our true deity is mechanism.*" Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, right up to today, science and its cousin technology have made marvelous improvements in the day-to-day lives of people. It began to seem that science could explain pretty much anything, in terms of what people could hear and see and feel. People started putting a trust in science that, in many ways, has not abated. It's no wonder, as people these days feel an urgent need to find medical solutions to pressing health problems, that we encounter the talk which says that science will not back down – that the scientific community all over the world is banding together, using science as a tool.
- B. Spiritually, what do you make of this?
- It's idolatry, a classic case of confusing the creation with the Creator! It forgets that "*Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain*" (Psalm 127:1).
 - Yet such unbelief is nothing new. The Old Testament king Asa of Judah had a severe foot disease in his old age, but the Bible says that "*even in his disease, he did not seek the Lord, but sought help from physicians*" (2 Chr. 16:12). Seeking help from the Lord will lead you to acknowledge that He is God, and you are not. Sinners have wanted to do that. And remember, Christians are sinners too!
 - Science is not a force "out there." Trusting in science is really trusting in ourselves as the human race – trust in human capability, not to say human good will. (Science has made horrible weapons, etc.!) Why should God have tender thoughts toward people who take such little thought of Him?
 - Enfleshment: Yet God drew near to us: Word became flesh. "*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life . . . we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ*" (1 John 1:1-3). In Christ, God became, if you will, a science experiment. When people heard Jesus, they heard God . . . saw Him, saw God . . . touched Him, touched God. Love is not that we loved God; He loved us and sent His Son as the complete covering for sins. God has given us eternal life, and that life is in His Son.
 - Naturalism is a view that goes hand-in-hand with scientism. It thinks the natural world is all there is.
 - Of course, science does not deal in supernatural explanations. It doesn't even look for them. Well, there's no surprise that science doesn't end up finding what it never looked for.
 - Still more: when you have God in Christ, you can face up to life, both the natural and the supernatural, in His strength – that is, with faith and hope that come from Him. So acknowledge Him – in all things. It doesn't rain just because weather fronts collide; God is caring for creation.
- C. Sometimes people call Christianity an enemy of science. Is that true?
- Christianity does not oppose genuine science. For science to have developed, people needed to believe 1.) that the world is not divine, so you can experiment on it. And they needed confidence 2.) that the universe is intelligible. Christians with these beliefs spurred the growth of science. E.g., J. Kepler.
 - Evangelical knowledge of God is what people need.
 - Science can study God's works in creation but cannot tell you Who He is or what He thinks about you. Looking at nature, here during a pandemic, you might conclude that God is apathetic or cruel.
 - You need to see God in Christ. As Jesus said: whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. With a gracious Father, Christians know that no one can be more comfortable than them in His creation. And we look forward to God's new creation.