**It Still Comes Down to Faith! (5/23/2018) -** I am thankful to the Lord for all of those present tonight. Tonight is the last night of our meeting on Evidences of God. I hope this has been helpful and encouraging to you. I am so glad you asked me to come and humbled in my heart for it. The title of my lesson is, “**It Still Comes Down to Faith**”.

**1. Definition of Faith (Hebrews 11:1-3)** - We believe when we see evidence of things we do not see! We see all around us evidence of things not seen; trees, birds, animals, stars, planets, fossils, etc. They all should make us realize that these things did not come into being by accident.

**2. Who or what do people put their faith in?** Most of mankind put their faith in their own wisdom(**Acts 17:21, Romans 1:25**).\*Let us look at modern day examples where man’s wisdom does not have the answers!

**Eclipses:** Recently we experienced a solar eclipse. One so-called expert on TV called this a “cosmic coincidence”, a “religious experience for astronomers”. It certainly should have been but for different reasons. Is it really a coincidence that the moon is the perfect size to intercept the rays of the sun perfectly? Is a lunar eclipse a coincidence when at times we have the shadow of the earth perfectly intercepting the glow of the moon? Is it a cosmic coincidence when you know exactly when the eclipse is going to happen, down to the year, day, and minute? Wikipedia has a list of solar eclipses to happen in the 21st Century with the last one predicted for September 4, 2100. Two lunar eclipses are to happen in the same year of 2100, on February 24 and August 19. Christians know why this is the case from **Genesis 1:14-19**. Eclipses are not accidents, coincidences, or chance events. They are facts and we know when they will happen because God created the universe in an organized way and He is the only one who can change that. Most people miss this (**Romans 1:18-20**).

**Fire Ants –** In the floods of 2015 in South Carolina, many made observations of fire ants grabbing one another to form rafts and survive the floods. They can do this for several days. This has actually been witnessed again in the recent floods in Houston! Does man know how these ants figured out how to survive like this?

**Gray Wolf** – In the fall of 2007 a gray wolf was seen in Massachusetts and biologists wondered how the animal could have traveled so far. If this wolf from somewhere else, the experts say, it likely crossed the St. Lawrence River in Quebec, went through Maine, then navigated hundreds of miles of roads, rivers, and communities before reaching Shelburne, Massachusetts. Well, later, DNA confirmed that this wolf was related to those in the region of Yellowstone National Park.

**Polar Bears** – Going against the media’s concern over polar bears survival due to global warming, there are more polar bears now than in 1972. In 1972 there were about 5,000 and the most recent estimates are now at 28,500 polar bears. Many want to scare us into thinking that man controls the earth’s destiny. There is only one who has that control and it is not man (**2 Peter 3:5-7**)!

**Wolverine** – Until this a picture of a wolverine was taken on February 28, 2008 by a motion-and-heat-detecting digital camera in the northern part of the Sierra Nevada range in California, scientists didn't believe wolverines still existed there. The latest sighting of a wolverine in California was in June of 2016.

**Maud Island frog** – This Maud Island frog lives at the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary in New Zealand. It is claimed that this rare breed has changed little over the past 70 million years. Unlike other frogs, they hatch fully formed, skipping the tadpole stage. They also do not croak, live in water, or have webbed feet. And no one knows why it has not “evolved” to be like other frogs. ***If evolution is true why hasn’t this frog evolved like other frogs?***

**Telea Hairstreak Butterfly** – Visitors flocked to Falcon State Park in Texas after this rare telea hairstreak butterfly was captured on film by Berry Nall in October of 2007. The butterfly hadn't been seen in the U.S. for more than 70 years.

**Fishing Monkeys** – Researchers say they have discovered groups of the silver-haired monkeys in Indonesia that fish. Long-tailed macaques have been observed scoping up small fish and eating them. Erik Meijaard, one of the authors of a study on fishing macaques that appeared in an article in the International Journal of Primatology said ***"It's an indication of how little we know about the species."***

Remember how God showed Job his proper place in **Job chapters 38-42**? He reminded Job that He knows every detail about His Creation because He created all things when man knows very little. ***Who is any man to question God?***

**Giant Squid** – In December 2006, scientists released footage of a giant squid -- here attacking a bait squid -- that may be the first images of a live giant squid at the water's surface.

**Green Tree Frog** – On March 25, 2009 it was announced that a brilliant green tree frog with huge black eyes, jumping spiders, and a striped gecko were among more than 50 new animal species scientists have discovered in a remote, mountainous region of Papua, New Guinea.

**Coelacanth** – The coelacanth, which is related to lungfishes and tetrapods, was believed to have been extinct 66 million years ago. On December 22, 1938, a specimen was found off the east coast of South Africa. Museum curator Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer discovered the fish among the catch of a local angler.

**Oarfish** – In October of 2013 it took more than 15 people to help haul the catch of a lifetime out of the Pacific (the silvery carcass of an 18-foot-long, serpent-like oarfish). Marine science instructor Jasmine Santana of the Catalina Island Marine Institute was snorkeling off the Southern California coast when she spotted the giant sea creature with eyes the size of half dollars. Because oarfish dive more than 3,000 feet deep, sightings of the creatures are rare and they are largely unstudied, according to CIMI.

**Smoothtooth Blacktip Shark** – In January of 2014 an “extinct shark” was discovered in a Kuwait fish market. The smoothtooth blacktip shark isn't quite as extinct as scientists had believed it to be, say researchers who found one for sale in a Kuwait fish market. Further research in the region turned up another 47 specimens of the shark, though the only one previously known to scientists was a specimen brought back to the Vienna Museum in 1902 by a naturalist who had visited Yemen. The find "doesn’t necessarily mean the sharks are thriving and totally safe from being snuffed," notes Sarah Laskow at Grist, but **"scientists maybe need to look a little harder before declaring a species extinct."**

**Some Observations From These Examples**

1. Man does not have the answers (**Jeremiah 10:23**)
2. God’s wisdom is higher than the wisdom of man (**Proverbs 9:10, Isaiah 55:8-9**)
3. The wise will put their faith in Jesus (**Matthew 7:24**)

**3. True Faith is more than just believing someone.**

**(A) We must put our total trust in God** - The faithful (e.g., Noah, Abraham, Moses, the Apostles) turned their lives and homes totally over to God's control, without holding anything back. They gave up ALL to follow the Lord (**Luke 5:11, Galatians 2:20, Hebrews 11:8**). To be acceptable to God, our faith must be one that does not hold anything back (**Colossians 3:17**).

**(B) We must have Humility** - Men of faith had to humble themselves. Obedient Faith Requires Humility. By humbling ourselves to God, then and only then, will He lift us up (**James 4:10,** 1 Peter 5:6-7). This is hard for modern man - He thinks his wisdom is supreme and he does not need anyone (**1 Corinthians 3:18-20**).

No matter what evidences we see of God, we must choose the one we are going to put our faith in and diligently seek (**Hebrews 11:6**)! If we could prove all things; there would be no need for faith. God says without faith it is **IMPOSSIBLE** to please Him. We have to make a choice.

Let us humbly put all our trust in God, holding nothing back! **Have you given up all to follow Him? Who is your faith in tonight?**

If you are not a Christian, you need to put your trust and faith in Jesus Christ! The Creator of all things we see around us, died for you! Put on Christ in baptism to have your sins washed away (**Galatians 3:26-29**). Then He will provide for you and lead you to eternal life in Heaven! If we can help you now, please come forward while we stand and sing.