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Published Thursday, January 31, 2008 4:09 AM PST

Commentary

Our Readers Write

On science, Creationism

[Re: In Theory, Religion Section, Valley Sun, Jan. 24]

The recent release of "Science, Evolution, and Creationism" by the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine, is again raising the question whether Creationism or "intelligent design" should be taught in public schools. The authors of the report conclude that it should not, because the theory of evolution, as part of the biological sciences, can be proven, while Creationism by any name is a belief that cannot.

An even more urgent reason that Creationism should not be taught in public schools is because our Founding Fathers wisely wrote into law the First Amendment to the Constitution. Teaching Creationism in public schools would be tantamount to the local government endorsing a particular religious viewpoint as accepted, and by omission, all other religious or irreligious viewpoints rejected.

A third option is to acknowledge the first chapter of Genesis, in which God made everything good, as the true record of creation, as Christian Scientists do. In that chapter, creation is presented as an orderly unfoldment of God's kingdom — a spiritually-based record. Creation is neither Darwinian nor Adamic, because each lacks the spiritual goodness of God.

The Founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, encouraged secular study, saying in her primary work, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, "Academics of the right sort are requisite. Observation, invention, study, and original thought are expansive and should promote the growth of mortal mind out of itself, out of all that is mortal." In an interview with the *New York Herald* in 1901, she endorsed scientific inventions as needed progress.

We don't need to be afraid of a potential conflict between religion and science. Nothing can change God's law or the activity of His creation. Scientific theories will come and go, but God's kingdom remains a constant and is good.

— **Mary Bothwell**

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