

## **WHAT IS TRUTH?**

“And what is truth?” asked Pontius Pilot of Jesus. The dictionary defines truth as reality or conformity to actuality. Might the reason why the Lord did not answer Pilot be that the Truth was standing in front of him?

Religion and science have often been portrayed as being against one another. Yet, both are about the truth, - that is, they seek to know that which is real. Each brings its search from a different perspective. Nevertheless, what they seek is the same, although the reason for their search differs.

Religion is about understanding the Creator. Science is about understanding his creation. Both the Creator and his creation are a part of the same picture. Whether anyone wants to admit it or not, it appears that religion and science are converging closer and closer over the years of their development. How can they not, if both strive to be genuine? The discovery of the existence of places mentioned in Sacred Scripture is an example.

During my days at Michigan State University as well as when I was studying for the priesthood in Rome, I was intrigued by the notion of God creating through an evolutionary process. Of course, we have to understand that only for us is it a matter of process, while for the Creator it is instantaneous. That is the difference between time and eternity.

Science has had us believe that humans developed over a long period of time from a common ancestor shared with other primates. This has been based on various skeletal discoveries dating back millions of years. One of these has been called Lucy who lived 3.2 million years ago. She has been thought of as someone with a primitive gait. In other words, she walked like a chimp and even liked to climb trees. She was thought to be an ancestor of ours.

Because the pieces of scientific information have not made a perfect chain, there is the matter of the so-called missing link that, when discovered, will tie everything together. Of course, scientific circles are not allowed to admit that such a missing link could be God.

*Science News* recently reported the discovery in Ethiopia of a more complete skeleton that appears to be a half million years older than Lucy. While one might expect that such a discovery would show a person more primitive than Lucy, the contrary is the case. As a matter of fact, this person, who lived almost four million years ago, looked pretty much like we do. He walked like us. And, he liked to run, - upright like we do. I find this exciting. Why?

As the discovering scientists conclude, this discovery suggests that, if there is a common ancestor with other primates, humans diverged from them quicker than earlier believed. Said another way, humans do not appear to have come upon the scene as gradually as once thought. Dare we suggest that the appearance of the human race came about rather suddenly? For us who believe that creation did not come about without a Creator, that makes perfect sense. Scientists will have an even greater task of looking for their “missing link.”

Deep down, we all yearn for truth. Pilot did, as well. We want to be a part of something that is authentic and not artificial. Perhaps, our whole life is a search for truth. When we have found it, we, too, will have come face to face with God.