



Q3 IS NOT ALONE!

Dr. Diane Davis

If you find that you and members of your church congregation are struggling with issues of how Christian faith and science in both theory and practice interact, you will be interested to know that these topics are under serious scrutiny around the globe. In July, I was able to attend the International Society for Science and Religion (ISSR) conference held at Oxford, England entitled “God and Physics.” The conference was especially wonderful as many noted scientists, academicians, and theologians from around the world attended in order to honor Sir John Polkinghorne, Cambridge physicist and Anglican theologian, for his contributions in this field on the occasion of his upcoming 80th birthday. Both the leaders and other attendees were uniformly gracious, and I really had the sense that I was in the presence of fellow Christians who were greatly concerned to keep our traditional Christian beliefs in the arena of public truth.

I went on to the Faraday Institute at Cambridge, where I attended a 6 day course on Science and Religion, and again there were attendees from many countries. The Faraday Institute is headed by Dr. Denis Alexander, a noted biologist, and its mission is to promote interdisciplinary discussion and scholarship in the science/religion field, as well as the very important task of providing correct information to the public.

These experiences have strengthened my belief that we evangelical Christians cannot simply put up barriers against the inroads of scientific findings and wall ourselves off behind a literal interpretation of Creation passages in the Bible. We must deal with public knowledge and its relationship to Christian history and doctrine. We must wrestle with the interpretation of God’s living Word for the circumstances in which we find ourselves today – or we risk making Jesus’ call to follow Him more difficult and reason-denying than it needs to be. Just ask the many confused high school and college students if you are not certain that presenting science and Christian belief as enemies does not pose a problem for their faith. I am thankful to find that important educational institutions like Oxford and Cambridge, as well as our own Asbury Theological Seminary, are giving serious consideration to this debate as I think it has vital implications for our Christian witness, especially to the educated non-believers of the world.



Diane W. Davis, M.D.