



CENTRAL SHELBY CHURCH OF CHRIST

working and worshipping together to serve the Lord



*"Jesus answered and said to her,
'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst
again, but whoever drinks of the water that I
shall give him will become in him a fountain of
of water springing up into everlasting life.'" (John 4:13, 14)*

AN UNJUST RULING

A federal judge recently ordered a suburban Atlanta school system to remove stickers from its high school textbooks that call evolution "a theory, not a fact," saying that such statements are an unconstitutional endorsement of religion.

"By denigrating evolution, the School Board appears to be endorsing the well-known prevailing theory, creationism or variations thereof, even though the sticker does not specifically reference any alternative theories," U.S. District Judge Clarence Cooper said.

"The stickers were put inside the books' front covers by Cobb County public school officials in 2002. They state: 'This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully and critically considered'" (Associated Press, January 14, 2005).

Permit a few observations:

[1] Such a ruling is but another illustration of the extreme liberal bias in many of our courts today. Read the words of the textbook sticker again for yourself. Do you see any one phrase that even remotely suggests an endorsement of creationism, let alone religion? While the word cannot be found, this judge somehow saw it.

[2] Yet the statement on the textbook sticker is correct. Evolution, the idea that "all species develop from earlier forms of life," is **not** a fact. What **is** fact is that "in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them..." (Exodus 20:11).

[3] Even the science community would admit (if honest with itself) that the "theory of evolution" is not scientific fact. The word, theory, itself means "abstract thought or contemplation... an idea of or belief about something arrived at through **speculation** or **conjecture**" (emphasis mine, mn). Actually, Evolution might be better described as an hypothesis, "a tentative explanation for a phenomenon, used as a basis for further investigation" (Microsoft World English Dictionary). The

theory of Evolution is just a guess, folks -- just a stab in the dark by "fools" who say "there is no God" (Psalm 53:1).

[4] Christians should take heart, even in the light of such kangaroo court judgments, and remember the words of Solomon: "Moreover I saw under the sun: In the place of judgment, wickedness was there; and in the place of righteousness, iniquity was there. I said in my heart, 'God shall judge the righteous and the wicked, for there shall be a time there for every purpose and for every work'" (Ecclesiastes 3:16-17).

--*Mike Noble*