

Scriptures to do Science By

by Dr. Jay L. Wile, Ph.D.

Qualifications

- As a university professor, helped develop Indiana's Only Residential High School for Gifted and Talented Students
- NSF-Sponsored Scientist with More Than \$200,000 In Research Grants
- Became Interested in Homeschooling Because of Excellent University Students Who Were Homeschooled
- Currently writes homeschooling courses and is an adjunct professor at Memoria College

Psalm 112:1-4

“Praise the Lord! How blessed is the man who fears the Lord, Who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, And his righteousness endures forever. Light arises in the darkness for the upright; He is gracious and compassionate and righteous.”

This is true for all parts of our lives, including science

Roger Bacon, the father of the scientific method, put it this way:

“For the grace of faith illuminates greatly, as also do divine inspirations, not only in things spiritual, but in things corporeal and in the sciences of philosophy...”

James Clerk Maxwell, the father of electromagnetism, regularly prayed for the Lord to guide his scientific research. One of his prayers that was preserved:

“Almighty God, Who hast created man in Thine own image, and made him a living soul that he might seek after Thee, and have dominion over Thy creatures, teach us to study the works of Thy hands, that we may subdue the earth to our use, and strengthen the reason for Thy service; so to receive Thy blessed Word, that we may believe in Him Whom Thou hast sent, to give us the knowledge of salvation and the remission of our sins. All of which we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

Dr. James Tour is the world's most important synthetic organic chemist. He and his research team have actually built molecules that act like cars! They hope to use them to “deliver” other molecules to particular places, like tumors in someone's body.

“As a scientist, when posed with scientific mysteries that have presented themselves in my research, I have so often bowed my heart and prayed, ‘Lord, make your light shine on this darkness. When no others can see, please Lord, let me see.’ On many occasions, when graduate students have brought their puzzling laboratory results and laid them on my desk, I have been as baffled as they. So remembering [Psalm 112:4], which I had long before committed to memory, I pray for light, and God answers. Surely, meditating on God's word can cause light to arise in darkness even for the challenges that confront our secular careers.”

Psalm 19:1-2

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.

Johannes Kepler believed that.

“For in the sphere, which is the image of God the Creator and the Archetype of the world-as was proved in Book 1-there are three regions, symbols of the three persons of the Holy Trinity – the center, a symbol of the Father; the surface, of the Son; and the intermediate space, of the Holy Ghost.”

Kepler published his first two laws of planetary motion in 1609, 8 years after getting all of Tycho Brahe’s observations of the planets.

It took 10 more years to publish his third law, which gave the first mathematical relationship between a planet’s orbital period and its distance from the sun.

Would he have looked at Brahe’s data for 18 years had he not seen the image of God in the universe?

Dr. Arthur Leonard Schawlow shared the 1981 Nobel Prize in Physics with Nicolaas Bloembergen and Kai Siegbahn for his work on laser spectroscopy. As a tribute to him, the American Physical Society established the Arthur L. Schawlow Prize in Laser Science.

“But the context of religion is a great background for doing science. In the words of Psalm 19, “The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork.” Thus scientific research is a worshipful act, in that it reveals more of the wonders of God’s creation.”

Psalm 111:2

“Great are the works of the Lord; They are studied by all who delight in them.”

This was inscribed above the doors of the most important science lab in the world – the Cavendish Laboratory

Romans 1:20

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

Blaise Pascal wrote his first scientific paper at the ripe old age of 16. He invented a mechanical calculator for his father, and he designed and had his brother-in-law execute the definitive experiment that showed air exerts pressure.

“Nature has some perfections to show that she is the image of God, and some defects to show that she is only His image.”

Carolus Linnaeus

“I saw the infinite, all-knowing and all-powerful God from behind...I followed His footsteps over nature’s fields and saw everywhere an eternal wisdom and power, an inscrutable perfection.”

His classification system brought order to the chaotic mess of biological observations, because he knew that God makes order out of Chaos.

Henry F. Schaefer, III is the Graham Perdue Professor of Chemistry and the director of the Center for Computational Quantum Chemistry at the University of Georgia. He has revolutionized our ideas on how atoms work together to form molecules.

He has more than 750 scientific publications to his credit. It is not surprising, then, that he is the second most quoted chemist in the world. He Sees God in Every Advance He Makes

“The significance and joy in my science comes in the occasional moments of discovering something new and saying to myself, 'So that's how God did it!' My goal is to understand a little corner of God's plan.”

That last sentence is, in my mind, the best description of science. Only a scientist who sees God in what is being studied can take it to heart.

"When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas." -Psalm 8:3-8

Matthew F. Maury, an officer in the Navy, used this verse as inspiration for his research about the physical nature of the sea. That research resulting in a book - *The Physical Geography of the Sea*, which was the first comprehensive book on oceanography. In it, he describes those paths. We call them the **SHIPPING LANES**.

A monument to his honor reads, "Matthew Fontaine Maury, Pathfinder of the Seas, the Genius Who First Snatched from the Ocean and Atmosphere the Secret of Their Laws....His Inspiration, Holy Writ, Psalms 8 & 107, Verses 3, 23 & 24, Ecclesiastes Chap 1, Verse 6. A Tribute By His Native State."

In a speech at a university, he said, “I have been blamed by men of science, both in this country and in England, for quoting the Bible in confirmation of the doctrines of physical geography. The Bible, they say, was not written for scientific purposes, and is therefore of no authority in matters of science. I beg pardon! The Bible is authority for everything it touches.”

Dr. Russel Humphreys developed the only theory of planetary magnetic fields that has made successful predictions about magnetic fields of other planets.

His inspiration:

“...by the word of God, the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water.” -2 Peter 3:5