

Judeo-Christian view of the world and acknowledged God's presence in their lives. Their desire to comprehend His creation was a driving force in their work. They held an open system view of the world.

The *open system* allows for a personal and rational God who created the world with beauty and harmony and universal laws that can be relied upon to give continuing order. We can therefore expect to find natural and, for the most part, uniform cause-and-effect relationships. However, the cosmic machine is not all there is to reality. The Universe is *open*. God exists *outside* of the system He has created. God can and does intervene in the apparent uniformity of natural causes. Francis Schaeffer states that "things go on in a cause-and-effect sequence, but at a point of time the direction may be changed by God or by people. Consequently, there is a place for God, but there is also a proper place for man."³

But something has changed in the last century. We have become so intrigued with the success of our research and technology that we now overlook the Creator of all that we are so feverishly studying and utilizing. Instead, we stand in awe of science and those who claim to understand it. We treasure their discoveries, which improve our physical lives, and ignore the God who stands behind it all. Once God has been omitted, we have fallen directly into the trap that Francis Schaeffer calls the *closed system*.

The *closed system* is a philosophic view of the Universe that strictly limits itself to what scientists can directly perceive, observe, quantify, and reduce to mathematical formulas. It holds to the concept of uniformity of natural causes, but only within a *closed* cosmic machine. Nothing can exist *outside* of this box -- this *closed* system of "natural" cause and effect.

But does the evidence prove we live in a closed system? Certainly not! The creation of the Universe appears to be *outside* of the closed system. It is a point of singularity. A step of creation! And there may be many other steps of singularity or creation that come from *outside* a closed system.

I would like to request that if we teach evolution by random chance, we also do the following:

- State that we are teaching *only* the closed system view of the world. We should state the prejudices of this belief system at the beginning and throughout the course.
- When we teach the origin of life, it is not fair to start with all of the materials, energy, and natural laws in place. We should tell our students that science simply does not know the ultimate origin of the