Thursday, January 5

Required Readings

• From Engaging God’s World
  – Preface
  – Chapter 1: Longing and Hope

• From the DCM Reader:
  – Preface
  – Chapter 1 Introduction
  – Garber, To See What You See
  – Colson & Pearcey, What Are We Doing Here?
  – Sire, What is a Worldview?

Class

• Devotions, Quiz, Discussion
• Fiddler on the Roof
• Pre-course survey on Probability and Statistics
• Preparing for tomorrow’s topic: Creation

For Tomorrow

Readings

• Plantinga, Ch. 2, Creation

• From the DCM Reader:
  – Chapter 2 Introduction
  – Atkins, The Limitless Power of Science
  – Gould, Non-Overlapping Magisteria
  – Fang Li Zhi, Note on the Interface Between Science and Religion
  – MacKay, A Scientist in God’s World

Quiz

We will again have a quiz tomorrow. You will be allowed to use your reading notes for the quiz.
Thinking About Creation

For tomorrow you will be reading a number of articles about creation, and tomorrow’s plenary talk is entitled *An Astronomer’s View of Creation*. To get us thinking about the issues involved, here are two discussion questions. Below each question are some possible answers. Which answer comes closest to what you think?

1. How should Christians think about science?

   (a) A lot of scientists are atheists who try to use science to disprove God. Christians should do science to try to prove that science and the Bible agree.
   
   (b) There may be conflicts between science and Christianity, but we don’t need to worry about them. We know the Bible is true. If you know Jesus and serve him, that’s what’s really important.
   
   (c) There aren’t really any conflicts between science and Christianity because science and religion are separate things. Science tells us how the world works and the Bible tells us about God. Science can’t disprove Christianity and the Bible doesn’t teach science.

   If you don’t like any of these options how would you answer the question?

2. When you think about the world in which we live, how would you describe your typical attitude?

   (a) This world is an amazing place, full of beauty. We should enjoy it, study it, and take care of it.
   
   (b) This world is full of weeds and sickness and sin. To the extent that this world is enjoyable, it tempts us away from God. Our goal should be to leave this world behind and concentrate on heaven.
   
   (c) This world is a battleground between good and evil. Some of it is good, but some of it is under Satan’s power because of sin. As we live in this world, we need to fight on God’s side.
   
   (d) This physical world is unimportant (and ultimately irrelevant) compared to the spiritual. The physical world is just a stage, the truly important realm is the spiritual.

   If you don’t like any of the above answers, how would you answer the question?