

THIS WEEK'S "PROJECT POTENCY" FOR THE 2016 CALVARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SCIENCE SHOWCASE-

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*THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE: THE 'WHY' FOR THE WHAT*

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"So What?!"

That's a big question creation scientists must ask themselves on a regular basis. It's great to do high quality work on a project. Precision when it comes checking variables is most admirable. Close analysis on the more data you can get, the better. Even thorough and expedient sharing of your discoveries with other scientists through collaboration can be an exciting thing.

What if you've spent your whole life in scientific pursuit of information but you really haven't made a difference in the world? Would it really be worth all the time, effort, disappointment and work you've put in? There are plenty of secular scientists out there with big names and big incomes. If all they can give their fellow man is, "Well, we know a lot about how the world and living organisms work," but can't provide a purpose for it all, then "so what?" Have they really gotten the most out of their calling to be a scientist?

Good, substantive science must have a rationale- an honorable reason- for pursuing truth in the first place. –a scientific "so what" What is your "so what" for your science project? Is there any value to your investigation in helping your neighbor? –Or glorifying God Almighty for the phenomenal earth and universe he's so elegantly and expansively laid out before you? I think being able to answer those sorts of important questions are what enables a real scientist to hang in there over the long haul. Your work matters when you can answer the big questions of life like-

*Where did I come from?*

*Is there any reason for me to exist?*

*Can I help alleviate some pain or suffering by my scientific pursuit?*

*What can I do to make my neighbor's life a little easier or more fulfilling?*

*How can I help people see how awesome God, my Creator is, and that He loves them?*

Every project probably has a cool verse from the Bible that relates. Your theological rationale is a significant part of your project because it answers the crucial question, "So what?" Here are a few scriptures God has given you to help you answer, "So what?" to the world around you:

1. The Creation Mandate:

Gen. 1: 28b- [God said,] "Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

God expects to take care of, manage, and be good stewards of what He's created for us.

2. The Great Commandment:

Mk. 12: 29ff- Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.'"

The best science finds ways to help other people by making their lives more bearable. Those in need don't just need someone to physically care for them. They also need sharp people to come up with ways for them to more efficiently help them take care of themselves.

3. All Glory to God:

1 Corinthians 10:31b- "...whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

When you can make science about glorifying God and helping other people, you'll have a much more fulfilling life.

**MAKE IT MATTER!**