

Heart's Cry

Albert Einstein was once travelling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, the scientist reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there, so he looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it.

The conductor said, "Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it." Einstein nodded appreciatively. As the conductor moved to the next car, he glanced back and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket. The conductor rushed back and said, "Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one." Einstein looked at him and said, "Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going."

Albert Einstein often described his life's goal as "to get into the mind of God". He wasn't a religious man, but he recognized all the hallmarks of intelligent design in the construction of the universe – from the stars, right down to sub-atomic particles. While less humble scientists were cooking-up absurd theories - and presenting them as 'facts' - Einstein was content to observe the wonder of creation, and offer some thoughts about how it functioned. His contributions remain at the pinnacle of scientific endeavour. I sometimes wonder how much more he might have accomplished, if only he'd taken a more direct route "into the mind of God" - if he'd looked to the creator instead of creation. I'm sure he would have eagerly accepted God's invitation in the book of Jeremiah - "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." And whatever else God might have revealed to him about *how* things function, he would have certainly known the "why"....and he would also have known (ultimately) where he was going.

Many people today do not share Einstein's fascination with truth. They will embrace whatever theory affirms their world-view, or whatever philosophy is least demanding. Many more prefer not to think about such matters at all – and I don't blame them: the choice is usually portrayed as between a pointless existence in a universe which happened by chance, or blind allegiance to some po-faced, finger-wagging deity whose only interest is in stopping people having fun. I don't buy either of those...there is a third option. There is God as he really is.

"God as he really is" created the universe that so enthralled Einstein, but God is not the cold, distant tyrant of church mythology...we are designed for relationship with him, not for religious observance. Christianity can answer the tough intellectual questions, but also the cry of the heart. It is equally valid and accessible to the Albert Einsteins *and* the Homer Simpsons of this world (and those of us between). It is designed for all.

If you're ready to consider the possibility of that third option (God as he really is) why not come along to our Alpha supper? It'll give you an idea of whether you'd enjoy the course, it will be fun – perhaps even thought provoking – and you won't have to do the washing up. And I'll do my best to answer any questions...even if I'm more Homer than Albert!