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Cunningham's "Darwin's Pious Idea: Why the Ultra-Darwinists and Creationists Both Get it Wrong (Book Review)

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Book Reviews



**Darwin's Pious Idea: Why the Ultra-Darwinists and
Creationists Both Get it Wrong,**

by Conor Cunningham. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010.
543 pp., \$40.00; ISBN 9780802848383

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Cunningham is a British scholar who is both a Christian and affirms the theory of evolution. He asserts that both sides, ultra-Darwinists and Creationists, are both wrong. This lengthy volume is a methodical analysis of the topic using historical, philosophical, theological, and scientific sources to draw conclusions. Cunningham is assistant director of the Centre of Theology and Philosophy at the University of Nottingham, England. Readers undertaking the goal of a “cover-to-cover” reading ought to be prepared to use the endnotes (and other sources) for a full understanding of the material. This title is not a popular treatment of “evolution” but is a meaningful scholarly tome.

Many contemporary attempts have been undertaken with the purpose of integrating creation and evolution, Cunningham may be distinguished from others for his detailed integration of scientific analysis and theological/philosophical understanding. The volume is organized into seven chapters: Introducing Darwinism – the Received View: Disenchantment, The Units of Resurrection, Unnatural Selection, Evolution: Making Progress, Matter over Mind: “We Have Never Been Modern,” Naturalizing Naturalism: Materialism’s Ghosts, and Another Life: “We Have Never Been Medieval.” The volume included 80 pages of Endnotes which document this treatise as a testament to the thoroughness.

Certainly, evangelical Christian scholars may enrich their knowledge by reading a comprehensive analysis of this continuing controversial topic. Contemporary students will benefit from the wisdom which is scrutinized from the fundamental aspects of our faith and Christian life to the rigors of scientific methodology. Evangelical libraries should add this title to enhance their collection covering the topic of “creationism.”