

PHIL 101  
Winter 2008  
Self, World,  
& God

## Classical Teleological Argument

E<sub>1</sub>. The physical universe exists.  
 E<sub>2</sub>. It came into existence 10 to 20 billion years ago.  
 E<sub>3</sub>. The biological world exhibits tremendous structure, order and purpose.

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T<sub>0</sub>. God exists, designed and created it.

## Explaining Biological Structure, Order, and Purpose

- Theistic explanation
- Rivals in Hume and Paley's time
  - Secular naturalism
  - Religious pluralism
- The Darwinian rival
- Understanding Darwin
- The best explanation?

## My Cause

- A conflict for my students
- What their culture teaches them
- What their professors teach them
- What is intellectual freedom?
- Lack of understanding about evolution
- Need to sympathetically understand those positions you most disagree with
- The conflict may be unreal

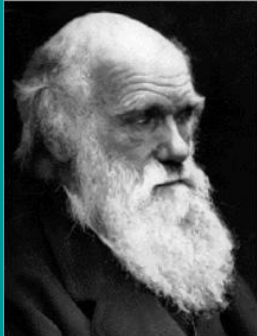
## What Darwin's Theory Isn't

- It isn't a theory about the origin of the universe
- It isn't a theory about the origin of life
- It isn't a theory that says that God does not exist
- It isn't "just a theory"
- The secular world view
- Understanding and misunderstanding science

## God and Evolution

- Are religion and science compatible?
- Are theism and evolution compatible?
- The culture, again
- Fundamentalism
- Evolution in mainstream Christianity
- Science and academic theology
- Science as positive evidence for the existence of God
- Why couldn't evolution be God's chosen mechanism for creating life?

## Charles Darwin



- 1809-82
- Family
- College
- *The Beagle*
- Return to England
- Early research
- The idea
- 1844 paper
- Alfred Wallace's 1858 letter
- *Origin of Species* (1859)