

# RIVENDELL SANCTUARY LECTURE SERIES

**Presents**  
**Dr. Paul Nelson**



**Thursday,**  
**September 20**

7:00pm @ Bethany Church  
6900 Auto Club Road  
Bloomington, MN 55438

**Topic: Whatever Happened to Darwin's  
Tree of Life?**

Join Rivendell Sanctuary in welcoming Dr. Paul Nelson

for a public lecture next Thursday, September 20th at 7pm. Since the publication of the *Origin of Species* in 1859, most biologists have accepted that all living things descended from a common ancestor in Earth's distant past, in a pattern forming a great Tree of Life. Within the past 15 years, however, motivated by a flood of unexpected evidence from DNA sequencing, many evolutionary biologists now doubt that this Tree of Life picture is true. Dr. Nelson's lecture will describe the exciting discoveries leading to this remarkable change of perspective, spelling out the implications for the future of biology and the idea of intelligent design.

Dr. Paul A. Nelson is a philosopher of biology who has been involved in the intelligent design debate internationally for over two decades. His grandfather, Byron C. Nelson (1893-1972), a theologian and author, was an influential mid-20<sup>th</sup> century dissenter from Darwinian evolution. After Paul received his B.A. in philosophy with a minor in evolutionary biology from the University of Pittsburgh, he entered the University of Chicago, where he received his Ph.D. (1998) in the philosophy of biology and evolutionary theory. He is currently a Fellow of the Discovery Institute and Adjunct Professor in the Master of Arts Program in Science & Religion at Biola University.

An early associate of Professor Phillip Johnson of UC-Berkeley, author of the bestselling critique *Darwin on Trial*, Paul was an organizer of the Mere Creation conference (1996), where the modern intelligent design research community first formed. His research interests include the relationship between developmental biology and our knowledge of the history of life, the theory of

intelligent design, and the interaction of science and theology. Paul lectures frequently at colleges and universities throughout the United States and Europe, has spoken on American and Italian national public radio, and written for popular publications as varied as the *Oslo Dagbladet* and the *Christian Research Journal*.

Nelson's scholarly articles have appeared in journals such as *Biology & Philosophy*, *Zygon*, *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*, and *Touchstone*, and book chapters in the anthologies *Mere Creation* (Intervarsity Press), *Signs of Intelligence* (Brazos), *Intelligent Design Creationism and Its Critics* (MIT Press), and *Darwin, Design, and Public Education* (Michigan State University Press). He has appeared in several films on intelligent design for Illustra Media, and is a member of the Society for Developmental Biology (SDB) and the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology (ISHPSSB).

Paul is married to Suzanne Nelson, M.D., M.P.H., a pediatric gastroenterologist. They reside in Glenview, IL, with their daughters, Hannah (20), a sophomore at Brown University, and Olivia (18), a first-year student at Macalester College.