Exploring the Age of the Earth

This week: Explore scientific and Biblical views on the age of the earth

1. Assume: God reveals through observation, set regular patterns for the creation, and gave us capacity to reason and understand the revelation (Jer. 33:25)

2. Encouragement for humility and grace in the debate
   a. R.C. Sproul, 2012 Ligonier National Conference Q&A
   b. Augustine, The Literal Meaning of Genesis

3. How scientists measure time
   a. tree rings (Dendrochronology)
   b. varves, annual ice layers
   c. Radioactive methods (carbon, other elements)

4. Biblical challenges regarding young earth
   a. Light and dark are separated on Day 1, then again on Day 4 (creation of sun and moon)
   b. Evening and Morning are declared for three days without a sun and moon
   c. Gen. 1 & 2
   d. Events before Gen. 1? (Job 38:4-7, 2 Pet. 3:3-7, Isa. 14:12)
   e. Gen. 1&2, Hebrews 4:9-11 Long seventh day of creation?

5. Biblical challenges regarding old earth
   a. Natural reading of Gen. 1, genealogies
   b. Mark 10:6
   c. Exodus 20:9-11
   d. Clearly, a global flood is not in the mind of scientists
   e. What kind of "death" entered into the world with sin?
   f. Time for evolution?

   a. Theistic Evolution (God creates through evolution)
   b. Gap Theory (old universe/earth, 6-day creation)
   c. Day-Age Theory (indeterminate length to day)
   d. Apparent Age Theory (young earth created to look old)
   e. Punctuated 24-hour Theory (millions of years between days)
   f. Scientific Creationism (young earth, flood geology)
   g. 24-Hour days (literal 24-hour day creation)
   h. Framework Interpretation (general plan, loose chronology)
   i. Historical Creationism (figurative creation, loose chronology)

7. Reminder for grace and humility