

Essay from the bold pastor

#197 – Pluto -

In 1930, a US astronomer Clyde Tombaugh (1906-1997) discovered a planetary-mass object orbiting in the Kuiper Belt or a circular disk in our solar system beyond Neptune. The object was recognized as the ninth planet and Walt Disney named it Pluto after Mickey Mouse's beloved dog.

In the mid-July of the last year, an unmanned probe New Horizon approached to the Pluto up to the proximity 12.500 kilometer after a long voyage of 50 billion kilometers. The photos of the brownish surface of Pluto that the probe sent astonished many. But, it was very ironical that in 2006 or the very same year as the probe was launched from the earth, the Astronomical Union (IAU) to define the term "planet" formally, during their 26th General Assembly. The new definition excluded Pluto and reclassified it as a "dwarf planet".

After 1992, Pluto's status as a planet was questioned following the discovery of several objects of similar size in the Kuiper belt due to an amazing advancement of telescope technology during the past decades. However, many US astronomers fiercely opposed the decision to demote Pluto to a "dwarf planet". Also in the California Institute of Technology, there was a big protest against the decision of IAU concerning Pluto, probably because Pluto was the only planet discovered by an American. However, the decision was not revoked in spite of these strong oppositions, made many Americans disappointment. The advancement of technologies might continue to cause confusions in future.

In the Bible,

Jeremiah 33:25 talks about "**Laws in heavens and earth.**"

Also, **Isaiah 40:22** describes "**the earth as a circle.**"

It was quite understandable that some prominent astronomers such as Galileo, Kepler and Newton that lived in the 16th Century Europe professed Christian faith. The term "science" literally refers to the knowledge, but unfortunately, human knowledge is imprecise and incomplete like our understanding on Pluto. If we believe in our Creator God from the beginning, there would be fewer conflicts later.

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