

Does God Exist? (18)

It should be recognized that the Bible makes no formal effort to prove the existence of God in a systematic way. The fact that God "is", is simply stated in this way, "In the beginning, God created..." (Genesis 1:1). However, the Bible does use the argument that "the heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands" (Psalms 19:1). The writer of Hebrews states that "every house is built by someone" (Hebrews 3:4). If a structure has design and purpose, it has a designer! When a person sees design, purpose, order, and complexity in anything, it is only natural to ask, "Who made this?" The design and order of the universe is evidence for a creator.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, {19} because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. {20} For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood what has been made, so that they are without excuse." ---- Romans 1:18-20

The famous scientist and inventor, Benjamin Franklin, was a believer in God. Some of his fellow scientists were not. They were constantly sparring with one another over the question of God's existence. Franklin crafted an elaborate model of our solar system with moving parts that depicted the planets' orbits around the sun. After his work was finished, he placed it on a table in the scientists' meeting room before anyone arrived. On purpose, he was the last one to arrive for the meeting. They were all excited about the marvelous model but their biggest interest when he entered the room was, "WHO MADE THIS?"

Franklin immediately seized the moment to point out their hypocrisy. If they could easily recognize that the order and design in this model called for a maker, why didn't they ask the same question when they looked at the real solar system?

An atheist is someone who does NOT believe in God. Atheists often ridicule the fact that Christians base their religion on "faith". Many today, including the atheist, think that faith is equal to superstition. But this is not so. The Bible says that "*faith is the ASSURANCE of things hoped for, the EVIDENCE of things not seen*" (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is not blind acceptance. Faith is TRUST, built upon evidence.

A person can have trust in something only if belief is more rational than unbelief. Human reasoning cannot prove that God exists, it can only show that it is more reasonable to believe in God than not to believe. Reason and faith are not enemies. The true Christian uses all his mental power to search for truth. No faith is worthy unless it is justified by the extreme use of reason and a search for truth.

The truth is that the atheist must also walk by faith. He must believe that life came from non-life. However, at this time the most basic law of biology is the law of bio-genesis that states, "life always comes from life". We have no evidence that life came from non-life.

The atheist may have his "reasons" for rejecting God, but to do so he has to reject this scientific law.

The atheist must believe that order came from chaos, that the conscience of man comes from material matter only, that the moral came from the non-moral, that intelligence came from non-intelligence. There is no scientific data to back up such assumptions.

Now, one evidence that God has given to support our faith is the design we see in the universe. When one considers how watches, computers, cars, etc. work, it is foolish to argue that they came into existence without help. How silly to say there is no watchmaker! Atheists would defend the fact that a computer did not just happen by chance. Now consider the human eye, the design of the human body, the design of the world and its relation to other creatures. These things dwarf the design of a computer; yet, we are asked to believe these things happened by chance. Experience and logic tell us that if there is design, there is a Designer. Signs of intelligence imply the existence of the intelligence behind them.

What is responsible for our ability to think, feel, and make moral decisions? How does one account for the mind and its reasoning processes? Are we to think that it is all based upon millions of years of chance mutations and natural selection? Atheism cannot explain consciousness. Lifeless matter cannot explain the mind. But God does explain it quite well.

Ultimately, one must face the evidence for Jesus. If the Bible is true, the existence of God is a foregone conclusion. If Jesus is true, then God is. In coming lessons we are going to give you the evidence that the story of Jesus is true. Weigh the facts presented-- if they are sufficient evidence - then you also will believe. If not, I at least thank you for being honest and open enough to listen to this evidence.

QUESTIONS:

1. What do you see in the universe as evidence for God's existence? - OR - If you don't believe in God, can you explain in a scientific way how the universe formed and how life on earth came into existence without depending on mere chance?
2. What do you think is the difference between faith and superstition?
3. What are at least two things that show that an atheist actually walks by faith?