

## Reasons Not to Compromise our Faith in Creation

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1. The Bible forthrightly states: "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth: (Psalm 46:10). God has not left this issue in doubt for us. In fact, He demands that we be ready to "give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15).
2. In answering questions about God's existence, we must understand that there is no "straddling the fence." There is no middle ground about His being. The "religious" person who claims that he believes there is a God but cannot prove it basically *does not really believe*. Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is *impossible* to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."
3. There may be members of the church who take the position that they cannot know that He exists, but "just to be safe" they will be religious. There is no "hedging bets" with God.

### **The Bible itself is overwhelming evidence of the existence of a providential, omnipotent, organized God.**

- A. The Bible provides witness to God. There is only one way to account for something of such beauty, harmony and truth: God inspired it. What other writings describe the human nature as honestly and sensitively as does the Bible? (Hebrews 4:12). Any honest student of the Bible will concur that God knows him better than he knows himself.
- B. The Bible states "the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament [expanse-GIH] sheweth His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1).
  1. When Barnabas and Paul came across idol worship in Asia, they admonished them to "turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He left not Himself without witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:15-17).
  2. Paul told the Romans that "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest to them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:18-20).
  3. The Bible testimony of creation, the harmony between the many different books, and the piercing honesty with which it describes us are all evidences of an unparalleled mighty Being whom we call God.

### **Scientific Evidences "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1).**

- A. There are those who will not hear the Bible. Nevertheless, they can still be taught about the existence of God if they will hear the overwhelming evidence of science.
- B. Every effect must have an adequate cause. This is a well-known scientific law. Consider the mighty rocket lifting off of the launching pad. The cause is the burning of the explosive fuel in its tanks. This generates a thrust or a force against the earth. The effect is "lift-off," simple cause and affect.
  1. Similarly, we can see this law illustrated in many different ways: gravity, electricity, and weather are just a few examples. The law of cause and effect also demonstrates that no effect can be qualitatively superior than the cause. The universe is a tremendous effect, but what is its cause? There are various answers to this question:

- a. It is an illusion.
  - b. It came from nothing.
  - c. It has always existed.
  - d. It was created.
2. The last answer is the only reasonable, logical and defensible one! The universe was obviously caused by an infinite, independent, eternal Mind, a cause that is uncaused!
  3. Every house must have its builder. This embodies the scientific argument for the design and designer. The order, arrangement, or design of a system demands an intelligent and purposeful originating designer.
  4. The universe is an organized, profoundly complex system. For example, the distance from the sun to the earth is 93, 000,000 miles. Is it just coincidence that if we were any closer to the sun we would burn up? Conversely, if we were any farther away from this magnificent source of energy, we would freeze.
  5. The tilt of the earth on its axis, the speed of its rotation, the gravitational effects of the moon, and the amount of atmospheric pressure at sea level--are these all just mere accidents?
  6. The wonderful complexity of the human body: is it the product of evolution from a single cell? Consider the sensitivity of the ear, the ability of the eyes, the circulatory system, and the reproductive system! Well did the psalmist state, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." (Psalm 139-14.) The design of the universe and the human body demand an Almighty Designer.

#### **Moral Evidence**

- A. All men innately recognize an ultimate moral code. Whether they choose to subject themselves to it is another matter. Even advocates of "free love" would not condone rape, even though they cannot explain how they came to such a judgment. This being so, how do we account for this universal recognition of morality?
- B. All civil governments legislate morality to some degree--to what do we attribute this? Human and individual concepts and interpretations often grossly pervert what is moral and immoral; yet, no rational person will consistently deny moral responsibility. The existence of morality demands a moral cause. If there is no God (moral cause), there is no morality!
- C. All of us have experienced suffering to some degree. The unbeliever will frequently point to the evil and suffering in the world and then smugly deny the existence of God. The argument usually is, "How can you reconcile a loving God with an evil world?" These problems are obstacles to their belief in God. However, the great fallacy of this argument is the inability to see that *good can result* from the presence of evil and suffering in this world! Jeremiah said, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).
- D. Let us consider what the Bible reveals about the nature of God. The Bible states "God is love" (1 John 4:8). One of the great expressions of His love is that God has given man the freedom to choose: the right or free will (Joshua 24:15). Why contemplate a loving God who creates intelligent beings and then programs them like robots to slavishly serve Him? That is absurdity.
- E. Since choice is possible, it follows that wrong choice is possible. Hence, choices, whether they be good or bad, would also involve consequences. They would involve radically different consequences else there would be no way to distinguish good choices from bad choices. It is only logical and reasonable that adverse consequences result from bad decisions. Because this is true, we can rightly place the blame of evil and suffering in this world where it belongs--on man! We suffer when we make personal wrong choices. If we commit a crime and go to prison, is it not our fault? If a man murders and is executed, is God to blame? We suffer when others make wrong choices.

- F. Drivers who make a decision to drive while under the influence of alcohol or drugs kill many innocent people. God does not show favoritism, and we will sometimes pay for another's freedom of choice. God has set up laws to govern us spiritually and physically. If He were to intervene, suspending the natural laws on a case-by-case basis, this would not be a world of consistency but one of chaos!
- G. There are some benefits to suffering. Pain motivates us to seek a cure. Trials cultivate patience. Evil provokes bravery and courage as a response. These bad things serve to remind us that the earth is not our permanent home. The Lord has prepared a better place for us. We can follow our Master, Christ, who also suffered for us.

#### **Conclusion**

1. We must remember that the Bible says that there will be a great day when each will have to give an account (Matthew 12:36). "As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:11, 12).
2. It is abundantly clear, to the sincere individual that God indeed exists.