

“If Not God, Then What?”

The consideration of the existence of God is the most fundamental of all religious questions. If there is no God, then the Bible is nothing more than a human book. Jesus, nothing more than a poor, misguided preacher; man himself, the product of dead matter whose end is physical death, and there is no objective standard of right and wrong and men are a law unto themselves. If God exists, then none of the above are true and we have no hope of eternal life with Christ, beyond the grave.

Regardless of what one may think of the God of the Bible, it is obvious that man is **incurably religious**. However sinful he may become, there is something within him that is constantly reaching for a Higher Being. This is evident when we consider the American Indian or the African native.

How does man obtain evidence of the existence of God so that he can believe, preach, teach, write with confidence and build up the faith of those who hear and read what he writes. If one means by “proving there is a God” that we must know of God’s existence by one of the five physical senses, or place God in a test tube or under a microscope to examine Him before believing, this cannot be done. If, however, one seeks a **reason** for faith in God, he will find the evidence overwhelming.

The Beliefs of Unbelievers

The man who refuses to believe in God cannot, of course, prove that God does not exist; he must simply believe this; over him will always hang the possibility that God does exist. For the atheist to prove that God does not exist would require omniscience and omnipresence. For if the unbeliever does not know everything there is to be known, the one thing he does not know may be God. And if he is not in every place at the same time, the very place where He is not may be where God is. The unbeliever can certainly never prove his belief that there is no God.

While the atheist cannot prove his most basic article of faith, he must accept many other ideas which most people who accept infidelity do not realize are involved. **He must believe** in the eternal existence of **matter**; this is necessary if he denies an eternal God. The atheist **must also believe** in the spontaneous generation of life from lifeless matter. He must either believe that life has existed eternally, and if so he has no reason to deny God, or he must believe that life comes from non-life. The Christian believes that it is more reasonable to seek for the origin of life in life — **God** — than in non-life — **matter**.

The fact that man possesses moral concepts of right and wrong, possesses a conscience, a sense of what he ought to be, demands the existence of such a Being to whom man is responsible for his actions, whether right or wrong. It is irrational and foolish to deny that men have a sense of right and wrong, even if they cannot agree what right or wrong is. When a man argues that it is wrong and false that men have a sense of right and wrong, he is exercising the very thing he is denying!

The Evidence From Design

The universe and things therein testify to God’s existence as the universe and things therein declare design. The axis of the earth is tilted 23 degrees, else there would be no seasons. Temperature at any spot would be the same year around, and we are told that vapors from the

ocean would move north and south, covering much of the earth with ice. If the earth rotated at the equator at a speed of 100 miles per hour instead of 1,000 miles per hour as it does, days and night would be ten times as long. The sun would burn up vegetation in the long day, or the long night would freeze it. If the moon were much farther from the earth, tides would be on a smaller scale, the oceans would stagnate, and navigation would be affected.

When we turn from the earth to the heavens, scientists tell us that our sun is an insignificant star when compared with many in our own galaxy; yet it is 600 times the size of the rest of the solar system combined. The sun is one in perhaps 100 billion of 'suns' similar to ours in the Milky Way galaxy. We wonder, with them all revolving around a common center, why there are not more collisions? Did the universe make itself? Has anyone ever seen a watch without a watchmaker, a picture without an artist, a book without an author, an automobile without a builder? Then, should we refuse to believe in a Designer behind the universe?

Even the animal kingdom reminds us of design in the universe. Some birds and fish migrate over distances of thousands of miles, returning unerringly to the point of origin. How do they come by this ability? Or consider the case of the instinct of the wasp: the mother wasp is ready to lay eggs, but she must first sting some grasshoppers or similar insects, and lay them nearby for food for the young. She must sting them just enough to produce a stupor; if the grasshopper dies, the meat will be fatal to the young wasp; if the grasshopper revives, the eggs of the young wasp may be destroyed. The wasp lays her eggs, flies away, and dies. How do the young wasps learn to repeat this process so exactly? They must do it right the first trial or there will be no wasps. Even the instincts of wasps are evidence of design by the great Designer.

David states that the universe gives evidence that God is. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork,"* Psalm 19:1. David also stated that the human body is evidence that God is. *"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."* Psa. 139:14. Paul appeals to man's daily knowledge of the rains, crops, and seasons as evidence that God is, *"...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 14:17. The divine book of the universe and the things therein give adequate evidence for a valid deduction that God is.

The Scriptures declare, *"Have faith in God,"* Mark 11:22; *"Let not your hearts be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me,"* John 14:1; Paul declared God to the Athenians, Acts 14:23 and said, *"...we are the offspring of God..."* Acts 17:29. In the Roman letter, Paul speaks of *"that which is known of God,"* Rom. 1:19, and that the Gentiles *"when they knew God,"* Rom. 1:21; again, Paul in 2 Tim. 1:12, declares, *"I Know whom I have believed.."* In the classic statement of Heb. 11:6, *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He (God) is..."* The Scriptures declare: (1) God is, (2) we are to believe that God is, (3) God made the world and the things therein, (4) God made man, (5) Man has evidence and can know and prove that God is, and (6) our faith is based on the foundation that God is. (While we have adequate evidence that God exists from the universe and the things therein, it is insufficient evidence to save man and man must read and obey the Scriptures.)

Chance — or God?

Chance simply cannot explain the universe and its marvels. The Christian believes the origin of all things is found in God, and that the destiny of man, made in the image of God, is found in God. We candidly ask, **if** God is not the answer, **then** what or who is?

May we turn to God, and to the book to which He has revealed Himself, the Bible, for the way to eternal life. Every man has faith in some one or some thing. Perhaps he believes his daily

newspaper, or exercises faith in his wife, or in business associates, but we all must believe in something. We plead for faith to be placed in God above all: *“but 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,”* Heb. 11:6. If you turn away from God, where will you go to learn the origin of life, the purpose of life, and the destiny of men?

Editor’s Comment: We commend the good article by bro. Hardin, entitled **“If Not God, Then What?”** In view of the irrefutable “evidence” herein set forth, we can easily understand why the Psalmist would write, saying, *“The fool has said in His heart, There is no God,”* Ps. 14:1. Yes, God *“is,”* Heb. 11:6. **Learn** His will, **obey** Him!
