

## Sermon 6/3/18 How do we know that God exists – Romans 1:20

Dear Defenders of the Faith:

How would you answer a friend, neighbor or even a family member who might ask you: “How do we know that God exists?”

Where would you start with a question like this?

What evidence would you point to in explaining the existence of God?

One of the most commonly held opinions of modern sophisticated Americans is that somehow science has disproved God.

Has science really disproved God?

- We live in a culture today which says there is no God to whom we are responsible to.
- James D. Kennedy says: “I believe this thought is basically responsible for the enormous incidence of crime...that we face in our society today....It is the rampant denial of the God of the Bible that has caused men to become increasingly animalistic.”
- Oxford professor, E.L. Woodward says that our society’s preoccupation with materialism has destroyed our core values.
- Materialism says: “Nothing exists but matter – no soul, no spirit and no God.”

Have scientists disproved God?

One group of scientists believe in God.

- Over 90% of all astronomers today believe in God.
- Astronomers are constantly looking at God’s handiwork.
- The Bible clearly states what the astronomers are looking at
  - Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God...
  - Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world...
  - Those people who have most thoroughly examined God’s handiwork believe in God!
  - These astronomers who study the universe has concluded that there is a Divine Being!

Pierre Simon de La Place, one of the greatest astronomers who has ever lived, said the evidence in the universe for the existence of God wipes away any evidence that denies God's existence.

There are many different arguments for the existence of God.

## **I. The Cosmological argument**

A. The term "cosmos" means universe

B. The word "cosmetic" comes from "cosmos"

- It means ordered and beautiful
- There is so much evidence of order in the universe which shows God as the Creator
- Again, this is what Romans 1:20 is referring to
- Those students of Physics see the order in subatomic particles like the electron

## **II. The Teleological argument**

A. The word "telos" means "end"- meaning things are designed for a purpose - end

B. There are a great number of things which reveal that this world was put together by a Supreme Being with a plan for our welfare.

- These things did not happen by mere accident
- Consider these findings from our study of our planet
  - If the earth were either 10% larger or 10% smaller life would not be possible here
  - The axis of the earth is titled at 23 degrees

If there were no tilt to the axis, the poles would accumulate with enormous masses of ice and the center of the earth would become intensely hot.

- Consider the moon
  - the moon serves as a maid to clean up the oceans and shores of our planet
  - the tides created by the moon clean up our shores and also provide oxygen by aerating our oceans thus providing for plankton – the foundation of our food chain.

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- Consider our atmosphere
  - we live under a great ocean of air - 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, 1% other elements
  - no other atmosphere of any other part of the universe has such a mix
  - we dump a large amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, but this is absorbed into the ocean which makes it possible for us to live on this planet
  - If our atmosphere were not as thick as it is, we would be crushed by the billion pieces of cosmic debris and meteorites that fall upon the earth
  - Nitrogen is needed by plants in the ground. Nitrogen moves from the air into the ground for the plants through lightning strikes – 100,000 thousand lightning bolts strike daily, creating 100 million tons of nitrogen plant food in the soil each year.
  - 8 killer rays fall upon this planet from the sun continually...without ozone we would be burned, blinded and broiled by these sun's rays

**HOW LITTLE WE REALIZE WHAT GOD IS DOING ON A DAILY BASIS TO PROVIDE LIFE FOR US ON THIS EARTH! Romans 1:20**

- Consider the rock crust beneath us
  - the rock crust protects us from the molten lava that forms the core of the planet
  - The rays above...the molten lava below...yet, we live in safety between these 2 things
  
- Consider the wonder of water
  - no other place in the universe has the abundance of water like our home – planet earth
  - it exists as liquid, ice, snow, vapor, steam and cloud cover in just the right amount
  - If we had cloud cover like Venus, life on earth could not exist
  
- Consider dust
  - If it were not for dust, we would never see a blue sky.
  - 17 miles above this planet there is no dust and the sky is always black
  - If it were not for dust, it would never rain
  - One drop of rain contains many droplets of water wrapped around particles of dust

We call these evidences Natural knowledge of God which we have from Creation. We see the great Design and Order in the Universe created by a Supreme Being – Our Father, Our Lord.

### **Natural knowledge can also be seen in our created bodies.**

Our life is based upon the blood that flows in our veins.

- red blood cells are different than any other cells because they carry oxygen

The wonder of the human eye

- What happens to your tears that flow across your eye?
- The wash that covers our eyes ends up in our nose
  - Once it enters the nose, it spreads itself upon the inside of the nostril and evaporates
  - The wash covering your eye is needed to keep in clean and moist for its use

The famous English physiologist of Oxford, Charles Scott Sherrington, said: “Behind the intricate mechanism of the human eye lie breath-taking glimpses of a Master Plan.”

- When confronted with darkness the human eye increases its ability to see 100 thousand times
- The eye will find the object it wants to see and focus upon it automatically
- Both eyes moving together must take different angles to fix themselves upon what is seen
- Finally, dwell on the human mind
  - it weighs 3.3 pounds but can perform what 500 tons of electrical and electronic equipment can do
  - it contains 10 to 15 billion neurons,. Each a living unit in itself!

What does this natural knowledge of creation tell us?

Dr. Henry Morris says: “Men who reject or ignore God do so, not because science or reason requires them to, but purely and simply because they want to!”

Again, consider Romans 1:20

Our second source of God existence is, of course, the Holy Bible.

A book entitled *Through the Valley of the Kwai* Ernest Gordon tells the story of American soldiers captured by the Japanese in WW II.

- the soldiers were tortured and starved
- they began to behave like animals – clawing and fighting with one another for food
- Finally, one of the soldiers began reading to the others the New Testament
- These men were converted to believe in Jesus Christ through the Word of God
- They no longer behaved like animals even though their situation was desperate
- **John 14:23 “If anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching! My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”**

What do unbelievers really think?

W.O. Saunders, an unbeliever, wrote in the American Magazine:

“You will be surprised to learn that the unbeliever envies your faith in God, your settled belief in a heaven after life, and your blessed assurance that you will meet with your loved ones in an afterlife...The unbeliever would give anything to be able to embrace your faith and be comforted by it...The unbeliever may face life with a smile...but he is not happy. He stands in awe...and majesty of the universe.”

Why don't these unbelievers...believe then, with all this evidence?

- II Corinthians 4:4
- I Corinthians 2:14
- It is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring faith
- But, the evidence for God is loud and clear.
- Again, consider Romans 1:20

Simple belief in a God who created the universe is not saving faith. For the Bible says the demons believe and tremble. James 2:19

The universe proves to us there is a God.

The Word of God shows us Jesus and the Holy Spirit brings us to faith in Him.

**John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe...**

We are without excuse –

- See your Creator
- See your Redeemer
- Believe in your Savior