

There Is A God

Don Hatch

Evidence for the existence of God is overwhelming and only a “fool” says in his heart there is no God (Psm 14:1; 53). When men fear [reverence] God they begin a long road of being instructed by God, attaining knowledge and wisdom. The invisible things of God are clearly known from the foundation of the world (Rom 1:18-20). Mankind is without excuse.

Alarmingly, atheistic scientists and many intelligent individuals have chosen to disbelieve. In the United States of America there is a growing trend to displace God from within the social order. Atheism is gaining controls in the market place of ideas. Schools, government, mass media and literature are having a pronounced surge of atheism put into play. When God is expelled from society what will be the means of determining right and wrong? In the face of wide spread denial of God there is still a hope which incredibly survives. Christianity is locked into an eternal struggle and must not surrender. The Lord is a rewarder of them that have faith in Him (Heb 11:6). The proof of Christ is a sound argument that there is a God. Jesus claimed to be from God, was God and returned to glory to be at the right hand of the Father (Jn 1:1-17; 5:9-18; Phil 2:1-10). No one could have created the life of Christ. It would have been exposed in the days of Christ or shortly thereafter. There are no dodging the facts that He worked miracles. Therefore, Jesus Christ is an important witness for God.

Masterfully, the agreements of *teleology* [defines real cause as the final cause], *cosmology* [observes the universe being caused], *anthology* [a science which points to literary works as proof], *aesthetics* [deals with natural beauty and judgment of beauty], *volition* [act of making decisions], *morality* [awareness of moral actions, character, whence did it come] and other arguments give sound reasons to believe in God.

Right and wrong can only be explained if there is a source greater than man with which to consider and compare moral actions (Heb 5:14-16). Moral standards are defined as objective morals outside of human likes and dislikes. There are things which are right and true. There must be someone greater than man in which morals are grounded. When the Nazis massacred millions of Jews and Christians there was a moral outcry. The *War Crime Trials in Nuremberg* demonstrated that laws had been violated which transcended all civil or regional laws. Communism is known for its elimination of “undesirables”. The atrocities which atheistic Communism has committed are unparalleled. Mao Tse-Tung might have killed 45 million people in his “great leap forward”. Tens of thousands were killed and lives ruined in the “Cultural Revolution”. Was godless atheism justified in such a ravishing of humanity? Consider Lennon and Stalin of the USSR and the millions of Christians and others who were killed like “so many cattle”, placing them in Siberia to die. If there is no God there is no ultimate foundation for ethics. To follow the impulses and instincts which are strongest to an individual will lead inextricably to “*might makes right*”. Would this mean that if atheistic China, Russia and other Communist countries destroy America it is alright? If a person decides to kill another is it equivalent to killing a pig or dog? Is infanticide, killing of defective humans equivalent to killing non-human? It is not species alone that makes killing a human wrong. There is an inner man who is the image of God. Putting away what is called “obsolete and erroneous notions” of the sanctity of all human life leads to the concept that we can form “death squads” eradicating undesirables. Nowhere in God’s word can one find such a dastardly thought.

In science causality is always a basis of any assumption. An assumption is true if the observations and experiences are true. Every observed phenomenon must have an adequate cause for the effect. The universe is an *effect*, not a *cause*. Neither man, nature nor any known cause can have the effect of a universe, only God. From nothing comes nothing. But there is a universe which has unity and order, not randomness. The argument from design is formidable. When you see design in the world you are pressed to acknowledge a designer. Clothing, cars, airplanes and other things do not just happen. They are designed. A laptop computer does not just happen. None of the designed items of our world could be here by accident. Anything designed demands intelligence. If all the components for a computer were left on a desk or shelf they would never produce a computer in a million years. The human brain is greater than any computer. Is a human designed? All machines pale in the presence of a human brain. If there is no value to the human species, then they will become expendable like so much broccoli, rats or ants.

God is the first cause of all. He created limitless space. He is infinite in extent. He created endless time. He is eternal. He perpetuates motion. He has omnipotent power. He caused endless varieties of plants, animals, stars and many other things. He is infinitely complex. He is omniscient in intelligence. **God is the cause of conscience. He is the first cause of ethical and religious values. He is spiritual. He is the first cause of righteousness and purity. He is holy.** He is the first cause of love. He is love. He is the first cause of life. He must be the source of all life. God is the character He describes in the Bible. He has revealed Himself. All glory and praise to God. He is our Creator and Sustainer.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

I pray that this New Year will bring Belt Line Rd. church of Christ more opportunities to serve God better and to challenge us to overcome all obstacles that might stand in our way. It begins with each member striving to 'prepare their soul for heaven'. Every young Boy Scout knows that he must prepare for all the challenges of becoming an 'Eagle Scout'. He studies and goes through one test after another, proving himself to be worthy and experienced in obtaining his goal. Sometimes he fails and falls, but then he rises to be successful time and time again. He matures and becomes more confident, more trustworthy, more dedicated and closer to his goal. Then that great day arrives, when he is awarded the title of 'Eagle Scout', because he prepared himself. The Christian life is not that much different. We start preparing our souls when we hear the word of God and believe. More study convinces us that we must repent, confess and be baptized for the remission of our sins in the name of Jesus Christ. Now our preparation really begins with the help of God. "Each day I'll do a golden deed, by helping those who are in need", we sing loudly. God gives us opportunities each day to spread the gospel, to help someone with a kind word or to share a moment of concern. Find something that you really enjoy doing for the cause of Christ and do it now, for God does not promise anyone tomorrow. Like a Boy Scout, a Christian must 'Be Prepared' for that GREAT DAY. It is coming as sure as God is Creator of all. Do you have everything in order? Are you working daily for the Master? The bible is only good for those who study and practice its words. God will bless us, if we prepare our souls to live with Him forever and ever.

Jesus says, "...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." in the latter part of Revelation 2:10.

Richard Renfro

"I will sing of lovingkindness and justice: Unto thee, O Jehovah, will I sing praises. I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way: Oh when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no base thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; It shall not cleave unto me. A perverse heart shall depart from me: I will know no evil thing. Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor, him will I destroy: Him that hath a high look and a proud heart will I not suffer. Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land that they may dwell with me: He that walketh in a perfect way, he shall minister unto me. He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: He that speaketh falsehood shall not be established before mine eyes. Morning by morning will I destroy all the wicked of the land; To cut off all the workers of iniquity from the city of Jehovah" (Psm 101:1-8).

“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk, in the vanity of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardening of their heart; who being past feeling gave themselves up to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye did not so learn Christ; if so be that ye heard him, and were taught in him, even as truth is in Jesus: that ye put away, as concerning your former manner of life, the old man, that waxeth corrupt after the lusts of deceit; and that ye be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new man, that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth” (Eph 4:17-24).

Why do many highly, well-informed leaders find it hard to believe the Bible and the gospel of Christ? Those "alienated from the life of God" are darkened in their understanding and ignorant of the truth. With darkened minds the truth evades them. It is self-induced lack of knowledge. The Bible is written for all to learn from it (Rom 15:1-5). It is not that they can't understand, but that they won't understand! Walking in the vanity of their mind, having their understanding darkened is because of blindness of heart. (2 Cor 3:12-18). They cannot believe with a hard heart, therefore they seek to excuse themselves for not believing in their minds (Acts 7:1-60). They have "corrupt minds and reprobate concerning the faith" ([2 Timothy 3:8](#)). It is not hopeless! Many have turned from such error to serve a Living God.

Jesus said that men could know the truth and it would set them free (Jn 8:32). Jesus can make alive those who are dead in their trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1-10). When walking in the course of this world, there is an accord with Satan who rules lives by lust of the eye, doing the desires of the flesh and mind. Even when we are dead through our trespasses we can be made alive together with Christ and be saved by grace. God's grace can make those alienated from His covenant a new man in Christ (Eph 2:11-22; 1 Jn 2:14-17).

Satan himself controls minds if left unguarded and untrained. Intelligent in secular matters, but not the gospel, leads the unsuspecting away from divine blessings of salvation. Comprehending the beautiful simplicity of the Gospel does not have to remain hidden. "If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not" ([2 Cor 4:1-6](#)). The glory of the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, must dawn upon them. There is a light that shines out of darkness and gives light to the knowledge of the glory of God in Christ.

We have a remedy! Our weapons are not carnal, but they are mighty to casting down the imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God and bring into captivity even the thoughts of mankind, leading them to obedience in Christ (2 Cor 10:1-5). Truth is the greatest weapon in the Christian's arsenal. We walk according to the spirit and exalt the knowledge of God, trusting in Christ as our Lord and Master. We must compare ourselves with Christ seeking to be obedient through faith. We can be manifest to all the way, truth and life with self-control (1 Cor 9:16-27).

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

January 9, 2011

Front foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Back foyer: Nancy Pond & Carol Swinney

January 16, 2011

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Back foyer: Dessie & J.C. Ross

Sermon Titles
January 9, 2011

a.m: "*Life In Knowledge Of God*"

Scripture: John 17:1-5

p.m: "*Asa's Faith and Failure*"

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 14:1-8

January 16, 2011

a.m: "An Exceeding Bitter Cry" 2 Samuel 18:31-33

p.m: "Law and Grace" John 8:1-11

Contribution Counters -Darrell Allen, Mike Garrison.

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

SINGING SESSION

The singing class will meet **Sunday** in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** devotional will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

Responses

Beverly Sweat asked for prayers and repented saying she had not been being on time for worship. She wants to make a new beginning and make worship as important as she makes other things.

Don Hatch asked for prayers that he might be more effective in the Kingdom.

Members and Visitors Cards

We are going to forgo taking up members cards for the time being. We ask our visitors to please place their card in the collection plate.

LADIES

Ladies' Bible class will resume on Tuesday, **January 11th**. The class will go to Brown Trail Lectureship to hear Nadya Workman. They will leave at 9:00 AM to caravan to the Brown Trail church building.

A **new list of topics** is ready for the upcoming year. If you would like to teach a class for the Tuesday Morning class see Beverly McKey.

Thank You Cards

“Words cannot express how comforting it was to have so many friends help us through the great loss of our father/husband, Jack. The incredible luncheon and outpouring of love was so appreciated...Thank you also for the beautiful red roses/ white spider lilies spray that was sent for the funeral and grave site. Thanks for all the love. **The LaFerney family.**”

Belt Line Family, Thank you so much for the lovely shower so lovingly hosted and attended. The gifts are all so very much appreciated and will help us take care of the needs of our son. I am so touched by your loving care and prayers for us these many months. I know that our son will benefit greatly by your love and guidance and I'm thankful for all of you! With much love, **Mike & Sandy Hall**

LECTURESHIP

The Brown Trail Church of Christ will be hosting their 34th annual lectureship, **January 9-12, 2011** on “Gleaning from the Book of Acts”. Flyers are in the front and back foyer.

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy **Max Melton** at the passing of his brother, **Carl Melton**.

Congratulations

Sandy and Mike Hall have a baby boy. He was 20”, 7.7#. Sandy and son went home Sunday (1/2/11).

Dessie Ross has her 6th Great-Great-Granddaughter, Zari Bella Beard, 8.3# 12/30/10.

NEWS OF THE SICK

Dean Webb and Kay Overturf are ill.

•**Gail Hieronymus**, (Mike Garrison's daughter) is battling cancer.

•**Johnetta Crane**, former member of Belt Line and Nola Wolfe's cousin is to have cancer surgery at Harris Hospital.

•**Joann Hatch** is recovering from her broken shoulder. She will see her Dr. Tuesday. Thank you for your cards, prayers and love

·**Billie Beverly** has been ill with Asthma problems.

·**Janice Daniel's** mother fell again. She is living in McDonough, Ga. with Janice's sister.

PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Jean Kelly, Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend).

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

·Purman Cofer
·Jerry Baker
·Dorris Walker
·Marvin Brown
·Mike Garrison
·Denzel Myers

Rear Table

· J.C. Ross
·Robert Taylor
·Brent Howard
·Max Melton
·Thomas Rathbun
·Darrol Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

· Richard Renfro
· Darrell Allen
· John Mayer

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Glen Kelly
John 17:1-5

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

· Marvin Brown
· Glen Kelly

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

·Glen Kelly
·Robert Ruckman

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Nathan Allen
2 Chronicles 14:1-8

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

·Mike Batot

A.M. SONG LEADER

·Garl Latham

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

· Jerry Baker/Jerry McKey

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET
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	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	62	63	83	100
A.M. Worship	130	130	146	150
P.M. Worship	72	75	76	75
Wed. Class	70	68	77	75
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	29	25
Contribution	\$4947	\$5736	\$5043	\$5433

MISSIONS

Willie & Del Gley – Ghana/Togo, Africa

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Malaysia

Roland & Rose Mohsen – France

Glen & Kuin Tattersall – Australia

Gary & Nadya Workman – Ukraine

Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko – Russia

Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions

Hyderabad Church of Christ - Hyderabad, India

Christ's Haven Children's Home - Keller, TX

Foster's Home for Children – Stephenville, TX

Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web

Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching

Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia

Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution

Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation

Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India

Ron & Sandra Jones Capetown South Africa