

God Doesn't Believe in Atheists, Part 2

The VISION Newsletter / October 2020

Pastor E. Keith Hassell

Psalm 14:1 (NKJV) “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.”

This is Part 2 of a two-part series.

God does not provide “proof” of His existence, but He has provided sufficient “evidence” that requires faith. For instance, God has provided a witness of Himself in the human *conscience*. The apostle Paul states in Romans 2:14-16 (NKJV): “for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) ¹⁶ in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.”

Those who refuse to believe must suppress the witness of their conscience. Romans 1:18–19 (NKJV) “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.” Faith is not a leap in the dark; it is a leap out of the darkness into the light of evidence! God provides evidence rather than proof because He requires faith. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV) states, “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Cotvos said, “We may seek God by our intellect, but we only can find him with our heart.”

Sadly, atheism has an inherent predisposition against any belief in God. Atheism is not the result of logical reasoning, careful evaluation of evidence, or honest scientific exploration. God has provided more than sufficient evidence of His existence. This predisposition against a belief in God is the result of an unbelieving heart—for the fool has said in his *heart* that there is no God.

Atheism struggles against a concept of “god” that it does not “like”. Atheists do not “like” God. A few questions that might be asked of an atheist are, “Describe to me the god you do not believe in” or “Describe to me the god that you hate”. Often the “god” they describe is a distortion of the God of the Bible. I would likely say in response, “I don’t believe in *that god* either!”

An atheist does not *want* the God of the Bible to exist. They do not want to live under His authority, to acknowledge His design and moral law, or to be accountable to Him. Thomas Nagel, an American philosopher and avowed atheist, made an enlightening confession when he said: “I want atheism to be true and am uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn’t just that I don’t believe in God and, naturally, I hope that I’m right in my belief. It’s that I hope there is no God! I don’t want there to be a God; I don’t want the universe to be like that.” This admission is consistent with Romans 1:21–22 (NKJV) that says, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools.”

Atheism is an ungrateful emotional reaction against the goodness and sovereignty of God. Such reaction against the Self-revelation of God is described as the madness of a fool. C. S. Lewis explains his transition from atheism to belief in God: “My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. Just how had I got this idea of *just* and *unjust*? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?...Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist—in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless—I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality—namely my idea of justice—was full of sense. Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning; just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. Dark would be without meaning.”¹

¹ C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (pp 45-46)

Atheism fails to consider the basis for the concept of good and evil and of justice. The late Christian Apologist, Ravi Zacharias, said: "When you say 'There's too much evil in this world', you assume there's 'good'. When you assume there's good, you assume there's such a thing as a 'moral law' on the basis of which to differentiate between good and evil. But if you assume a moral law, you must posit a 'Moral-Law Giver', but that's Who you're trying to disprove and not prove. Because if there's no Moral-Law Giver, there's no moral law. If there's no moral law, there's no good. If there's no good, there's no evil. What is your question?"

Atheism does not want God to exist regardless of the evidence. Pascal, the French philosopher, has said, "The evidence of God's existence and His gift is more than compelling, but those who insist that they have no need of Him will always find ways to discount the offer."

Atheism presents itself as the solution for a better world. For them, religion is the source of the world's problems. In reality, false religions and false representations of Christianity do create problems, what is the record on atheism? Consider crimes against the Image of God (Imago Dei) inspired by atheism and evolution. These include over 62,000,000 abortions since Roe vs. Wade in 1973, and the defense of eugenics, ethnic cleansing, euthanasia, physician assisted suicide, and racism. Under the reign of Adolf Hitler, who held to the evolutionary concept of the survival of the fittest, an estimated 6,000,000 Jews were executed by gun shot, gas chambers, labor camps, beatings, and starvation. In addition, the Nazi's murdered an estimated 11,000,000 more people including Poles, Soviet civilians, prisoners of war, the Roma, the handicapped, political and religious dissidents, and gay men. During the Bolshevik "Red Terror" (1917-1922), led by Vladimir Lenin, between 100,000-200,000 people were executed. During the reign of Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union an estimated 20,000,000 or more were executed. Under Communist North Korea estimates range between 710,000 to slightly over 3,500,000 with a mid-estimate of almost 1,600,000. Under Communist China there are estimates of 100,000,000 who have been killed. Obviously, atheism is not the solution to a better world! Gustave le Bon, a French polymath (one having encyclopedic knowledge of many subjects), sums it up, "If atheism spread, it would become a religion as intolerable as the ancient ones."

Atheism does not produce a moral society since there is no basis by which to determine what is moral. Psalm 14 describes the character of the atheist. They are corrupt; they have no moral compass. They have done abominable works; they have no moral accountability. There is none who does good; they have no moral end or goal. Even their "good" is corrupted by the motives of lust, greed, and power in their own heart.

In conclusion, we can confidently conclude that God doesn't believe in atheists. He *does* believe in fools who say in their *heart* that there is no God. Don't be a fool. Look carefully at the evidence that God has provided and take the leap of faith from the darkness into the light!

Copyright 2020 Edward Keith Hassell. All Rights Reserved.