

## **How Do I Know There Is a God? (Part II)**

Last week we discussed that we know there is a God because of arrangement, meaning there is Divine order that is evidence of God's mighty handprint on His creation. From the microscopic to the telescopic view of this universe we see a deliberate design. This week I want to continue from the viewpoint of:

### **II. Argument**

*“For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel”*(Romans 2:14-16). Paul is saying the unregenerate, non-Christian has a conviction of right and wrong, even when they are either unacquainted or in rebellion to the law of God.

In C.S. Lewis' book, *Mere Christianity*, he says, “Everyone has heard people quarrelling. Sometimes it sounds funny and sometimes it sounds merely unpleasant; but however it sounds, I believe we can learn something very important from listening to the kind of things they say. They say things like this: ‘How’d you like it if anyone did the same to you?’ – ‘That’s my seat, I was there first.’ – ‘Leave him alone, he isn’t doing you any harm.’ – ‘Give me a bit of your orange, I gave you a bit of mine.’ – ‘Come on, you promised.’ People say things like that every day, educated people as well as uneducated, and children as well as grown-ups... He is appealing to some kind of standard of behavior which he expects the other man to know about... Nearly always he tries to make out that what he has been doing does not really go against the standard, or that if it does there is some special excuse... Quarreling means trying to show that the other man is wrong. And there would be no sense in trying that unless you and he had some sort of agreement as to what Right and Wrong are; just as there would be no sense in saying that a footballer had committed a foul unless there was some agreement about the rules of football.”

People arguing about right and wrong means there is a standard in their hearts. And they have a choice to be accused or make excuse for wrong behavior. This is why we who know Christ are obligated to give the accused conscience relief that comes only through the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have the answer! Which leads me to our next point:

### **III. Answers**

In the human heart, there are similar questions such as: “Is there only one God and can I worship another god?” The Bible says, “*Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else*” (Isaiah 45:22). Jesus is the only way! “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12).

In the most ancient book of the Bible Job asked: “*If a man die, shall he live again?...*” (Job 14:14). Job found his answer: “*For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth*” (Job 19:25). Jesus said to His disciples just before He died and rose again: “*...because I live, ye shall live also*” (John 14:19).

God has the answers and remedies to man's dilemmas, conundrums and questions, even before man starts asking for help, answers or understanding. For instance, when all science believed the world was flat and maps were made as testaments to his utter confusion, God said 2,204 years before

man discovered the earth was round: *“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth...”* (Isaiah 40:22). At one time people were bled to death by doctor’s orders and doctor’s instruments because the consensus was that people are sick because of impurities of the blood, therefore, they must be bled when sick. The sad result was a myriad of people died until man discovered in the mid 1800s that we must stop bleeding the sick and infirm because the life is in the blood. Yet, again 3,500 years before man discovered this God said, *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood...”* (Leviticus 17:11).

Every question man has is answered by the God we believe in. Even when we don’t have the answers revealed, He gives us the faith to do more than cope and get by. Through God, the true believer overcomes and conquers doubts, dilemmas and difficulties in this world. *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us”* (Romans 8:37). *Finally, we know there is a God because of:*

### **III. Agape**

*“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not”* (I John 3:1). *In the Greek language the word for love is translated from “agape” and did not exist until recorded in the New Testament. It is different than all other words translated “love” previously such as philia: friend love. Then there is storge: parental and familiar or family love*

. And there is *eros: dealing with physicality only..* Agape is the unconditional love that God has for His children. It is not earned nor deserved. He consequently commands us to love with that same love He has given to us. I submit to you that this is impossible apart from God’s life imputed in the life of the believer.

One of the most infamous atheists on the scene today is Christopher Hitchens. He has sold millions of books attacking belief in God. Please understand that Hitchens, Richard Dawkins and men of this ilk have been named by Christian apologist, Ravi Zacharias, not merely atheist, but “Hate-theist.” These men don’t only want you to not believe in God; ironically they do so with a vengeful, hateful enthusiasm. It is ironic because they are very upset with someone who, in their opinion, doesn’t exist. Recently, on C-Span I saw Brian Lamb interviewing Hitchens. In passing conversation, Christopher Hitchens made reference to a well-known man and said with no remorse, “I hate him.” In a stunning pause, Lamb said, “Now you used the word *hate*; do you mean you...” Hitchens interrupted and with cold and steely eyes lowered his voice and emphatically said, “Yes, I mean I hate him.” This kind of language even shocked the interviewer. Christ commands us to love even our enemies. As I have been a student of history, I cannot explain why some people love, truly love with that agape, unconditional love other than the fact that there is a God and I joyously conclude, He lives within the heart of those who believe in Him with saving faith. This, for me is a valid reason to believe in God. *“No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us”* (I John 4:12).

- Pastor Pope -

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