

Who Am I?

Introduction

(Ro 1:19-20)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series on "Who Am I?"
 - a. We will be examining some introductory thoughts today.
3. To begin answering the question of "Who Am I" we must first understand the modern struggle with the question.
 - a. We live in a world of skepticism to say the least.
 - b. We live in a world of relativism and naturalism.
4. So with that in mind let us look at the evidence that is out there in the world that can help us answer the question of "Who Am I."

I. The Three Prominent Schools Of Thought

A. Atheistic school of thought

1. Atheism is defined as "2 a: a disbelief in the existence of deity b: the doctrine that there is no deity" (Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.)
2. Atheist boast that "based on the physical evidences of sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell, there is no God." (New Life Behavioral Ministries; Who Am I?...That God Is Concerned About Me? by Motsinger, Hillery pg. 2)
 - i. Isaac Asimov: "Creationists make it sound like a 'theory' is something you dreamt up after being drunk all night" (<http://goo.gl/VasrM>)
 - ii. Ernest Hemingway: "All thinking men are atheist." (Ibid)
 - iii. Napoleon Bonaparte: "Religion is excellent stuff for keeping common people quiet" (<http://goo.gl/xO1Mw>)
3. Because of the philosophy of atheism their whole focus is, as they put it, "science."
 - i. Frank Lloyd Wright: "I believe in God, only I spell it Nature" (<http://goo.gl/VasrM>)
 - ii. Denis Diderot: "If you want me to believe in God, you must make me touch him." (<http://goo.gl/0JF2B>)
4. Though they try diligently atheists cannot answer the question of origin, purpose or destination.
 - i. **Co 2:8** "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ."¹
 - ii. **I Co 3:19-20** "For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," 20 and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.'""

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. The use of another translation is not an endorsement of that translation as a sound translation.

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5. They cannot answer origin.
 - i. "Here finally was something that could actually fill the gap. This energy that's causing the universe to apparently exccelerate is just what you need to fill the difference between the amount that we see in the form mass and the amount that we required for the big bang theories. Finally none of the universe was missing. It was made of 4% atoms, the stuff we're familar with; 21% dark matter that no one could find; & a wopping 75% made from brand new dark energy, that nobody could understand. Cosmologies standard model was born." (Science Channel 284 at 2:42pm "Most of our universe is missing" name of program)
 - a. All of that was said because in the late 90's, 1998 they "knew" the universe was slowing down due to gravity based on the big bang theory, yet found out it was speeding up.
 - ii. At the end of the show one scientist says, "If it's not the right answer, it would require a very deep revision of our basic understanding of nature." (Ibid)
 - a. They only understand 4 % of the universe.
 - b. Is this the one you want "tell you" where you come from?
 1. **Ps 14:1** "The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good."
 2. **Pr 12:15** "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice."
 - iii. God can answer this question however.
 - a. **Ps 33:6** "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host."
 - b. **Jn 1:3** "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."
6. They cannot answer purpose.
 - i. Why, because there is no purpose because there is no standard.
 - a. If no standard then there is no purpose.
 - ii. God knows our purpose.
 - a. **Ec 12:13** "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all."
7. They cannot answer destination.
 - i. This is because they think we all die and that is the end.
 - a. Like rover dead all over.
 - ii. God can answer this question however once again.
 - a. **He 4:13** "And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."
 - b. **Je 16:17** "For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes."

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B. Agnostic school of thought

1. Agnostic is defined as "a person who holds the view that any ultimate reality (as God) is unknown and probably unknowable broadly : one who is not committed to believing in either the existence or the nonexistence of God or a god" (Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.)
 - i. They are not thought to highly by atheists.
 - a. Orson Welles: "I have a great love and respect for religion, great love and respect for atheism. What I hate is agnosticism, people who do not choose." (<http://goo.gl/h77a1>)
 - ii. The word comes from the Greek "angostos."
 - a. This simply means not knowing.
 - iii. Thomas Huxely, a naturalist and agnostic, first used the term about 1869.
2. Thus agnostics teach it is impossible to know if there is a God or not.
 - i. God's Word easily debunks this idea once again.
 - a. **Ps 46:10a** "Be still, and know that I am God..."
 - b. **Ro 1:19-20** "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

C. Theistic school of thought

1. Theism is defined as "belief in the existence of one God viewed as the creative source of the human race and the world who transcends yet is immanent in the world" (Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.)
 - i. As pertaining to Christianity it is based on faith, hope, and love.
 - a. **I Co 13:13** "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."
2. Biblical theism is founded in faith.
 - i. **He 11:1** "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (NKJV)
3. Biblical theism is held strong by hope.
 - i. **Ro 5:1-5** "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us." (NKJV)

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4. Biblical theism is immersed in love.
 - i. **II Pt 1:5-7** "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love."
5. Biblical theism also understands something of great importance...
 - i. "Our behavior is a product of our thinking and our feelings." (New Life Behavioral Ministries; Who Am I?...That God Is Concerned About Me? by Motsinger, Hillery pg. 3)
 - a. We will talk more about this in the following weeks.

II. Christian Evidences

- A. This is the reality of understanding first there is truth
 1. **Jn 8:32** "and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
 2. **Jn 17:17** "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."
- B. This truth is grounded in scientific truths as the Bible and science never contradict each other
 1. From cosmology (**Ps 19:1-6; Jb 12:7-9**) to oceanography (**Ps 33:7**), to biology (**Gn 2:7**).
- C. Some examples of Christian evidences
 1. For years critics said that writing was unknown to mankind during the time of Moses thus such early events could not have been written until much later.
 - i. Within the last century hundreds of thousands of books written on clay tablets have been found dating back further than Moses.
 2. For years critics have suggest that Jesus' body was simply stolen and that Christianity is just a "rouse."
 - i. Would a huge number of people include 10 out of the 13 apostles die and be tortured for what they knew to be a hoax?
 3. For centuries critics have said that David the second physical king of Israel was not a historical figure.
 - i. However we have found in 1993 a fragment dating back to the 9th century B.C. which mentions David King of Israel.

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CONCLUSION

1. Knowing that the facts are not in favor of atheism or agnosticism allows us to dive further into truth knowing that the evidence and substance of truth will lead to us answering the question more fully of "Who Am I."
2. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**