

God Is Essential To Survival

Text : **Col. 1: 16-18** (*read 9-23*)

INTRODUCTION :

A. I believe there is a God.

1. Specifically, I believe in the God of the Bible.
 - a. He is self-actuating and eternal.
 - b. He is the all-powerful creator of all that is. (*animal, vegetable, mineral*)
2. I believe that God is :
 - a. the most logical explanation for all that cannot be explained or proven by science.
 - b. essential to the continued existence of all that exists.

Col. 1: 16-17 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. **17** He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

B. It is true that God cannot be proven by the scientific method.

1. What is the scientific method ?

A process that is the basis for scientific inquiry. The scientific method follows a series of steps: (1) identify a problem you would like to solve, (2) formulate a hypothesis, (3) test the hypothesis, (4) collect and analyze the data, (5) make conclusions. (wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn)
2. Belief in the God of Heaven requires a certain amount of faith.
 - a. **Heb. 11: 6-** Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
 - b. However, faith is not blind acceptance with no facts or foundation. (**Rom. 10**)
3. God is a spirit so He cannot be seen, but He can be observed.
 - a. We accept many things as existing, though we cannot see them. (*air, electricity*)
 - b. We can see the affects cause by the invisible. (*wind creates waves, magnets ..*)
4. The creation proves there is a creator. (**Rom. 1**)
 - a. First Law Thermodynamic ... Something cannot come from nothing.
 - b. Second Law Thermodynamic ... Life cannot come from non-life.
 - c. Chaos Theory explained via Quantum Physics affirms that systems proceed from order to disorder, not vise versa. Thus, the orderly universe along with all of the lesser systems therein, must have a source of order. (*design = designer*)

C. Skeptics continue to fail in every attempt to disprove the existence of God.

1. The method by which scientist agree upon makes it impossible to disprove God.
2. Their unscientific denials of God require more faith than it takes to accept Him.
 - a. We've seen the very laws which they accept to be true disprove all their theories.
 - b. Time and again noteworthy scientists have been caught skewing data in an attempt to prove theories they knew to be false.

ILL.- The recent global warming scam.

D. People of faith are ridiculed by skeptics.

1. They try to paint us as mindless followers of superstition.
2. They demonstrate their own bias nature by doing so. (*and by twisting data*)
3. **Psa. 14: 1-** ... **The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."** ...

TRANSITION :

Suppose all they claimed was true.

Suppose there was no God.

What would life be ?

I. If there was no God, there would be no ultimate good or evil.**A. The foundational values of all legal systems come from God.**

1. Have you ever wondered why some things are found in all legal systems ?
2. In the beginning there was one source of right and wrong ... **God.**
 - a. All families of man spring forth from Adam ... Noah.
 - b. As man spread across the globe, they took with them that one system of values.

B. God places within all men the basic sense of right and wrong.

1. **Rom. 1:19-** **because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.**
2. **Jude 10-** **But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct,**
 - a. Men everywhere know it is wrong to kill another man, to rape, to steal, etc.
 - b. No one has to teach us these basic principles of morality.
3. Man is the only living creature with a conscience.
 - a. When a bear destroys your car to get the candy bar, he feels no guilt.
 - b. When that same bear kills a man for a candy bar, he feels no remorse.

C. Without an absolute moral code, there would be no grounds to prosecute tyrants.

1. If the highest authority is the state, there are no grounds to prosecute men like Hitler.

a. By German law it was legal to exterminate those of inferior races.

b. In Germany it was socially acceptable to kill Jews.

2. If the state is the highest authority, all one need do is get control of the government.

3. If society sets the standard, whether right or wrong, it will be constantly changing.

a. Everyone in Sodom and Gomorrah accepted the prevailing wickedness.

b. In the American South slaves were accepted as of less value than a horse.

* **Stealing a slave brought a fine or imprisonment, but horse thieves were hanged.**

D. There can be absolute authority ONLY if there is a supreme being above man.

1. Without absolute authority there will be not lasting justice.

2. Without absolute authority chaos will eventually ensue.

II. If there was no God, there would be no hope for the downtrodden masses.**A. Those who live in desperate circumstances hang on because of hope in Heaven.**

1. Those who live with constant pain look to God with the hope of a new body.

2. Those who live in inescapable poverty look toward Heaven for a better life.

B. Those who live under oppression need the hope of a better life in Heaven.

1. When the oppressed cannot find justice on the earth, God gives them hope.

2. Slaves turned to God for the hope of something better than their misery.

C. Imagine the hopelessness of life with no anticipation of anything better ?

1. It would cause some to be aggressive and violent against perceived oppressors.

2. Many would give up and just exist until they died. (**used to justify euthanasia**)

III. If there was no God, there would be no restraint to the wicked.**A. If there was no judgment beyond civil law, sin would run ramped.**

1. Civil law is just a standard that the majority (*or the powerful*) agree upon.

2. Civil law will allow anything the masses accept. (**standards tend to fall**)

a. Prohibition forbad alcohol consumption, but now it is legal.

- b. Homosexuality was a crime ... now it is protected.
- c. Life was protected ... now it's a woman's right to choose.
- 3. Without an absolute moral authority above man ANY society can become Sodom.

**B. If there is no judgment beyond civil law,
man will do whatever he can get away with.**

- 1. Some think they are smarter than law enforcement ... a few really are.
- 2. When the masses overwhelm law enforcement, they get away with crime.
- * **Example :** **Gambling on sporting events.** Marijuana in California.
- 3. What if the public attitude about the same about all laws as about sports gambling ?

C. People voluntarily submit to laws based on moral values, i.e., upon God.

- 1. People who do not believe in God have little motivation to submit to authority.
- 2. Rules cannot be consistently or long imposed upon an unwilling population.

IV. If there was no God, life would have no meaning.

A. For centuries people have sought the meaning of life. (*live – reproduce – die*)

- 1. Gurus have gone to the mountains of Tibet to meditate for years in mountain caves.
 - a. They return no wiser.
 - b. They just loose their health and gain arthritis.
- 2. Many people have sought meaning in financial gain.
 - a. Solomon recognized this to be but folly.

Eccl. 2: 18-23 Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me. **19** And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity. **20** Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun. **21** When there is a man who has labored with wisdom, knowledge and skill, then he gives his legacy to one who has not labored with them. This too is vanity and a great evil. **22** For what does a man get in all his labor and in his striving with which he labors under the sun? **23** Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is vanity.

- b. Things mean nothing without God to give them meaning.

3. Some seek meaning in other people. (*family, friends, organizations*)
 - a. Children grow up and develop their own lives.
 - b. Grandkids loose interest faster than children.
 - c. When people are gone, life has lost it's meaning.
 4. Like Solomon, modern Americans seek meaning in pleasures.
 - a. **Eccl. 2: 1-3** I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself." And behold, it too was futility. **2** I said of laughter, "It is madness," and of pleasure, "What does it accomplish?" **3** I explored with my mind *how* to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding *me* wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives.

Eccl. 2: 9-11 Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me. **10** All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. **11** Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.
 - b. Pleasure is fleeting and unfulfilling in the end and accomplishment short-lived.
- * **Surely life has more meaning than procreating, acquiring and enjoying pleasures. All these do not elevate us above the lower animals.**

B. Only God gives meaning to our lives.

1. We are created **BY** Him in His image.

Gen. 1: 27- God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
2. We are created **FOR** Him.

Col. 1 : 16- For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17- He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
3. The fact that He created us for Himself teaches us that He has a purpose for us.
 - a. The purpose that Jesus has for us is to bring glory to Him.

Col. 1 : 18- He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.
 - b. **ILL-** I built books shelves. They are for MY books .. not my wife's can goods.

CONCLUSION :

A. It is only when we live in compliance to God's purpose for us that our lives have meaning. (This earth and all on it will pass away.)

1. He has a use for us ..
 - a. to exalt His name in the spiritual realm,
 - b. i.e., to bring glory to Him.
2. Thus, as we make every decision in life, we must consider **His** purpose.
 - a. How does my marrying this person work to the glory of God.
 - b. Will my working in this place achieve the glory of God.
 - c. Each morning plan our day to God's glory. (**Seek His will in prayer.**)
3. There is nothing wrong with most things we do in life, **but** one only finds meaning in life while living in God's purpose.

B. This world NEEDS GOD to even exist. All that is in it is finite. God holds it together by the word of His might.

1. God is the one who provides order in a world bent toward chaos. *order*
2. Without God the downtrodden have no hope. *hope*
3. It is only fear of an eternal accounting that restrains the wicked. *restraint*
4. He alone gives us true meaning for our lives. *meaning*

C. What course are you pursuing ?

1. I challenge each one of us to evaluate our lives and write a description of the course our life has been following thus far.
 - a. To this point, what has been the purpose of your life ?
 - b. Summarize your life in 10 words or less. **What's it all about ?**
2. Each man's journey requires periodic adjustments to stay on course.
 - a. In 100 years what will be the significance of your having been on planet earth ?
 - b. In 100 years where will you be ? **What will your life be like then ?**

INVITATION :