WHY IT MAKES SENSE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

8 Absurd Things Atheists Must Believe Before Breakfast

Seeing Beyond The Cheese

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Seeing Beyond The Cheese

The cheese equals "no God," which is perceived as personal freedom (the illusion of autonomy). The "hammer" in the trap *represents the consequences with God out of the picture*. Sadly, under the guise of science, we have gone for the cheese and not seen the resulting consequences.

With "no God" *in the final analysis,* nothing matters. In fact, with God out of the picture, all that remains is:

- No meaning
- No value
- No significance
- No purpose
- No hope

(and some may think)

• No restraints against evil impulses

8 Impossible Things Atheists Must Believe Before Breakfast

- ONE Nothing created everything
- TWO Chaos created order
- THREE Non-Life created life
- FOUR Non-Consciousness created consciousness
- FIVE Non-Personal created personal
- SIX Non-Rational created rational
- SEVEN Blind created vision
- **EIGHT** Deaf created hearing

...AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE AND HOW MUCH MORE

f you have been told science, evolution, natural selection or Big Bang cosmology have proved God does not exist - then you have been lied to. They are not telling you the truth.

Those theories are only attempts at alternate explanations of things without acknowledging God.

What scientific evidence could possibly prove that something that happened in the past was caused by invisible force "A" (evolution) and not by invisible force "B" (God)?

Where would you start? Can you even conceive how such a thing could be tested? How could it be verified? The Scientific Method is clear and plain: the process must be *observable*, *repeatable*, and *verifiable* by an independent third party.

Yet it can seem that most of the scientists, educators, and highly intelligent people want to believe that evolution and natural selection are true science, and that science has ruled against the existence of God. Therefore they live as if He does not exist. And they often persuade the rest of us that they are right and justified in this belief. (Even a casual look at society today reveals the bankruptcy of that foundation.)

There is no conceivable way to prove or disprove evolution, and yet an impressive majority of intellectuals contend it is fact. Why do you suppose they hold to it?

Well, can you understand that if someone believes the existence of God would be very bad news, then perhaps no matter what evidence is shown, nothing would convince them? They have too much at stake. If one has already made up his mind, before going into the laboratory to begin his research, he would be predisposed, (biased) before he begins. If he wants to explain things a different way, he can say most anything plausible. Who would feel qualified to challenge him? Maybe you are thinking this charge of *bias* is a serious charge. Yet there are revealing indications of bias. For example: When an alternate theory, such as the theory of Intelligent Design, is put forth by reputable scientists, and is roundly and resolutely refused and rejected, isn't the most likely explanation that Intelligent Design would not be seen as good news by those who don't want a God in the picture? Bear in mind, anti-Intelligent Design minds do not have any science they can point to that shows their view is the result of (A) and not (B). But the opposition is uniform and absolute, and definitely without any true scientific proof.

They have ruled for decades. God is ruled out of the schools, resulting in fenced compounds complete with metal detectors at the entrances. He is ruled out of the courthouses, resulting in crowded prisons and a high and discouraging recidivism rate. It's all just more evidence proving the failure of their assumptions, resulting in disastrous policies in abortion, same sex marriage and gender confusion decisions about public bathrooms. All this is at a great cost, both morally, monetarily and in even in personal safety.

What difference does it make with God in the picture?

See if you agree that it makes all the difference in the world! The answers to the foundational and fundamental questions of *Identity* (*Who am I*) and *Significance* (*Do I matter*), and *Purpose* (*What should I be doing*) are radically different, and indeed opposite based on where you start in your line of thinking.

Are we mere accidents, products of random events? Do we have any enduring significance or any purpose at all beyond an enlightened self interest?

WHAT IS BEHIND IT ALL?

Here is an interesting approach. Let's see what you think. Take a moment and examine the three lines of evidence that together, conclusively, show that the Bible could not possibly be the result of mere human origin. The Bible is a collection of sixty-six documents, written over a period of more than thirteen hundred years by some forty authors. Among its many scribes were shepherds, a tax collector, a physician, fishermen and others who lived on three continents - Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Consider any other book written by a group, who for the most part did not know each other. These men were from different times and cultures, wrote during different periods of time, yet, their understanding of God was congruent, and the concept of God's unfolding plan was consistent and coherent. No other such book exists. That in itself is remarkable. Most books are out of date after only a few decades.

EXTERNAL EVIDENCE

Over the hundreds of years during which archeology has explored the Holy Lands, millions of dollars and millions of man hours have been invested in the excavations.

Researchers have learned a great deal. A vast number of names of people and places from thousands of years ago have been unearthed. Even with all these discoveries, *not one* has ever disproved a biblical statement.

FULFILLED PROPHECY

Perhaps the most concrete evidence of the Bible's supernatural origin is the recording of prophecy that has been documented to have been fulfilled.

The prophecies of Daniel concerning the coming Messiah and the destruction of the Temple (fulfilled in A.D. 70) have been attacked by critics who suspected the book must have been written after the events.

However, Daniel and the rest of Jewish Scriptures were translated from Hebrew and Aramaic into Greek in the 200 BC era. This fact clearly establishes that the prophecies were written hundreds of years before the events took place.

Many other Jewish Scriptures foretelling the Messiah's

birth and first advent are recorded in Isaiah 53, Psalm 22, and other places. You can Google "Messianic prophecies."

This can be demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt. That should dramatically change a secular skeptic's view of the world and everything in it.

Some have questioned the reliability of New Testament documents. They believe that much of the Scripture was not contemporaneous with the events proclaimed in its pages. They say much of the book may have been written later, perhaps a hundred, or even hundreds, of years after the actual events occurred.

Secular history records the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D. 70. Yet, there is no mention of this in the New Testament. The Temple was far more significant in the lives of the Jewish people of that day than the World Trade Center was in the lives of most Americans today.

The World Trade Center was so large that it had its own zip code and subway stops. Suppose you found a travel brochure about the Center. It would tell you many facts: the number of people who worked there, the number of visitors on a typical day, and perhaps the number of restaurants and meals served each day.

Now, assume you find no mention of 9/11 or that day's collapse of the towers? Isn't the most likely explanation that the booklet was printed before the events which destroyed the towers ever took place?

The destruction of the Temple fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus. This would have validated His credentials as a prophet. The fact that the New Testament has no mention of it is best understood by concluding that the New Testament accounts were written by eye witnesses before the events of A.D. 70 took place, just as the Bible records.

But what about other religions? Do not "many paths lead to the top of the mountain?"

Of course, that question raises another thought-

Who/What is to be found at the top of the mountain?

Hindus believe there are millions of gods. Buddhists believe in no god at all. Christians believe in the God of the Bible.

Imagine that in the era of silver dollars, a criminal decides to get into the business of counterfeit coins. In considering his options he immediately discards the idea of a counterfeit silver dollar made of wood. No one but perhaps a small child, could be fooled by such. It does not resemble the genuine enough.

So, he makes a counterfeit silver dollar made of metal. And he succeeds in fooling some people. However, if he decides to add some silver content to his basic metal counterfeit, he will fool more people. The more silver he adds, the more it resembles the genuine, and the more people he fools.

Silver in the counterfeit coin corresponds to Truth in a counterfeit religion. The more truth, the more people fooled. All truth is God's truth. And the Devil can quote scripture to his advantage, as we are shown in the account of Christ's temptation in the wilderness.

Let us be on guard against half truths. The counterfeit proves the existence of the genuine.

Modern science is "Western" science and came from a Christian worldview that believed a reasonable God would create a reasonable and intelligible and rational world that could be understood. Eastern religions could never produce that.

The existence of God speaks to the foundational issues of *Identity*, *Significance* and *Purpose*.

The practical applications are life altering. How shall I treat others? Are humans mere accidental results of random processes? What if I can gain significantly by taking advantage of people? What if they are easily exploited? If I am tempted,

why not? If we conclude that these issues have no lasting significance, and if we are cunning enough to get away with it, when temptation allures us, we are left with just the question, "Why not?"

What if others feel this way *about me*? I know that some are stronger and smarter. Who can I trust? Statistics on crime are not encouraging.

So we can begin to see how leaving God out of the picture has rather profound implications.

What does it mean to be *human*? "No God" means we are mere accidents of nature. With that outlook, we are considered no more than a product of random chance events.

We live only a few short months. You must live 83 years and 4 months to attain only 1,000 months of life. A month goes by pretty fast, leaving a limited time to pay the bills, balance the check book, and the like. It's often said that life is 90 percent maintenance and 10 percent living.

Then how shall we live? Without God it is difficult to find an enduring purpose to life. How shall we view others? If they are made in the image of God, we must assign them high value and accord them basic rights.

From where do our rights come? If the government "giveth" rights, then the government has every right to take them away. That seems to have been what Hitler and Stalin believed. History records that on the order of one hundred million people were murdered by totalitarianism in the 20th century alone...at least partly because of an atheistic world view.

Stalin's and Mao's atheistic communism assumed their citizens possessed no rights beyond what their governments offered. Because their subjects' lives had no lasting, intrinsic value or rights, countless citizens were liquidated as inconvenient enemies of the state.

With God out of the picture, why not? How could you

call it wrong?

You need some basis to challenge it beyond, "But that's just your opinion!"

In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson and other founders of our republic affirmed, "...they [we] are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights."

From time to time, each and every one of us experiences temptation. How do you handle the temptation to do *wrong*?

With God in the picture, we know that we, ultimately, must give an account for each time we give in to temptation. We will answer for each time we take advantage of another, whether we have lied, stolen or surrendered to other immoral infractions. Any form of exploitation or fraud will be adjudicated by a perfect and divine justice. Knowing there is One to whom we are accountable, provides a decisive basis for saying, "No!" to temptation.

But what if God is out of the picture? Isn't this what many believe? Without God, we may take advantage of whatever nefarious opportunity is available.

We become experts at rationalizing behavior:

"It's not so bad." "Everyone is doing it." "No one will know." "It's no big deal."

Yet when we are the *victims* and not the perpetrators, then it becomes a different picture. This is not how we want others to view the situation when *our* cell phone, iPod, stereo, spouse, children or other treasured possessions or people are in peril.

And yet the question may remain, why not? Most of us are influenced, to varying degrees, by the behaviors of those around us. If others are convinced that God is out of the picture, that no one is keeping score, and if we feel we are likely to succeed in getting away with it, the temptation is intensified.

In January 2015, The Denver Post reported a story titled "Cold Case Murders in the U.S. 1980 through 2014". The unsolved murders over the 35 years, compiled from federal, state and local records, exceeded 211,000. Do the math and our nation has experienced, on average, 16 unsolved murders each and every day since 1980. The account did not say how many murders were solved, murderers caught or undiscovered murders.

We abandoned the ancient wisdom on how God's justice dealt with murder and with crime because we thought we knew better. There was no prison overcrowding 75 years ago and we were safer in our homes and on the street. In fact, statistically our grand daughters are hundreds of times more likely to be victims of a violent assault during their lifetimes than our grandmothers ever were.

These uncaught murderers found no reason *not to* murder their victims. The question of "Why shouldn't I steal from this person?" can slide into, "Why shouldn't I kill this person?" Thankfully, most will never cross that Rubicon, but some will.

WHO IS TO SAY WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG? WHO GETS TO DECIDE?

You are sometimes left with the impression that each person gets to decide for themselves. Well why not? If there is no unmoving standard of right and wrong (God), then each certainly decides for oneself.

"That may be true for you, but not for me. Who made you the judge?"

It's widely reported that a majority believe truth is *relative*, that there is no settled, objective standard (God) of truth. Does that make you feel safe when you go out after dark?

What is the solution? Isn't it the overwhelming scientific

consensus that God does not exist? Sadly, many scientists and educators think that way.

On the other hand, large numbers of contemporary scientists and educators have a robust belief in God, and their transformed lives attest to that reality.

EVER WONDER WHY WE BELIEVE AS WE DO?

We come to our positions of belief, whether we believe in God or not, in a confluence of differing authority groups. Most likely, we agree with whatever the reigning consensus was in the home in which we grew up. It may have been molded by schools, social environments, and/or business settings.

So, often without a great deal of thought, we come to our conclusions. A wondrous thing then happens. These now become our positions. We tend to protect them, defend them, live by them, and hold on to them, as if we had arrived there by the most rigorous and disciplined process of reasoning.

After all they do "free" us, don't they? We are now the final authority for what we will do and how we will live. We are invested in those patterns. We develop a "stake" in them, hardly aware of any perilous implications they might bring to bear.

The longer our life investment in these standards, the more difficult it can become to cut our losses. We're then likely to operate more from resolve than rationality.

In this state of affairs, we may resolutely resist the logic of God's certain existence.

So then, is there a *factual* basis for belief in God? We're betting our lives on the answers. Before that, let's consider a few questions:

What is the rationale for atheism? Is there a factual basis? What is it? Is there a logical basis?

I believe you will come up empty on those quests because of the impossibility of proving a negative.

The universe is large. How can you know that nowhere in the vastness of space does God not exist?

Shrink the quest down to size. You might be able to prove that there is not a spider in the room. You could make a careful and meticulous search and cover the entire area. But spiders come in various sizes. And you could not know for sure that one of the little ones did not scoot past while your attention was focused in the other direction.

So, is it rationally defensible to declare that God does not exist?

"Okay," you say, "Even if it is granted that God may, or even probably does exist, why should we believe in a talking snake?"

Isn't it widely accepted by educated people that the Garden of Eden was just a myth, or a fable? Doesn't everyone know that?

Well, not everyone. In fact, there are three powerful lines of reasoning for the open-minded. The evidence weighs heavily toward the factual basis for Eden's existence.

The law of causality, or the relationship of cause and effect, states that outcomes tend to be in a proportional relationship to the causes. For example, a firecracker produces a firecracker-size effect. A hand grenade, a blockbuster bomb, and a thermonuclear device each produce effects proportional to their size, force, and power.

So when we find a universal effect, it would logically follow there is a universal cause.

An undisputed truth is that everybody and everything dies. *Why*? It all goes back to the Garden of Eden and the Snake – Satan, the enemy of life.

Tens of millions, perhaps hundreds of millions of dollars

are invested in research to learn why we age and how we can live longer. And yet we all die. Why?

Scripture testifies "In the day you eat thereof, you shall die."

Snake said, "You will not surely die." All of us know that is universally untrue.

The second proof is also found in Scripture, and its effect is also found in our worldly experience. Before man declared independence from God, he was "centered" in God. The world was then in harmony. But man switched centers; he became self-centered and thus selfish. And the world was broken, and we are broken with it.

Selfishness is why we resist God. Convinced by the lie that "our" way is best, we do not trust God's goodness and we reject His way. Selfishness equals sin. And we are all selfish to a greater or lesser extent.

A part of being human is to be self-centered. Can you name even a single problem facing the culture today that is not, in some way, a result of selfishness? We have broken homes, children abandoned by their mothers and fathers, crime, corruption in government, environmental outrages and wars. The list goes on.

The third strong corroboration is the all-pervasive belief in the LIE.

"What lie?" Snake (Satan) said. "What we want for ourselves, what *we* choose is better, and to be preferred, compared to whatever God wants for us." The charge against God is, "He is not good."

We have all, at one time or another believed the lie and, often, still do. Perhaps that is the rest of the explanation of why we resist, often with monumental resolve, the evidence of God's existence.

And this very declaring of our independence gives us a false sense of empowerment, self determination and control.

Of course, we are not in control in any *real* sense, as we realize when we buckle up in an airplane.

In fact, there is very little we can exercise autonomy over. Unless you are independently wealthy, you have limited choices over where you live and work.

You do not get to choose the family you are born into, nor the century or culture. You do not get to choose your gender, your body type, I.Q., temperament, personality, nor coloring.

The most important choices we get to make are decisions about whether or not to believe the lie.

Further, there is almost nothing you have that you can hang on to. You cannot be sure you will keep your eyesight, your hearing, your mental capacity, your health, your job, your spouse or your mobility.

The one thing you are able to retain is that standing between you and the life for which you were made. *Your will*. In this, you are sovereign.

You can continue in your declaration of independence from God. You can spend your entire life in this state of rebellion and take your last breath and die—*unsurrendered* to God.

But why would you? Isn't that irrational? The only reason I can imagine is that you believe the lie—what you want for yourself is better, and to be preferred, to God's benevolent, gracious, and infinitely perfect plan for your life. You believe you cannot trust God.

It is true that some of the things God forbids can be very alluring. When God says "Don't," He is really saying, "Don't hurt yourself." Although proof can be tenuous, the moral laws are just as real as those of physics. Violate the law of gravity and the results are immediate. Moral law violations may or may not produce an immediate visible effect. An acorn takes a long time to produce a tree. It is believing the Snake that has brought us to the hurting place in which the world now exists.

So, what will you believe? Before "Big Bang" cosmology, those who did not want to recognize the existence of God attempted to find comfort in the belief that all matter is eternal. Science tells us that matter cannot be created. It can change its form, say from liquid or solid to gas, but it cannot be created. For matter to exist, there must have been a Creator whose existence transcends the science of known physics.

We inherently know that the universe had a beginning. Science theorizes how it began. Because of the fine-tuning within many forces such as, gravity and velocity, some suggest that instead of just one universe, there are "multiuniverses". The assumption is that with enough universes, fine-tuning is a given rather than evidence of design.

Of course, the multi-verse hypothesis is unprovable. The premise offers nothing to solve the problem of how it could have started on its own, without God.

Anyone with average intelligence, without support from a scientist in a white coat, can see the evidential facts regarding existence.

You may remember a particular scientist who, at the beginning of every TV episode of *Cosmos*, stated assuredly, "The cosmos, all that is, or ever was or ever will be." As far as I know, no one ever asked Carl Sagan, "How do you know that?" The answer is, "He didn't." The statement is an unprovable assertion. There is no possible way to scientifically test it. It is a statement of *faith*. Imagine that!

Yet, it is likely that millions, untrained to test assertions critically, accepted his recurring declaration as gospel truth.

Much of what we can know, without having to rely on the claims of the experts, is as plain as the nose on our face.

It is self evident that existence depicts a very high degree

of *order*. The Earth is highly organized, and many believe its environmental balance is fragile and threatened. Enormous *diversity* exists throughout the world. In the 1970s *Science Reader* reported that perhaps as much as one half of the plant life in South America was yet to be classified.

There is a mind-boggling *complexity* to all existence, ranging from living cells and DNA to the subatomic structure of the elements.

Ecology and environmentalism declare the *interrelatedness* of nature.

The *dependability* of water always boiling at 212 degrees at sea level and all the other laws of physics and chemistry demonstrate that the universe operates *under a system of laws*.

The world is highly *rational*, *knowable*, and *intelligible*. Think about it. Scientists could not formulate experiments, must less test them, without this assurance of conformance to law. And the intelligibility is progressive. Modern technology confirms this.

Big Bang Cosmology cannot account for this. Naturalism/ Atheism is forced to believe:

- Nothing created everything
- Chaos created order
- Non-life created life
- Non-consciousness created consciousness
- Non-rational created rational
- Non-personal created personal
- The blind created vision
- Non-hearing created hearing The list could go on.

This isn't rational. The existence of God is proven by the rational, logical nature of things being understood as it is.

God Is Love. And He loves you. Yet, we declare our

independence from God, which is an act of rebellion, or sin. And God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all sin.

Recently a vase was discovered during an archeological dig with the inscription, "A thing is worth what someone will pay for it."

What are you worth? God loved you so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die for your rebellion against Him. (John 3:16) He paid a terrible price to save us all from an awful fate.

That is quite a price to pay. You and I can resist this knowledge with a resolve that is beyond all logic and rationality.

Why? It is because on some level, we believe the Lie that originated in Eden. What lie? The lie that, "What we want for ourselves is better, and to be preferred, to what a benevolent God has planned for us."

Don't believe it. Millions and millions of Christians testifying over two thousand years proclaim God's truth. God is love. And He loves you.

Snake says "God is not good." The more common, modern statement is, "God does not exist". Either concept renders you being of little value, significance, or meaning.

You are asked to believe all this without any factual basis to back it up.

WHY WE KNOW GOD EXISTS

The realistic foundation establishing God's existence is the **ORDER** of our world and universe. From the very smallest things to the very largest, we can perceive a universal order. That order is additionally demonstrated by the laws of physics, chemistry, mathematics, music, botany, geology, and more. To this add:

- DIVERSITY
- COMPLEXITY

- INTER-RELATEDNESS
- INTELLIGIBILITY

Big Bang cosmology offers no explanatory power to account for those.

"Oh, yes we do!" exclaims the atheist. "Darwin's theory of evolution and natural selection explains them all!"

Do they really? Natural Selection is so God-like in its presumed authority that modern-day evolutionist and atheist, Richard Dawkins, feels the need to go to great lengths to explain that natural selection "is blind, mindless and without purpose." He doesn't offer where or how he learned that. I suspect his is another "faith" statement for which there is no method of proving, he's just asking us to believe.

After all, wasn't the purpose of the whole enterprise of natural selection an attempt to account for things without the need to refer to the supernatural or to God? It's a small wonder that many of us can feel our lives have little purpose.

A fertile imagination finds few limits. "It may have happened like this," or "it could have been this way." So given enough time, say billions of years, and a blind, mindless, and purposeless process "could" account for the order, complexity, and diversity, and so forth, that we all see and experience.

It is important that we see Darwinian Evolution and Big Bang Cosmology for what they are. They are alternate explanations that attempt to answer the important questions They do not succeed. God is the better explanation.

We have seen photographs of man's footprints on the moon. The Lunar Lander was designed with the assumption that dust on the moon's surface would be consistent with known rates of accumulation on Earth, based upon more than a century of record keeping (factored by the moon's lower gravity and lack of atmosphere). The supposed billions of years were expected to result in dust depths measured in feet, as the Lander's design shows, not the couple of inches the photos reveal—a depth consistent with six to ten thousand years of accumulation.

Of course God could do it any way He chose — through billions of years, or if He could make Adam as an adult male, he could also make mature trees, rocks and galaxies, fully mature with all the signs of age.

Much of what we think we know about the age of the Earth is founded and grounded on the assumption that the "clock in the rock" began it's countdown from zero. Or in the case of space, that velocity has always remained constant.

They believe they can compute the age of the universe by calculating the distances of galaxies from the center, yet in other places they say they cannot know where the center really is.

This is, of course, an unproven and unprovable assumption. There is no way to verify it. In any case, you need *Someone* to get it all started. It begins to sound like a fairy tale for adults. You know, like a rabbit out of a hat, except without a hat and even without a magician.

We don't know how much we don't know. Therefore, when the atheist opposition sets forth extensive and comprehensive narratives across the disciplines of astronomy, botany, biology, chemistry, physics and others, we feel that we are not in a position to adequately address them or to refute them.

Yet we see this colossus astride our modern world ruling the schools and the government, and are tempted to feel there is little we can do about it, as we slide faster and faster into chaos. They say: "We can go into the lab and prove that the rate of decay in this fossil, or this rock is constant. And we can prove that it would take - millions or billions of years to reach this stage. Therefore, we can know the universe is billions of years old."

But what they cannot prove, because there is no scientific

way to test it, is that the clock in the rock, or in the fossil began its countdown from zero. With no way to prove base point, they must assume it. In fact, they must have faith that it is so! So, the whole colossal edifice is grounded of an assumption - on faith. They have no proof, and yet they rule.

These erroneous beliefs rule ONLY because others do not know there is no proof for these foundational assumptions.

The remoteness of the galaxies is used as an example by these "scientists" as well. They say: "We can go into our labs and prove the speed of light. They assume, but cannot prove that the speed of light is the fastest anything can travel. They say it would take billions of years to get to earth.

What they cannot prove is that God does not exist. Indeed this is the reason for their alternate explanations - to show how humans can *understand* without the need of "the God hypothesis."

God made Adam as a fully mature human with all the attributes of age. He did the same for trees, rocks and galaxies. They claim differently. They think they have proved it. They are wrong.

What shall we do? The Dead Sea is dead because it receives water but does not pass it on. Let's make sure we are not like the Dead Sea, receiving yet not passing truth to others. Tell someone. Tell everyone. Let The Whole World Know!

If you begin with "No God," then you must come up with another explanation. When you renounce the Snake-lie you no longer need another version.

THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS:

- Sovereign
- Eternal
- Unchangeable
- Spirit
- Omnipotent
- Omniscient

- Omnipresent
- Holy
- Righteousness
- Justice
- Love
- ...and more

Scripture declares that the evidence for God's existence is clearly seen. We resist the evidence in order to serve our own mistaken self-interest. We choose to believe the Snake.

Knowledge really does have power. With what you now know, you can act upon your own best interest. And is it not wonderful that you have the great honor and privilege of testing the message in the laboratory of your own life?

Now you can ask *who* can you trust? Some may dethrone God in their lives, but that doesn't change the fact that He continues to rule and reign.

Your home had a builder. You do not need to know his name to know he exists. The building itself proves that. No building at any time ever just popped into existence uncaused. Yet there are those who want to say that's just what the universe did. Uncaused. One Tuesday afternoon.

CONSIDER THESE PHENOMENAL STATEMENTS:

MATTHEW 7:13 "Enter in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many go in there."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21 "Therefore if anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new. And all things are of God who has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation. To wit God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be reconciled to God. For He made Him to be sin for us; Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

(If you feel an impulse to resist, you do not have to yield to it. You have the power to choose God.) Is not this the most wonderful news anyone can ever receive? A brand new life. A fresh start. *Finally*—a true reason for living.

Don't miss out. Ask God to reveal His salvation to you. What do you have to lose? Don't trust the Snake.

Some are troubled by the aspect of mystery found in the Bible.

It has been observed that the four most mysterious words in the Bible are, actually, the first four: IN THE BEGINNING GOD.

With God in the picture miracles are to be expected.

Carl Marx famously said: "Religion is the opiate of the people."

The shooters in schools, after murdering classmates and teachers, often take their own lives supposing they have avoided culpability.

The real opiate of the people is the inculcating of the belief that after death, there is only nothingness.

God in the picture makes all the difference in the world. May He grant us conviction of sin and show us our Savior.

Whether you know it or not, there exists an infinitely powerful and good Being, who is holy, righteous and just who loves you and me.

And beyond our ability to comprehend, in spite of knowing every wrong choice we have ever made, He desires to be reconciled to us. Is not this the greatest thought that can occupy the human mind? Invite God to show you that this is true. Then, when asked you can tell others "I believe God Himself proved to me it is true." What do you have to lose? What do you have to gain? Ask. Seek. Find. To reject God is to accept that the final reality is The Survival Of The Fittest. Can we really live in the hopeless despair of that?

Christian belief is not a philosophical argument. Scripture

claims that Jesus rose from the dead. The church claims He is alive today. Every book of the New Testament claims its authority not on the death but on the resurrection. This is not difficult to prove. You can know for yourself. For certain. All it takes is a prayer uttered in all sincerity.

Will you let this be your moment of truth?

THE PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Based off of what I have been able to discover so far, I thought You didn't exist. But as I consider that You do exist and did create this world, I know that I have not followed Your standards or even cared to follow them. Help me in this moment. Forgive me of all the wrong I have done. I accept Your Son Jesus as having paid for my sin, and made a way to connect to You. Help me discover more of your Truth as I look to you as my Savior and leader. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOW GREAT IS THE DARKNESS

You now know more than 99% of your family, friends, and co-workers. Will you allow God to use you to shine light into their darkness? Of course the Enemy will try to persuade you otherwise. Don't let others "call evil good, and good evil" any longer. You have the basis, God, for declaring what is right and what is wrong. Resolve that when you look back a year from now, ten years from now, or decades from now, you will be filled with joy for your choice of speaking these truths out to others who need God's light. We have a significant number of free copies of this booklet available to use in your small groups, discipleship programs, schools or in your church. Just ask!

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