

**The BIG QUESTIONS about Christianity**  
***How can I know that God exists? The Creation***  
**9-12-10**  
**Scripture Reading - Romans 1:18-25**

Why this series?

- Because I want to see people come to know and love God and I know these questions are keeping many people from doing so.
  - They did for me.
- There are other factors such as tradition and fear
- But as I talk to people these questions loom large.
  - Ex. Atheist friend who says these questions are his #1 issue.
  - “As for Sunday, I will be busy all day. I am meeting up with my Fantasy Football buddies for a long day of football watching, nachos, and beer.”

How's it going to work?

- 12-15 messages / done by Christmas
- 30-40 minutes each / 6 to 10 hours / not exhaustive / don't have all the answers
- All online
- Opportunity for further discussion (Oct 2 / Nov 6 / Dec 4 / 10-12 p.m.)
  - I'll be glad to talk to you ANY time!
- Discussing them in our ministry groups every other week

My hope

- That everyone who tunes in will take one step closer to God
  - Giving Him a chance
  - Making a commitment to follow Him
    - Those who have been coming
  - Becoming better equipped to share Him with others
    - Ambassadors for Christ
    - Nothing has challenged and strengthened my faith more

How can we know that God exists?

- In one sense we can't

- o Unlike the boiling temperature of water or the earth's gravitational pull, which are observable and measurable, the existence of can't be scientifically proven because God is not observable and measurable in this way.
- o God cannot be seen and He rarely speaks in an audible way, therefore in the scientific sense His existence must be taken by faith.
  - **Hebrews 11:6 (ESV)**  
<sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
- o But neither can it be proven scientifically that God doesn't exist.
  - This too must be taken by faith.
  - I would argue more faith.
- So in one sense we can't know for sure that God exists, but in another sense we can.
  - o Though I can't prove scientifically that my wife loves me, I *know for sure* that she does.
    - If you observed all her interactions with me, not all of them communicate "I love you." In fact, some of them communicate the opposite 😊.
  - o However, if you were to add her interactions up, the evidence for her loving me would far outweigh the evidence against. Plus, I just know deep down in my heart that she does.
  - o The same is true of God.
- So though it is not possible to prove scientifically that God exists, *it is possible to KNOW that He does.*

So what is the evidence for God?

- According to the Bible, there are four primary ways that God reveals Himself to us.
  - o Creation (general revelation)
  - o Bible (special revelation)
  - o Jesus ("the exact imprint of His nature" Heb 1:3)
  - o Church (which is indwelt by the HS and ought to reflect Jesus)

- We'll talk lot's more about the last three later but for today I want to begin with the Creation.
  - o The Creation is God's primary pointer toward His existence because it is available for all to see.
    - **Romans 1:18-20 (ESV)**  
<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> 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.
    - I believe that the creation is the main reason more than 99% of people all time have believed in a higher power and why 97.5% still believe in a higher power today.
  - o There has been, however, a growing number of atheists since the dawn of modern science in the 1800's and especially since Charles Darwin released his Theory of Evolution in the 1850's.
    - Unlike theists, atheists DO NOT believe in the existence of a higher power. Thus, rather than believing that the universe was *supernaturally* created, they believe that it came about naturally as the result of an unknown cause and has evolved gradually through the processes of random chance and time.
    - Though the number of atheists remains small (2.5% world 1.6% U.S.) their voice is especially significant because there is a higher percentage of them in "modernized" nations and because many of them work in the world's leading colleges and universities, especially in the science fields. Because of this, many have thought that the more science advances, the more it will disprove the existence of God.
    - Interestingly enough, this hasn't been the case. Though the number of atheists does seem to be

on the rise, so too is the number of theists. This is especially true in atheistic strongholds such as China. It is also true in the scientific community of our leading colleges and universities. The number of leading scientists who are rejecting atheistic evolution and embracing the concept of Intelligent Design is on the increase, *especially in the past 30 years*. For these scientists, not all of whom are Christians, the more they find out about the creation, the more it seems to point to a Creator.

So how does science point us toward a Creator?

- Lee Strobel makes a strong case for Intelligent Design in his book The Case for a Creator (pp. 130-131)
- There are at least 5 things about our universe that can be scientifically observed that make me believe it was created by an Intelligent Designer or Creator God.

1) Precision

- o “Razor’s Edge”
  - “Anthropic Principle”
    - The Case for a Creator p. 126
  - Distance from the sun
  - Tilt of the earth
  - Gravitational pull

2) Complexity

- o of a single cell
- o let alone the human mind or body

3) Cohesion

- o The number of systems that need to work perfectly together for our bodies to function
- o For the ecosystem to function

4) Diversity

- o Have you ever laid in the grass on your stomach and looked down?

5) Beauty

- o Have you ever laid in the grass on your back and looked up?
- o Have you ever really looked at a flower?

- When I add all those things up I just can't believe they are the result of random chance and time.
- The best atheistic response I've heard to the unlikelihood of random chance and time producing a life sustaining universe like ours is the "multi-universe theory."
  - o Explain
  - o Though possible... still very unlikely
    - 50 heads in a row
  - o No scientific basis or proof that other universes exist
  - o Still doesn't answer the question of how the universes were created in the first place.
- Thus I believe that the most reasonable explanation for our amazingly precise, complex, cohesive, diverse, and beautiful life sustaining universe is that it was created by an uncreated Intelligent Designer, who I believe to be the loving Creator God of the Bible.

The Bible says this of God and His creation...

- **Genesis 1:1 (ESV)**  
<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
- **Psalms 19:1 (ESV)**  
 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

The Bible says this about us...

- **Romans 1:18-25 (ESV)**  
<sup>18</sup>For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup>For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. <sup>24</sup>

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because *they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.*

- Verse 25 was certainly true of me until God opened my eyes through the birth of my daughter 12 years ago.
  - o Explain
  - o God used Eva's birth to open my eyes to His existence, and I've been in awe of His creation ever since.
    - Ex. The bee dance

#### Application

- Skeptics - Look seriously at the world around you. Does an unknown cause and random chance and time really make more sense than an Intelligent Designer or Creator God?
- Believers - Look seriously at the creation and allow it to point you to God and lean on the creation when doubt creeps in.

#### Next week

We'll look specifically at what the Bible describes as the pinnacle of God's creation, human beings, and talk about how they in particular point to God's existence.