

CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

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DOES GOD BELIEVE IN ATHEISTS? Part II



Dr. John Blanchard

Co-founder of Christian Ministries, an internationally known Christian author, teacher and conference speaker. Nearly fifteen million copies of his publications are in print in some forty languages.

Distinctives –What Makes Man Different?

Scholossberg and Hazlitt touch on a major factor in distinguishing humans from the rest of the animal kingdom, but there are at least thirteen major areas in which fundamental differences can be clearly identified.

1. Man intrinsically walks upright. This is an obvious visible difference between humans and other creatures, and is much more significant than might at first appear. Man is not merely an erect ape (the relative size of his upper and lower limbs is the exact opposite of what is found in apes) and the curved shape of the human spine gives unique advantages for seeing, face-to-face body language, and speaking without any change of head position. (The hoary chestnut about human back problems dating back to the time when hominids first stood upright is long past its sell-by date, as it is now well established that there are animals with even greater back problems.) The other major physical distinction is that humans have two hands and two feet.

2. Man has vastly superior intelligence. He can accumulate, remember and evaluate masses of information on an immense variety of subjects, and then

act rationally as a result. Man's superior intelligence is illustrated or proved in many ways, and the remaining distinctives listed below help to make the point.

3. Man is a historical and political being, one who is aware of his past, has developed a cultural tradition and makes laws and rules of behavior to govern his social life.

4. Man possesses qualities not only of consciousness, but of self-awareness, which lead him to reflect on his identity and relevance. He instinctively senses that he is neither an atomic accident nor an educated ape. All other living creatures are conscious; man alone is self-conscious.

5. Man has the unique ability to use propositional language, employing sophisticated syntax.

Man can write prose and poetry, translate languages, and express the whole gamut of human emotions in spoken and written words. Experts in the field have concluded that 'Apparently human beings, and only humans, are specifically designed to acquire just the range of language systems that we see manifested in the world's five thousand-plus languages.

6. Man is capable of complex reasoning, lateral thinking and the development of theories and insights.

This is related to the fact that human brain size alone is not a reliable guide to intelligence; it is the *type* of brain. Not only is the human cortex far bigger than that of any animal, it has a much larger uncommitted area, which is free for the higher mental processes.

7. Man has mathematical skills. He has the ability to count to immense numbers, construct algebraic equa-

tions, apply the rules of reason to sets of axioms, and use mathematical language to discuss issues in mathematics, statistics and science generally, including the nature of the universe and the laws of planetary motion.

8. Man's cultural and scientific achievements are on a vastly different scale from anything accomplished by any other creatures. Nowhere is this clearer than in the construction of sophisticated tools in order to make use of natural resources for his benefit or enjoyment.

9. Man has an aesthetic dimension, an innate sense of beauty which, like goodness and truth, eludes scientific analysis. He is able to assess the relative qualities of form, texture, color, order and design. He is endlessly creative in composing music and making pictures and other objects, not merely for practical purposes, but for his personal enjoyment or to express meaning.

10. Man is not governed by instinct. When Irish Republican terrorists detonated a car bomb in Omagh on 15 August 1998, killing twenty-nine men, women and children and injuring hundreds more, Mo Mowlam, who was Northern Ireland Secretary at the time, told reporters, 'The people who did this are not human, they are animals,'⁵⁶ but this scathing condemnation does an injustice to the animals, whose behavior is governed by instinct alone, whereas human beings can knowingly and deliberately act in callous, perverted or destructive

Answers In This Issue *act and refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9)*

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THE GOSPEL IN BRIEF

There is one, and only one, eternal, true, holy God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Matt 28:19). He created everything by His word. God has told us the truth about Himself in the word He has given us, the Bible, which He commands us to obey. God is compassionate and just to all. God is pure and Holy; sin is destroyed in His presence (Numbers 14:18). However, we have all sinned, falling short in the evil we do, and the good we fail to do. Yet our problem is not just what we do, but also who we are; we are selfish, corrupt, and estranged from God. Because God is just, He will punish sin impartially, yet God still bestows his love to all men. So our Savior, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God (the God-man, John 1:1,14), was graciously sent to suffer and die on the cross for our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness by the sacrifice of His body and blood. He was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and was physically raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus will physically return to judge the world. God commands everyone to repent and to believe in Him. God's Spirit lives in each of us who believe in Him to guide us into truth, convict us of our sins, and to work in us to sanctify us to live a more holy life, pleasing our Lord. God's children will dwell forever with God, and those who reject Jesus will suffer eternal torment. There is no other way for anyone to come to God except through Jesus (Jn. 14:6). Please do not depend on anyone else, your own efforts, your religion, but simply put your faith in Christ our Master. So as Rom. 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart the God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." You are urged not to despise God's mercy but call out to the Lord and trust ONLY in Him.



Larry Wessels

Although I really should not be surprised by what I am seeing in this ever increasing anti-God world we find ourselves in; it nevertheless amazes me to see American society as a whole moving so rapidly away from Biblical standards on all levels. After all, Jesus Himself said, "...when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8) or "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all...Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." (Luke 17:26-30). I see this anti-Biblical God mentality from the mass media (magazines, newspapers, radio, television, film, i.e. movies, documentaries, etc.) to our educational system (atheistic evolution is taught in elementary school through college), to the mass emigration of pagan religions coming to American shores (bringing with them Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Bahaim and any other number of anti-Christian beliefs and philosophical systems).

Meanwhile, a weak and impotent so-called "Christian" church has been infected with anti-Biblical liberalism, ecumenism, "blab it and grab it prosperity" gospels, hoaxy conspiracy predictions (a la Texe Marrs), phony "signs and wonders" groups (putting out books like *I Was In Hell For 30 Minutes*, etc.), psychobabble self-help religion (which replaces scripture), and "feel good" theology (creating so many "tares" you wonder if there is any "wheat" left in the field -Matthew 13:25-40). What a mess! The Corinthian church which Saint Paul dealt with is starting to look pretty good compared to this lot. It is no wonder then that anti-Biblical ideas, philosophies, and religions reign supreme over the landscape when their only opposition is this weak-kneed "Christianity" (which is itself anti-Biblical in nature and is therefore, by definition, in league with the enemy).

The only solution is for the true Christian to hold fast to God's Word, the Bible, at all costs because as we see all around us daily, the Devil has never changed his tactics in attacking the validity of God's Word: "Yea, hath God said..."(Genesis 3:1). Study and trust God's Word (II Tim. 3:13-17) to protect yourself from the world (similar to Noah's day) and the false prophets inside the so-called "Christian" church (Matt. 7:20-29).

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ANSWERS ?

Our ministry name is derived in part from I Peter 3:15 which states, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." (KJV). This is the goal of **Christian Answers** in an increasingly anti-Christian society here in America and throughout the world; giving answers and reasons why the Christian faith can be trusted and believed. Christians are to know what they believe and why they believe it.

The Biblical commands to "fight the good fight of faith" (I Tim. 6:12), to be "set for the defense of the gospel" (Phil. 1:17), to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), to "be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9), to "put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not" (Rev. 2:2), to "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:15), to "examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21), "with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25), to follow the example of Paul and Apollos who "vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was Christ." (Acts 18:28). These are but a few of the marching orders for the call to ministry, discernment and evangelism.

The inerrant Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) whereby the gospel is preached, which is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Rom. 1:16), is the weapon of our evangelism. As Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow: it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." This is the evangelical missionary methodology of **Christian Answers**— to bring the Biblical perspective to a culture that is almost completely ignorant of it; to bring Christian truth, Christian answers to those who, as the prophet Isaiah said, have made "lies...and falsehood" their refuge (Isa. 28:15); to smash lies and falsehoods with the "hammer" of God's word (Jer. 23:29); see also Proverbs 30:5-6, Psalm 138:2b, Isaiah 40:8, John 5:39-47, I Cor. 14:37, and Acts 17:11.

Christian Answers utilizes all outreach that God allows us including television, radio, audio CDs, video DVDs, speaking engagements, and the printed page. The materials we have been able to produce have been used by churches, Bible teachers, Christian apologists, laymen and others as well as those seeking life in Christ.

We are not afraid to stand up for Jesus Christ in public forums or wherever the Lord leads. Of course this type of ministry is not for the faint of heart and very often leads to the same type of suffering and persecution that we find in the book of Acts. But as the old saying goes, "one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last," and as Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14), knowing this mortal life is short and God's eternity is only a moment away for all.

Our ministry is "exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501 (c) (3) by the Internal Revenue Service". Donations to our ministry are tax deductible, therefore those who contribute will receive a donation receipt good on your US income tax. This applies to donations only, not sales. We are legally registered in the state of Texas.

ways.

11. Man is unique in his relationships with the opposite sex. Man is free to love one person before another, and is free to choose the level of his affection. As John Peet says, 'Mankind has freedom from the rigorous chemical control of the reproductive functions, whereas animals are constrained by these periodic functions.'

12. Man has a moral dimension, a stubborn perception that there is a difference between right and wrong. He can use and understand words like 'temptations', 'offence', 'wickedness', 'crime', 'sin', 'fault', 'blame' and 'forgiveness'.

13. Most significantly in the context of our present study, man has a spiritual dimension. He has what theologians call *sensus divinitatis*, a sense of deity. It has sometimes been said that man is incurably religious but, as the scholar R.B. Kuiper comments, 'Religion not being a disease, it is much better to say that man is *constitutionally* religious.'⁶⁴ Any fair reading of history, ancient and modern, would seem to justify this verdict of the British scientist Sir John Houghton: 'There is general evidence that most human beings, from whatever part of the world and from the earliest times, have exhibited a fundamental belief in a divine being or beings, and in some sort of spiritual world.'⁶⁵

Other animals seem satisfied when their basic physical and material needs are met, but this is not the case with mankind. The human spirit can never be satisfied with creature comforts and material possessions, and there is widespread evidence that some of the world's wealthiest people in history have been among the most miserable and unfulfilled.

This 'God-shaped blank' in human hearts is a historical and universal phenomenon, setting humanity apart from every other species. Man is irresistibly religious, regardless of whether this is what he wishes, and the desire to reach out beyond himself to a superior spiritual power deeply affects the whole of life. It has even been said that 'Every effort to prove there is no God is in itself an effort to reach for God.'⁷⁵

In his *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, the eighteenth-century British politician Edmund Kurke wrote, 'We know, and it is our pride to know, that man is by his constitution a religious animal; that atheism is against not only our reason but our instincts.'⁷⁶

What is the explanation for this universal spiritual phenomenon? Is it seriously suggested that if molecules of muck are left lying around for long enough they will develop ideas about God? C.S. Lewis supplied a more rational answer: "Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for these desires exists. A baby feels hunger; well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim; well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire; well there is such a thing as sex. If I find myself a desire which no experience in the world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.'⁷⁷

Sixteen centuries ago, an African theologian whose writings have massively influenced Western thought ever since, fine-tuned his view by addressing God with the words, 'You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.'⁷⁹ No atheist has yet been able to produce an effective counter to Augustine's famous conviction.

If just one theist in history was right, the case for the existence of God would be established.

DEATH AND THE AFTERLIFE- -AND THEN?

It will be sufficient to agree with Mary Kenny that faith in an afterlife has been a universal concept: 'In all cultures and at all times, human beings have conceived of a spiritual life beyond the body.'⁹⁶ An atheistic model can obviously give no explanation for this phenomenon, and the idea that the experiences of this life meet all the latent needs and aspirations of a human being is not only miserable but downright morbid.

As far as our present subject is concerned, three things can be said. In the first place, human preoccupation with

death clearly separates human beings from all other creatures. Eric Kast notes that no animal experiences 'the disease of conceptualizing death'.¹⁰⁰

Secondly, why is there such a radical distinction? If lizards, polar bears, apes, humans and the millions of other living species on our planet are all part of the so-called 'Great Chain of Being', separated by nothing more than the fluky fluctuation of atoms over millions of years, why should death be an irresistible issue for just one species and of no concern whatever to all the others? If humans are nothing but grown-up germs, at what point in the growing-up process did death begin to be a factor? Why should it have done so?

Thirdly, death is a subject on which the atheist can make no positive or sustainable contribution. 'Any system that does not know the origin of man and cannot give his reason for being, certainly must remain silent on his destiny or, at best, argue for nothingness.'¹⁰²

FAULTS IN ATHEISM

1. In the first place, if human reasoning is just an electro-chemical operation taking place in the brain, how can we ever say that a thought is rational, or that a premise, theory or conclusion is 'true'?

2. Secondly, intelligent reasoning does not fit into full-blown naturalism. By thinking at all we have claimed that our thoughts are more than mere natural events.¹¹⁵ Does the atheist have an answer to this? If rational thinking is nothing more than a natural process, why should it be trusted?

3. Thirdly, huge swathes of atheistic argument lean heavily on laws of logic which are held to be absolute, universal and invariable. Yet in a materialistic universe these (immaterial) laws can only be matters of convention or consensus, subject to the kind of change that might, at least theoretically, lead to something accepted as logical becoming illogical. Can atheists seriously live with that? Can it really be said that that logic is cultural, and therefore flexible? If not, how can atheists account for the law of logic without a transcendent lawgiver? Is there any atheistic explanation as to why such laws exist, or why they can be

trusted as being reliable? Without transcendent intelligence putting the laws of logic and reason into place, how can we explain the mind's capacity to move logically from premises to conclusions? How can we trust this thinking process? Theists claim that the laws of logic reflect the way God thinks and the way he wants us to think, and that if God did not exist we could not logically prove anything. Can atheism find a basis on which to counter this claim?

4. Fourthly, if the mind is the product of evolution, how can we be sure that at this point in time it is anywhere near ultimate truth or reality? What if it is in the early stages of an ongoing process that will one day lead us to see that today's most dogmatic principles are a long way wide of the mark? As atheists generally accept that their logic is culturally specific, and is in an ongoing process of evolution, would a hefty dose of humility not be in order? How can logic be reliable if it is a matter of personal opinion or contemporary consensus which, like the price of certain advertised goods and services, is 'subject to change without notice'?

5. Fifthly, how does and evolutionary model account for human personality?

6. Sixthly, all attempts to treat thought as a natural event involve the fallacy of excluding the thought of a person making the attempt. How can rational thought arise in a non-rational world? Would we trust a computer print-out if we knew it had been programmed by random forces or non-rational laws?

7. Finally, the atheists can deny the existence of God only by destroying the basis on which such a denial is made. In one of his famous *Broadcast Talks*, C.S. Lewis pointed out that if there was no creative intelligence behind the universe, the human brain was never created for the purpose of coming to any rational conclusions. 'It is merely,' he said, 'that when the atoms inside of my skull happen for physical or chemical reasons to arrange themselves in a certain way this gives me a bi-product, the sensation I call thought. But if so, how can I trust my own thinking to be true? And if I can't trust

my own thinking, I can't trust the argument leading to atheism, and therefore I have no reason to be an atheist. Unless I believe in God, I can't believe in thought, so I can never use thought to disbelieve in God.'¹¹⁹

Does the atheist have an answer to this? How can he make an intelligent assertion that God does not exist, and at the same time admit that his thoughts are determined by chemical reactions and not by rational analysis?

Atheists are really anti-theists as they deliberately set themselves against the knowledge of God which they have.

Paul specifically addresses this later, when he says that **'They did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God.'**⁶⁷ As we should expect, Paul's choice of words is perfect. The phrase **'did not think it worthwhile to retain'** means 'did not approve, or like', while the word translated **'knowledge'** has a prefix which intensifies its meaning and refers to 'clear and exact knowledge...a knowledge which has a powerful influence on the knower'.⁶⁸ What Paul is saying is that atheists (for the sake of simplicity we shall continue to use the word) put God on trial and, when they find he is not to their liking, they refuse to give him their endorsement. In other words, they have knowledge of God, but refuse to acknowledge him. What is certain is that those who want to live godless, self-centered lives have a vested interest in keeping God out of their thoughts.

This leads us to Paul's second phrase, an indictment that such men are **"without excuse"**. The word he uses is *anapologotes*, which literally means "without defense". This is the language of the law court, and Paul deliberately uses it to pronounce the atheist guilty in the sight of the God he refuses to acknowledge. Nobody can claim with Bertrand Russell that there is not enough evidence for a person to believe in God. God speaks to man externally, in a dazzling demonstration of **"his eternal power and divine nature"**, and this alone leads Stuart Olyott to say, "Nobody can plead that he is igno-

rant of the existence of God. It can clearly be seen that there is an Unseen."⁷⁰ Yet God also speaks to man internally, giving him an indelible sense of the divine and prompting his conscience to respond to a powerful moral instinct.

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

The problem of evil does not disprove the existence of God. It actually supports it. In other words, paradoxical as it may seem, Alvin Plantinga is entitled to claim, "There is a theistic argument from evil, and it is at least as strong as the antitheistic argument from evil."¹³ There is no such thing as a logical problem of evil, and we could actually reword atheism's classic attack in the following way to show that the existence of evil is indirect proof that God *does* exist:

If God does not exist, transcendent, objective values of good and evil do not exist.

Evil does exist.

Therefore objective values exist, and some things are really, basically, fundamentally bad.

Therefore God exists.

God is much more than a transcendent moral being (he is eternal, self-existent and omnipotent, for instance), yet as soon as the atheist draws a distinction between right and wrong, his whole case begins to fall apart.

By the same token, the atheist is also faced with what Lord Hailsham, the former Lord Chancellor, calls **"the problem of good"**. In his autobiography, he makes the point like this:

You do not get out of your philosophical troubles arising out of the fact of evil by rejecting God. For, as I have tried to point out before, the real problem is not the problem of evil, but the problem of good, not the problem of cruelty and selfishness, but the problem of kindness and generosity, not the problem of ugliness, but the problem of beauty.

If the world is really the hopeless and meaningless jumble which one has to believe it to be if once we reject our value judgments as nothing more than

emotional noises, with nothing more in the way of objective truth than a certain biological survival value for the species rather than the individual, evil then presents no difficulty because it does not exist. We must expect to be knocked about a bit in a world which consists only of atoms, molecules and strange particles. But how, then does it come about that we go through life on the assumptions which are perfectly contrary to the facts, that we love our wives and families, thrill with pleasure at the sight of a little bird discreetly dressed in green and black and white, that we rage at injustice inflicted on innocent victims, honor our martyrs, rewards our heroes, and even occasionally, with difficulty, forgive our enemies and do good to those who persecute us and spitefully use us? No, it is light which is the problem, not darkness. It is seeing, not blindness...It is love, not callousness. The thing we have to explain in the world is the positive, not the negative. It is this which led me to God in the first place. 14 By saying that our need is to explain 'the positive, not the negative', Lord Hailsham is not saying that evil needs no explanation, but that, without God, good poses an even greater problem.

ANYBODY THERE?

Jesus Christ presents an enormous problem for the atheist.

Atheists have tried to dissolve the problem by contesting the fact that Jesus ever existed. Quite apart from the mass of data in the Bible, at least nineteen celebrated authors in the first and second centuries (who shared unbeliever Bertrand Russell's atheism but were somewhat better placed to comment) record more than 100 facts about Jesus. These give details of his birth, life, teaching and death, all without the slightest hint that he was not a real historical person. These writers include the distinguished Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, Suetonius, official historian of the Roman Imperial House, Cornelius Tacitus, another eminent historian who was also Governor of Asia, and Pliny the Younger, a Roman proconsul in Bithynia in Asia Minor and "one of the

world's great letter writers, whose letters have attained the status of literary classics".⁷

Besides hundreds of fulfilled Bible prophecies concerning Jesus, archaeological and historical evidence for Jesus, the Gospel writers paint a picture of somebody who is eminently sane, balanced and reliable – a tough, compassionate, practical man who drew love and respect from all who met him.²⁴⁵ His teaching clearly reflects this. **If the Sermon on the Mount is an expression of insanity, we urgently need a global epidemic of it!** Those who honestly examine the character of Jesus, listen to his words and conclude that he was a madman are telling us nothing about Jesus, but a great deal about themselves.

This leaves just one alternative. Writing to people who lived in a culture in which heretical ideas about God and man and their relationship to each other were rife, Paul told them that Jesus was **'the image of the invisible God'**,²⁴⁶ that **'God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him'**,²⁴⁷ and that **'In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.'**²⁴⁸ Elsewhere he referred to **'our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ'**,²⁴⁹ and stated that, in the person of Jesus, God **'appeared in a body'**.²⁵⁰ The writer of Hebrews was equally clear, and described Jesus as **'the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being'**.²⁵¹ These statements all confirm that when Jesus claimed, **'I and the Father are one'**,²⁵² he was telling the truth.

No other option is available. If Jesus is not evil, deluded or deranged, he is *exactly who Scripture declares him to be* - **'the true God and eternal life'**.²⁵³

Where does that leave the atheist?

Where does it leave you?

All footnotes can be found in John Blanchard's book *Does God Believe in Atheists?* Published by Evangelical Press, Faverdale, North Industrial Estate, Darlington, DL3 0PH, England

Does God Believe in Atheists?

This outstanding 656 page reference work refuting the religion of atheism by author John Blanchard is a must for every serious Christian evangelist. This is by far the best book available on this subject.

BK-54, \$32.00 + S&H, 656pp.

Darwin's Cold Shudder

Reprinted from the Christian News, p. 3, "Turrent of the Times"

Charles Darwin, father of the theory of evolution, grew up in a Christian home, but it was a Christianity tainted by the unbelief of Unitarianism. Inside the Unitarian Church on High Street in Shrewsbury, England, is a plaque that says: "To the memory of Charles Robert Darwin, author of 'The Origin of the Species,' born February 12, 1809, in early life a member of and a constant worshipper in this church." Charles Darwin's mother, Susannah, was a Unitarian, and Charles was educated for a short period at a school operated by the Unitarian minister George Case. Charles Darwin's wife, Emma Wedgwood, was also a Unitarian. A biographer of Darwin speaks of "the vein of skepticism in the Darwin family" (John Wehler, Charles Darwin: Growing Up in Shrewsbury 1809-25). Thus, Darwinism was a product of end-time theological apostasy, and he is a sad example of where even the smallest amount of doubt in the Bible can lead. Though he promulgated his theories on evolution through his writings and lectures and though he became more openly and thoroughly opposed to the Bible as his life advanced, he still had doubts. He once wrote: "Often a cold shudder has run through me, and I have asked myself whether I may have not devoted myself to a fantasy" (Darwin's Life and Letters, vol. 2, p. 229). It is impossible to calculate the evil influence that Darwin's theory has had upon society. If evolution is true, the Bible is a fairy tale and there is no meaning to life, man is a mere animal and when he is dead he is dead and Lennon was right to dream that there is no heaven or hell, so live as you very well please. The theory of evolution teaches men not to fear God, yea, that there is no God to fear, and modern society reflects this attitude. It is evident in the fashion industry, in the entertainment industry, in public education, in commerce, in powerless churches, you name it. My friends, Darwin was wrong, dead wrong, and he did well to shudder, because the Bible is true. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life..."

MINISTRY NEWS



Our director of research, Steve Morrison, who has created our websites, including www.muslimhope.com and www.biblequery.org, was invited to speak in Denver, Colorado a few months ago. Steve spoke at Denver University and at Metro University at the invitation of Menorah Ministries (see www.menorah.org). Donna Drebenstedt, staff member at Menorah, gave a description of Steve's speaking engagement. The following are a few brief excerpts:

I am still praising God for all the help he sent and even unexpected help from some in the Metropolitan college administration who in the past have given us a lot of grief but this week God touched their hearts to be helpful! Many students heard the truth about true Christianity and what Muslims believe for the first time! Only God knows all that went on this week in the hearts of the hearers. I wondered if the Muslims would stay away or come. They came, praise God, along with Christians, Atheists, and "everybody has their own way" people.

Steve Morrison

Monday. God gave Steve Morrison great stamina as he spoke from 9am to 5pm with only a short break for lunch. Some students stayed almost the whole day and others came and went and came back again...

There were great questions asked and Steve covered many topics which he mentions in his attachments to this e-mail.

We had an open microphone and a few times when the Muslim crowd got larger it would begin to get out of control and angry. Steve always kept calm and patient which helped the situation a lot. They were hearing a lot of information not too favorable about the Koran and kept claiming Steve was not telling the truth about Islam even with his direct quotes from the Koran and Hadiths. Sometimes arguments broke out between students sitting nearby each other. I was thankful for the Lord's presence and the Christian students who stood up to ask great questions to again focus on who Jesus really is and what is true Christianity.

God protected every situation from getting so out of control that we could not restore order. I know his presence was in the room and that gave me a great expectation for the hearts that really wanted to know truth!

The main arguments of the Muslims were, the bible is not reliable, no deity for Jesus, the trinity is wrong and that it really wasn't Jesus who died on the cross. Steve answered all these questions but they did not like the answers. By the end of the day they were tired about our talking about the inconsistencies of the Koran and wanted us to switch gears and talk more about what Christians believe for our Tuesday event. They also promised to bring their top guns for the event. Reuben and others were at our outdoor Menorah tent for the day in the middle of the campus. They also had many good conversations and passed out lots of literature and directed students inside to hear Steve.

Tuesday was a different day. It began by rehanging all our posters again. We probably passed out and hung over 4,500 posters, fliers and tracts for these events. The Muslim students brought a moderate Sunni leader from their mosque as their top gun for the day. Also a college teacher brought her note taking class so they could practice note taking of which nine out of twelve were Muslim. They each received a packet of literature when they left. There was much more civil order from the Muslim students that day because their leader was there to defend them. There was not much to defend as he just had to say if he agreed with the doctrine or disagreed. There were some good questions asked but everyone listened to what true Christianity teaches from 9:00am to about 2:30pm. At the end of the day Steve made sure everyone knew that belief in Jesus is the only way to heaven. It was not received real well.

Several Muslim women demanded that we remove all our tracts from our information tables as they are inflammatory. They also wanted to set up their own table that day outside our room. We told them that this was our event but they could plan their own. I had several good private talks with Muslim women that day. One in particular thanked me and one of our workers several times for all the information, saying she had learned a lot! Please pray that many more doors and hearts will be opened in the coming weeks and months!

There is more to Donna's report on Steve's speaking engagement (space does not allow us to print all of it). For the rest of the report e-mail: donna@menorah.org or contact Christian Answers at cdebater@aol.com

MINISTRY UPDATE Christian Answers has been active in evangelism for a long time.

EVANGELISM BY ALL MEANS: 1982 TO PRESENT



TOPICAL VIDEOS

Hear experts and apologists analyze these topics (perfect for study groups or as a witnessing tool to share with others). You may choose any four of the 28 minute videos below for the single price of \$6.00. Catalog identification is CATV. For example, if you wish to order Bahaism, Church of Christ, Mormonism, and Islam, list on order form as CATV- 1, 13, 8, and 2. Four videos on one VHS tape for one low price of \$6.00. DVD copies of these topics are only available in increments of 4: #1-#4, #5-#8, #9-#12, #13-#16, #17-#20, #21-#24 only, with no variation, \$6.00 each.

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4. Hinduism/Reincarnation (Mark Cass)
5. Roman Catholicism (Richard Bennett)
6. Jehovah's Witnesses #1 (Larry Wessels)
7. Jehovah's Witnesses #2 (Larry Wessels)
8. Mormonism (Robert McKay, former Mormon)
9. Word-Faith Heresy #1 (Dr. Michael Horton)
10. Word-Faith Heresy #2 (Dr. Michael Horton)
11. Seventh-day Adventism #1 (Wallace Slattery)
12. Seventh-day Adventism #2 (Wallace Slattery)
13. The "Church of Christ" (Bob L. Ross)
14. Liberal Christianity #1 (Morrison & Wessels)
15. Liberal Christianity #2 (Morrison & Wessels)
16. Atheism (Larry Wessels)
17. Nation of Islam (Wilford Darden)
18. United Pentecostals (Dr. Steve Morrison)
19. Unification (Moonies) (Morrison & Wessels)
20. Demon Possession (Dr. Thomas Ice)
21. Roman Catholicism #1 (Rob Zins, Th.M.)
22. Roman Catholicism #2 (Rob Zins Th.M.)
23. The Da Vinci Code (Morrison & Wessels)
24. Darwin's Evolution Religion (Dr. M. Girouard)

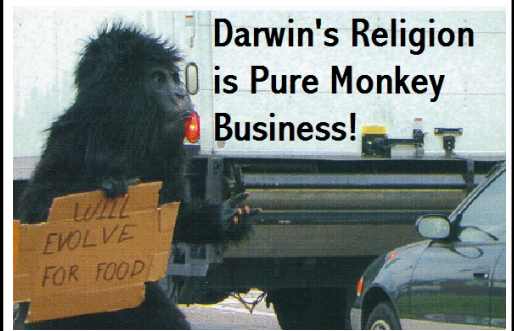


Dr. Michael Girouard on the steps of the University of Texas campus.

CREATIONISM DISCUSSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS #1

Dr. Michael Girouard, of the Institute for Creation Research, answers secular college students on campus in this exciting interchange concerning evolution.

VT or DVD-3, \$6.00 (90 min)



Darwin's Religion is Pure Monkey Business!

Evolution monkey looking for someone to believe in him.

CREATIONISM DISCUSSION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS #2

Dr. Michael Girouard, a national speaker for I.C.R., once again answers secular college students who have been "brainwashed" by evolution. Fascinating!

VT or DVD-114, \$6.00 (90 min)

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**Inside This Issue:
Topic: Religious Atheism**

**page 1: Atheism (Part 2)
page 2: Thoughts from Director
page 6: Ministry Update
page 8: Letters from the Frontline**

“exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict” (Titus 1:9)

LETTERS FROM THE FRONTLINE



Christian Debater Guide

Dear Christian Answers,

Thank you for keeping me on your mailing list. Your newsletters, especially the one with Brother Fisher's article on superstitions, have been helpful. Please find a money order enclosed to help with your ministry. The Lord bless you as you minister for His honor and glory. Yours in Christ.

F.H. (Augusta, GA)

Dear Larry,

I got your back issues and just thought I would write to thank you. I got saved about 9 months ago. I was watching this guy by the name of Dr. Gene Scott on TV. I learned a lot but read your article, "The Agony of Deceit." Do you happen to know Dr. Gene Scott? Please get back at me concerning this matter. Thank you and God Bless.

M.S. (Lancaster, CA)

Christian Answers,

I ran across one of your newsletters and thought I'd write for it. I'm currently an inmate in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and a born again believer. I love apologetics and your seemingly "reformed doctrine" newsletter. Please send me some as I'm interested in some of your tapes. Thank you and God Bless.

C.S. (Tennessee Colony, TX)

Hello,

I wanted to call and thank you for the great website. I was looking up something on the internet about Paul in Acts 17 and it was really great, really excellent. In Acts 17 God is revealed as the unknown God and there's progression and people come to the full revelation of God and the Word that is the Lord Jesus. I'd like to discuss it with you. I'm a former Muslim and I appreciate what you're doing & represent. I am a servant of Christ among Muslims. May the Lord bless you and have a great day.

Christian Answers' Website CD is free for the asking.

Greetings in our Lord our God.

Please pray for financial long term stability, a home and unspoken needs with wisdom. I'm praying for your ministry in Christ. Praise be all to God. In Jesus' name.

B.B. (Austin, TX)

Larry,

Very good summary of "Atheism"! On my way to Spain in 1963, I was memorizing Romans. Over the years I learned that Romans 1:18 solved all my problems with so called "atheists." They run away from Truth and worship themselves. Ergo, they are liars.

E.V. (Longmont, CO)

Dear Brother Morrison,

I received your web CD with so much joy! The material is overwhelming! Thank you so much! I thought I should share this with you. I hope to start classes at my church on Christian apologetics (all kinds of apologetics: counter-cult apologetics, creation/science apologetics, Bible apologetics, etc). I would like for Christians to be ready to give reason for the hope that lies within them. I would like to ask for your help in regards to this matter. If you have study guides that can help beginning from a low level to higher level these would greatly help me. If you don't that's ok. I would appreciate any guidelines you can give. Thank you so much

Nicholas (From the Web)

Dear Christian Answers,

I'm calling from the Canadian arctic. I'm calling to request prayer for the members of Parliament and the House of Commons at Ottawa, that's our federal government. Yesterday I completed a project of sending each and every one of the three hundred and twenty members some gospel literature and request prayer for the Holy Spirit to prepare them into receiving that literature so that they'll respond to it the way God wants them to. Thank you very much, may God bless you.

Breaking the Da Vinci Code and Those Other 'Gospels' CD Audio Series Now Available!

Darrell L. Bock, Ph.D, professor of New Testament Studies at Dallas Theological Seminary and author of ***Breaking the Da Vinci Code*** and ***Those Other Gospels*** recently spoke at Dayspring Chapel, 5500 avenue G in Austin, Texas. This excellent material is particularly valuable in a society that is steadily increasing its attacks on the Christian faith at all levels. Dr. Bock debunks popular claims by anti-Christian skeptics with facts and evidence that clearly show the superiority of the New Testament documents. The Christian faith is not based on myths or wild imaginations but on sound historical and manuscript evidence that has withstood the test of time. Evangelists as well as other members of the body of Christ will find this CD series useful in their encounters with those who have questions about Christianity.

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