

Abbreviations of Books of the Bible

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis	Gen.
Exodus	Exod.
Leviticus	Lev.
Numbers	Num.
Deuteronomy	Deut.
Joshua	Josh.
Judges	Judg.
Ruth	Ruth
1 Samuel	1 Sam.
2 Samuel	2 Sam.
1 Kings	1 Kings
2 Kings	2 Kings
1 Chronicles	1 Chron.
2 Chronicles	2 Chron.
Ezra	Ezra
Nehemiah	Neh.
Esther	Esther
Job	Job
Psalms	Ps. (pl. Pss.)
Proverbs	Prov.
Ecclesiastes	Eccles.
Song of Solomon	Song of Sol.
Isaiah	Isa.
Jeremiah	Jer.
Lamentations	Lam.
Ezekiel	Ezek.
Daniel	Dan.
Hosea	Hos.
Joel	Joel
Amos	Amos
Obadiah	Obad.
Jonah	Jon.
Micah	Mic.
Nahum	Nah.
Habakkuk	Hab.
Zephaniah	Zeph.
Haggai	Hag.
Zechariah	Zech.
Malachi	Mal.

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew	Matt.
Mark	Mark
Luke	Luke
John	John
Acts	Acts
Romans	Rom.
1 Corinthians	1 Cor.
2 Corinthians	2 Cor.
Galatians	Gal.
Ephesians	Eph.
Philippians	Phil.
Colossians	Col.
1 Thessalonians	1 Thess.
2 Thessalonians	2 Thess.
1 Timothy	1 Tim.
2 Timothy	2 Tim.
Titus	Titus
Philemon	Philem.
Hebrews	Heb.
James	James
1 Peter	1 Pet.
2 Peter	2 Pet.
1 John	1 John
2 John	2 John
3 John	3 John
Jude	Jude
Revelation	Rev.

Chapter 1

The Existence of God

Proof From Scripture

To begin our study in Bible doctrine we should begin with God. After all, that's where the Book begins. The problem for the Bible believer is solved with the very first verse in the Bible which says, "**In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**" Genesis 1:1, the beginning verse, assumes the existence of God. The Lord Jesus Christ never questioned the existence of God; He referred to God in a matter of fact way. To tell the truth, there is not one writer in the Bible who wastes time trying to prove the existence of God. The term *God* alone occurs in the Bible more than five hundred times; the Bible takes the existence of God for granted. But in this lesson we're going to talk about the Teleological argument for the existence of God, the Cosmological argument, the Anthropological argument, and the argument from Congruity. These are theological subjects, but let us notice that the Bible takes the existence of God for granted. It is never brought up as a question.

Christians are constantly challenged by atheists, skeptics, agnostics, and hecklers to prove that there is a God. Fortunately, we don't have to prove it. The Bible says in Psalm 14:1, "**The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.**" Any man may argue about the existence of God with his head, but the trouble is with the *heart*.

It is very difficult for the natural man to

believe in something that he cannot see, touch, or feel; so in I Corinthians 2:14 we are told, **"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."** However, anyone with any intelligence can acknowledge the evident fact that a supreme intelligence is manifest throughout the operations of nature, history, and the universe.

Christ says in John 7:17, **"If any man will do his will [God's will], he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."** That is, a skeptic's trouble is *heart trouble*. It has to do with a bad life and an immoral attitude. Now, it is true that you have moral atheists and moral skeptics and moral sinners—men who do good because they have found that it pays to do good. Or, they might do good because they cannot do evil and get away with it. Or, they might do good to soothe their conscience. Or, they do good so that they can brag about their self-righteousness before their fellowman. We have always had moral sinners, moral atheists and moral skeptics, but the only real difference between them and the immoral sinners is the difference between brand new garbage cans and old ones. They all have the same contents. They have a joke about the Dial-A-Prayer service. The atheists have a Dial-A-Prayer service where they dial a number and nobody answers. They also have one about a dead atheist who was laying in a coffin, and one of his buddies came by and looked at him and said, "Poor old Bill! There he is, all dressed up and no place to go."

Being an atheist takes a great deal of faith. As a matter of fact, it takes a great deal more faith to be an atheist than to be a *Deist* or a *Theist*—a believer in God. To be an atheist, a person has to deny a first cause. And in order to deny this, he has to deny his rational powers. Anybody who knows about the laws of thermodynamics (and in particular, the second law, the law of entropy) knows that if the universe had been here more than ninety billion years it would have run down; by now it would be wasted out and burned out. How much more if it had been here “forever” without a first cause? If the universe had been here for more than, say, a hundred billion years, it would have burned out at least fifty billion years ago—by the law of breakdown. For example, the magnetic field around the earth is decreasing at such a rate that it could not have been here for more than ten thousand years at a maximum.

To be an atheist takes a great deal of faith. Now, we realize that in a country where “freedom of religion” is allowed, a man who is an atheist can be called “religious,” and he has the freedom to express his views, which is perfectly all right with us. We couldn’t care less. If a man wants to exhibit his ignorance, that’s his business. If you want to display your stupidity, you’re free to do it. However, you’re not free to demand a *respectful hearing* from those of us who have some sense. In America we need to distinguish between liberty and license. Granted, a man has the *liberty* to be an atheist if he wants to be. If you want to go to hell, that’s your business, but don’t expect those of us who have some sense to

listen to the claptrap put out by Rousseau, Voltaire, Celsus, Porphyry, Tom Paine, and Bob Ingersoll. We have better sense. The Bible begins with God. And although the Bible is not a textbook that attempts to prove the existence of God, the Bible opens with the positive statement that God does exist. Then the first proof for the existence of God is what we call the *Scriptural* proof.

There are other proofs which we shall also discuss: the proof of nature, the proof of conscience, the argument from cause, the argument from design, and the moral argument; but the first main proof is from God's word, "**Thy word is truth.**" David said in Psalm 119:160, "**Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.**" David said, "**Thy word is true from the beginning,**" and the beginning takes God for granted—"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." So the Bible begins with God and takes His existence as being a fact.

"**The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.**" He didn't say that in his *head*. Any man with any sense, a man who is half intelligent or half rational, can see immediately that there is a God. The man that says there is no God simply says that down in his heart because of a bad life. Now, it's true he may have cleaned up *temporarily*, but he may have plans for later, or he may be trying to cover up a skeleton in the closet from thirty years back. There's more that meets the eye than just a college education, science, religion, and all that foolishness. All right, "**The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.**" Anyone with any intelligence would acknowledge the evident

fact of a living God.

The greatest proof, apart from Scripture, of the existence of God is the daily fellowship that a born-again person can have with God in prayer. Those of us who know God can sing, "And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own, and the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known." We know there is a God because *we talk to Him daily*. He hears our prayers and answers the prayers of our heart. The Bible says that we are to commit everything to Him in prayer. Why would anyone be dumb enough to tell you, "**Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you,**" when there is nobody there to answer, nobody there to give, and nobody to open the door. Rather stupid, don't you think?

Could it be that the four billion people that have been saved since the time of Pentecost have all been deceived? Have they? When they can write down lists of hundreds of prayers that have been answered? Comfort in sorrow. Comfort in tribulation. Money sent in when they needed it. Jobs obtained when they needed them. People in their family healed when they were sick. Peace of mind and peace of heart in the face of certain death and torture and pain. They were all deceived, were they? It's an illusion, is it? Well, if it is an illusion, you'd better get submerged in it about a hundred and fifty fathoms deep, because it's a permanent illusion.

I, for an example, have been saved for fifty-two years. I lived on this earth twenty-seven years as an unsaved man. I was raised an Episco-

palian. My father was a vestryman. We were all catechized and christened; we had godfathers and godmothers and took confirmation. In my life as a young man, I practiced TM and meditation, and I wound up studying Zen Buddhism and obtained Prajna, a state of Samadhi, in Zen Buddhism in Tokyo, Japan, during World War II before these fellows over here knew what a guru was. Later, I took Catholic convert courses from a Roman Catholic priest (a Jesuit) who was a graduate from Loyola, and then I found Christ as my Saviour in the record room of a radio station where a country preacher led me to the Lord. Don't tell *me* there is no God. I sought Him and found Him. He heard me and answered my prayer; He delivered me from all my sins and saved my soul; and He commanded me to commit all the problems I had to Him in prayer and in thanksgiving, and to make known unto Him all my requests with supplications. Why? To play a joke on me? Well, it's some joke, isn't it? Like a converted drunk said to an atheist, "If it's a delusion, it's a funny delusion. I turned my whiskey bottles into food and clothing for my family, my bad temper into a charitable disposition toward my fellow man, and it got me to stop by church on Wednesday night instead of a bar. It's some *delusion*, isn't it?"

So when we talk about these things—matters of apologetics—we are talking about something that is *real*. If you were in a dark room and you held out your hand in that dark room three times a day and somebody put something that you needed in your hand three times a day, wouldn't you guess, after a while, that there was somebody

in the room with you? Would you say after *thirty years* that the whole operation was an accidental "coincidence"? I mean, you talk about rational powers and being dishonest rationally and intellectually, what do you call *that*?

You people who are atheists and bow your head at the table before you eat, who do you thank for the food? The government? *They control the farm lands through the Federal banks.* Do you thank the great white father in Washington at the White House? I've never heard of such discrimination! Who do you thank? *Yourself?* Isn't that rather stupid? The worms are going to get you. Imagine a man giving himself credit for what he has, *and the worms wind up with him.* Don't you find that rather ludicrous? The Bible takes the existence of God for granted. The first proof is Scriptural. The Bible speaks of "God" over five hundred times using the name of God, and it uses the word "Lord" over three hundred times.

Proof From Nature

The next proof we have for the existence of God is from nature. We find this great passage in Psalm 19:1, "**The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handy-work.**" No man could gaze at the universe and think that it came together accidentally unless he had set himself up as his own god and looked at everything relatively, like Einstein did, or unless he had set up his own moral standards in order to avoid the moral standards of God. "**The heavens declare the glory of God.**"

Romans 1:20 goes even further and says, "**For the invisible things of him from the creation of**

the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."

The man who will accept Scripture will readily acknowledge the existence of God. He will have proof for the existence of God, and there will not be any doubt about it. The invisible things are clearly seen. When Christ wanted to tell man what hell was like, he pointed to a city dump—Gehenna. When he wanted to show people what heaven was like, he pointed to a sinless, clean city with a park in it. When the Lord Jesus Christ wanted to picture Himself, He pictured Himself in the Bible as the SUN, which moves east to west, as history moves east to west, as revivals move east to west, as the Holy Ghost moves east to west, against the rotation of the world. **"The invisible things . . . are clearly seen."**

A perfect picture of the Godhead and the Trinity, for example, is found in the sun, which contains alpha, beta, and gamma rays. The sun has light rays that you can *see* and cannot *feel*, a picture of God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; rays that you can *feel* but cannot *see*, a picture of God the Spirit, the Holy Ghost; and rays which you can neither *see* nor *feel*, actinic rays which picture the soul of God, God the Father. The sun, then, visibly seen, is a representation of things not seen. So the things that are not seen are eternal, but they are clearly seen, **"being understood by the things that are made,"** Romans 1:20.

Proof From The Conscience

All right, the next proof for God comes from conscience. Man is born with a universal belief

in a Supreme Being. No tribe has yet been discovered which lacks this. They know that some Being creates and controls life. The only kind of people who doubt belief in a Supreme Being are people who have been *educated out of it* and have been taught relative matters so they can live like the devil and justify themselves. There is not one tribe (isolated or unisolated) on the face of this earth that does not believe in a Supreme Being. If a man was raised on an island with the animals, he would grow up worshipping a Supreme Being. *You have to be educated out of such a belief.* There is no such thing as an uneducated, natural atheist. Romans 2:15 says about the heathen people, **"Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another."**

The existence of God is written in the human conscience. Whether the man has a Bible or not, or the law or not, his conscience bears witness to the Ten Commandments.

People say, "What about those who don't know and haven't heard?" They know a great deal more than you think they know. There's many a Fiji Islander, Tasmanian Islander, or New Guinean; there's many an African in the Chad, in the heart of the Belgian Congo, who knows a great deal more about God than the professors at the University of Oregon or the University of California or the Universities of Michigan, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Tennessee, or New York. You say, "Where do they get that from?" *From having common sense.* Where would you get it otherwise? Out there in the jungle, the heathen cut off

a man's hand when he steals the first time, his other hand when he steals the second time, and his head the third time. Why? Because they know the commandment that says, "**Thou shalt not steal,**" even if they do not have a Bible.

There is not any tribe on the face of this earth where adultery is not recognized as a crime, *except in the college circles and high school circles of America*. They talk about "adult consent" and "premarital sex." You are not born with a disbelief in morals and the existence of God. You're born with the revelation of God in your conscience which you have to drown out. The Bible says about these educated Americans in Timothy 4:2 that they have "**their conscience seared with a hot iron.**"

In Acts 17:23, Paul says, "**For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.**" That was in the city of Athens which contained the most educated, cultured people of their day; the people who wrote the grammar textbooks for the correcting of the *King James* text by the modern Christian schools. They were agnostic, but conscience told them that there was a God though they did not know him personally. They were agnostic. (That's what the word "unknown" is. Gnosis with the alpha before it. Agnostic. Agnos-tic. An "unknower" or, as they say in Latin, an "ignoramus.")

So the heathen know about God. He is revealed in nature, and He is revealed in conscience even to those who have no Scriptures. Some atheists may claim that their conscience does not tell them about God. *That's because they burn*

their consciences out. For example, you stop and think about the first time you took a cigarette or the first time you took a glass of liquor. I am not talking about the *third* time, old boy, I am talking about *the first time.* (Don't you get smart with me. I lived out there in that world for twenty-seven years as an unsaved man, as a dance band drummer, as a bartender, as a radio announcer, as a DI in infantry hand-to-hand, as a sign painter, and as a cartoonist. Go tell your grandmother!) Don't tell me that the first time you tried a Rum Collins or a Tom Collins or a Slow Gin Fiz or a Sidecar or a Boxcar or a Manhattan or a Bacardi or a Bloody Mary you took it with a clear conscience! The first time? It is doubtful that a genuine atheist can be found, for at the best, they are men who have stilled their conscience by blatant unbelief and by long continued living in sin. They have burned their consciences out so they no longer warn them.

Some men are so blind that they may deny the existence of a sun in the sky, but that doesn't alter the fact that the sun exists, and that it rises and sets each day. None are so blind as people who refuse to see, and the honest man knows that the inner, still, small voice says that God exists and is alive. Men deny the existence of God, not because they cannot find Him, but because they are afraid to face the responsibility of being accountable to Him after death. *There is not an atheist in the world who did not run to atheism in order to get out of his personal accountability to God.* And that is why when Paul preached to the most educated, cultured people of his day, the

Athenian Greek scholars and the Athenian Greek philosophers (Acts 17), they mocked when they heard about the resurrection of the dead. No atheist could stand to have his life brought out in the open, and *that* is why men are atheists. That's why **"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God"**—not in his head.

Atheism is one of the devil's tools to put man to sleep without accepting salvation. If there is no God, then I am not responsible to anyone. I can live and die as I please. And if you don't accept the *true God*, you can get yourself another one. Which really means, when a man says he is an atheist, he is really just a *liar*. What he means is that he does not want the God of the Bible. But men are incurably religious, and every atheist has some god. You say, "Well, Brother Ruckman, I'm an atheist, and I worship no god at all." Sure you do, son. You worship your brain. If you do not accept one God, you put something else in the place of supreme authority. Your God is either the God and Father of Jesus Christ, or it is Rama Krishna or Buddha or Mohammed or Lao-tse or the "first cause" or the "first principal" or the Great Architect or "Mahabone" or something else you cooked up, or it is your own noodle.

To look up and see a plane (and not see a pilot) and say the plane is *pilotless* is ridiculous, and it is just as ridiculous to look into the heavens and say there is no God just because we cannot see him. You can't see the pilot flying a DC7 or DC9 over your head. What does *that* mean? Few of us have ever seen our own brains, yet we believe we have them.

A man said to Billy Sunday one time, "I don't

believe in God. I don't believe in something I can't see." Billy said, "Have you ever seen your backbone?" The man said, "Sure, I saw a reflection in the mirror." Billy said, "Well, I see a reflection of Christ dying for my sins in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John." The man said, "Yeah, but I felt it with my hands." Billy Sunday said, "I can feel the Holy Spirit warming my heart and giving me confidence in God."

You have as much evidence that God exists as you have evidence that your backbone and your brain exist. You have as much evidence that God exists, and that Christ died as Savior, as you do that you have a brain in your head.

Cosmological Argument

All right, another argument for the existence of God is what we call the argument from cause—Cosmological. That is, *the world is here*. The first cosmological argument for God is that the world must have come from *somewhere*. Somebody or something must have caused it to come into being at one time or another. For example, here is a book. Well, somebody must have written it. No printing press can, of itself, print a book, be it ever so modern a press with the latest gadgets. Somebody created the trees. Somebody operates the universe. If all the pieces of a watch were placed in a can and the can was shaken gently for 150 billion years, the watch would not *accidentally get together and start running*. The only sensible answer, to a man who is intellectually honest, to the problem of the existence of the world, is the existence of an intelligent being behind the order, the "cosmos."

The chances that man could come into being by Darwin's theory (or by any modern evolutionist's theory) are the chances you would take if a print factory blew up in the air and came down in the form of a dictionary. We say this with charity toward all evolutionists, who are entitled to believe what they want to believe. Freedom of speech, son. Help yourself. *But don't expect an intelligent man to buy it.* I mean, after all, education is not brains. An education is not intellectual honesty. Education is education—one of the greatest money-making rackets in America, I guess, outside of sex, automobiles, and dope.

Teleological Proof

This brings up an argument for the existence of God from design. This is called the Teleological argument. In the teleological argument, we presume that a watch not only exists but that it had a *designer*. It was planned for a specific purpose. A watch was not designed, for example, for mosquitoes to live in or for fish to swim in. It was designed by a keen mind for the purpose of accurately telling the time. An examination of the world and the things in it, both large and small, shows that each is designed by an intelligent mind for a specific purpose in life. The colors of the birds and the means of defense for animals are not *accidents*. They are the result of the planning of a superior mind, the mind of an Originator whom we call God.

Moral Argument

The next argument for the existence of God is called the Moral argument, sometimes referred

to as the Anthropological argument, the argument from the nature of mankind. Man has an intellectual and moral nature that animals do not have, showing that the Creator must not be merely an inanimate force but a living, intelligent, moral being. The modern teaching, being presented to all the college students in the state universities, is that if there really is a God, He is an impersonal force. The god of modern science is sort of a neuter energy force field with no morals. This brand new, scientific god, of course, has been molded and made in the image of fallen man. As somebody said, "God created man in His own image, and man returned the compliment." Which is a rather sarcastic way of saying that ever since Adam fell, men have been inventing gods and making up gods and going to the dime store and going down the counter bargain-shopping for gods of their choice.

The choice of a modern educated fool with a Ph.D. or medical degree is an inanimate neuter force that does not have any moral standards. Guess why.

However, in the Bible we read in Genesis 1:26, "**Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.**" And again, in Genesis 1:27, "**So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him;**" that is, He patterned man after God. God says in Psalm 94:9, "**He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see?**" God has given to man ears, eyes, knowledge, intelligence, and will power, for these are the things that He Himself, God, possesses. Man, who was once in the image of God in righteousness and holiness, is a miniature, fallen

counterpart of God; man fell, but he still retains in his fallen state the vestigial remnant of the Godhead. Man was made in God's image, not the image of an orangutan or a possum or anybody else in Darwin's family tree that swung by the tail. (We'll talk about this more when we get into our lessons on Anthropology, one of the branches of theology which deals with the creation of man.)

Conscience teaches man right and wrong, good and bad, for his Creator is a moral being who is holy and loves righteousness but abhors evil. That is why the God of truth, the God of creation, the God of this universe, has been "run off the boards" by modern man. Modern man does not abhor evil and does not love righteousness. "Modern man," per se—especially the educated, religious, scientific type of man—is a man who believes that *righteousness* and *evil* are relative terms which you can switch back and forth. As a matter of fact, they are often switched back and forth in matters like those discussed by men like Hugh Hefner in *Playboy*, *Esquire*, *Genesis*, *Playgirl*, and the rest of the girlie magazines—what they are doing is calling evil "good" and calling good "evil." To such a race of degenerates, the God of the Bible can hardly be accepted, or even retain His respectable position. After all, when a man hates righteousness and loves sin, he cannot have any fellowship with the God of truth and righteousness.

The Moral argument is simple. Anthropology and the study of ethnology shows that throughout the races, in any type of ethnic culture, there are standards of right and wrong, and

though varying slightly from culture to culture, there is not any culture on the face of this earth that does not consider murder a breach of moral standards. **"Thou shalt not kill."** **"Thou shalt not kill,"** not applying to national defense or personal defense, but to malicious intent and assault and battery with intent to kill an individual. The Bible doesn't make any mistakes. *You may.* Your education may have taught you and helped you to nurture a bad disposition, a dishonest intellect, and a rotten attitude toward the truth; but that is your problem, not ours and not *the Lord's*. We have the Moral argument.

Life From Life Argument

Then, we have the Life argument. That is, life comes from life, except if you are an evolutionist. If you are an evolutionist, life must come from *death*. If you are a Darwinian anthropoid, you must believe that life originated in the pre-Cambrian fossils, *although no fossils have been found*, and then gradually worked up into complex forms in the Cambrian strata and up to the Mesozoic and Cenozoic periods; that is, life had to come from something that was inanimate and dead. To be a good Darwinian, you have to believe that cooling lava slung off the sun with temperatures above 6000 degrees Fahrenheit could turn into the chemical elements that would bring forth life from inorganic matter. Man, you talk about *faith!* That takes some faith! Something slung out of a mass that runs 6,000 degrees, cools into a molten lava, becomes minerals, and then these rocks produce life, do they?

Do you realize that right now man is des-

perately searching Venus, Jupiter, and every place he can find, to try to prove that Darwin was right? Our government has spent over fifty billion dollars to try to overthrow Genesis 1. Isn't that something? Our government has spent over fifty billion dollars to try to find life on some other planet to prove that life is not unique to *this planet*. Life comes from life, and the original life must have come from a being possessing eternal life. That is, there had to be some life existing before physical life was created; if you are a straight thinker!

Now, where can such life be found? It can only be found in God who possesses eternal life. Psalm 36:9 says, **"For with thee is the fountain of life."** The apple tree, for example, gets its life from the parent tree; the lamb gets life from the mother sheep. From where here did they get their life? You have to go back to the original creation. This answers the problem of what came first, the chicken or the egg; the answer is obvious. The chicken. Life can only come from life. Jesus said in John 11:25, **"I am the resurrection, and the life."** In John 14:6, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life."** John 10:28, **"And I give unto them eternal life."** In John 5:40, He said to the educated people of His day, **"And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."** The Bible says in I John 5:12, **"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."** All life proceeds from God.

The theory of spontaneous generation has been proved to be false and completely unacceptable to authoritative science. There is not a really educated man (although he may wave

some degree in your face) anywhere in the world anymore who believes in spontaneous generation (although you may find a few college teachers who do). Life must have a beginning. The only logical answer, if you're logical at all, is that the beginning of life was with God. This is what we call the Life argument.

Argument From Congruity

Finally, in our arguments for the existence of God in theological discussion, we have the argument from congruity. The theory of atheism solves no problem; it only multiplies unsolved mysteries. If you have ever taken a book on science and looked at what these scientists have found out since the days of Copernicus and Galileo, and before, you will find that science has never solved one major problem that mankind had on any continent anywhere in the world. All that science does is discover new problems and partially solve old problems that bring up new problems that remain unsolved. A man said, "What about the victory over smallpox?" Try diabetes. A fellow said, "What about the victory over pellagra?" How about multiple sclerosis? Don't kid us. Go kid the folks that spend all their time getting diplomas and who think they're smart. Go kid them. They're gullible. *Science has never solved one major problem man ever had.* The problem of *disease* has never been solved. The problem of *starvation* has never been solved. There will be eight million people going to bed hungry tonight, and half a million of them will be dead before tomorrow morning. If you don't believe it, travel to India and Africa and broaden your education.

The most narrow-minded, bigoted, and intolerant people in the world are these scientists who profess to be broad-minded. There is not any evidence that scientists have solved, or ever will solve, *one major problem of mankind since the beginning*. The problem of *death* has never been solved. The problem of poverty has never been solved. Christ said you will always have the poor with you (Matt. 26:11). You say "We're working on it." Don't talk like a fool; of course you're working on it. *You have to work to make a living*. There are all kinds of ways of making a living. You make a living working on those problems. Other people make a living shelling peanuts and picking feathers off chickens. So what? The theory of atheism solves no problems. It only multiplies unsolved mysteries.

The acceptance of the existence of God as Creator of the world is like a magic key that fits all the facts of Scripture, all the facts of science, all the facts of revelation, all the facts of knowledge, and all the facts of conscience and nature. This irrefutable doctrine is held tenaciously by multitudes of souls who are willing to both live and die in the consolation of the assurance that God is. Even the devils **"believe [in God] and tremble,"** the Bible says.

Conclusion

So what may we conclude in our first study? In our first study on the existence of God we may conclude that atheism is only a giant doubt. Its unbelief can only lead to darkness and despair and disaster for the one accepting it. It can only lead to anarchy, paganism, or international so-

cialism with the torture and imprisonment of millions of people who do not knuckle down to a *state* as god. There is not a real atheist anywhere in Russia or China. The god of atheism in Russia is *International Communism*. The god of every atheist and agnostic in America is *International Socialism*. There is no such thing as a man without a *god*. The term "atheism" is like the term "annihilation." It is really an insensible term which has no meaning at all. If a man does not accept one god he accepts another, and when you find people correcting the Bible, they are setting up their brains and education as their god.

Acceptance of Genesis 1:1, "**In the beginning God,**" leads a sincere seeker into the path of a fuller revelation of God Himself as a Trinity, as the Creator, and above all, as Savior and Redeemer. Hebrews 11:6 says. "**He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**" Then, the intelligent man will come to God in simple faith based on the revelation of God in Scripture and nature, believing and trusting that God is, and that a god who would not reveal himself is the wrong god. If there is any God up there at all, He is obligated to reveal Himself to His creation.

This fact delivers a deadly blow to agnostic science when we consider that men communicate to each other by *words*. The thing that sets man apart from animals, as a separate species of creation, is the fact that man communicates by the use of *words* and *sentences*. Animals have only cries for help, cries for hunger, cries of pleasure, warnings to get away, or invitations to come near; but they cannot communicate by *words*.

Therefore, if there is any God up there at all (and of course, we say that with no doubt in our own mind), theologically, it is impossible to believe that He would not reveal Himself to His creation by *words*. This is so fundamental and foundational in theological truth that when Jesus Christ shows up in John 1, we read. **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."** John says in I John 1, **"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life."** We Christians sing, "Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life." If there is a Creator at all, He is obligated to reveal Himself to His creation. Any god who would create what you find down here and then let this world take its course of six thousand years of torture, abortion, bloodshed, murder, extortion, perversion, death, disease, poverty, heartache, starvation, bereavement, war, and imprisonment, while withdrawing himself, withholding himself, and not taking part in it, should be traded for a Model-T Ford so you could make some money.

Now, it is very important for the theological student to grasp this because theism and deism both believe in a god, but a god who is not *actively interested in and participating in his creation*. If sin is a problem down here, the God of creation would have to deal with it or he would be the *wrong god*. If death is a problem down here, a god who wouldn't actively participate in the death of his creation is not a *compassionate* god. Therefore, any god, whether man believes in

God or not, who is not interested in the sin, sorrow, and death of the beings he created is—I say it reverently—a “phoney.”

The God of the Bible, on the other hand, meets all the requirements. He comes down—God **“manifest in the flesh,”** 1 Timothy 3:16—and becomes a man. Christ calls Himself the **“Son of man,”** and **“a man of sorrows . . . acquainted with grief,”** a man who was **“wounded for our transgressions . . . bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”** I say this only to point out to the student or teacher of the word of God that the God of the Bible is the only god who can meet the requirements of human nature. Any other god is a bitter disappointment and a charlatan. Any other god is a “con-man.” The God of revelation is the only god who can satisfy the longing of the human heart, for the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the only god in any religion that is actively interested in coming down and *sharing the suffering and sorrow of His creatures*, dying in the place of His creatures, and offering to His creatures *eternal life as a free gift*. This puts all other gods on the bargain counter with used Edsels and worn-out yo-yos. *They are hoaxes.* They are tragic substitutes for the real thing because they cannot satisfy the yearning of the human heart.

God is not subject to the microscopic scrutiny of man. God is the subject of revelation. John 1:18 says, **“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”** First John 4:12 says, **“No man hath seen God at any time.”** The

Lord said to Moses in Exodus 33:20, **"Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me."** Now, Moses talked to God and had a revelation of Him, but he did not see the Lord's face directly. Jesus, who is a real man in the Bible, was God's Son, coming down from heaven to reveal God the Father to sinners. So when He spoke to Philip in John 14:7-11, Jesus said that He is the revelation of God. He said, **"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."**

Catholicism says, "Join thyself." Buddhism says, "Annihilate thyself." Pagan wisdom says, "Man, know thyself." Mohammedanism says, "Man, submit thyself." Modern education says, "Man, realize thyself." But Jesus said, "Deny thyself," and **"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; . . . for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light"** (see Matt. 11:28-30). In John 17:3, we read how God and Christ His Son have eternal life to give. We read, **"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."** You say, "What about all these other religions that profess the same thing?" Easy. Try them out, and you will find them to be hoaxes. Try them out, and you will find that they do not give you victory over sin. They put you in a passive state where you *pretend* you don't have any sins when you still have them.

At the great Congress of Religions at the World's Fair in 1932 (when scores of religions got together to talk about their ecumenical magpie mess to try to bring all men together under the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man),

after nearly a week of discussion, Joseph Cook stood up in that group of dignitaries (which included Roman Catholic cardinals and bishops, Greek Orthodox elders and patriarchs, Protestant deacons and preachers, Mohammedan teachers of the Koran, and Buddhist and Hindu gurus) and said, "How cleanseest thou this red right hand?" Now, if you don't recognize the quotation, the quotation is from *Macbeth*. After Macbeth commits his murder he says, "How cleanseest thou this red right hand?" That is, "Now that I have sinned, how do I get clean?" There was no religion that could tell him how to do it permanently. The Romans told him to confess it, get contrition and absolution for it, and do penance for it, but he couldn't know for sure the thing was gone because he could only hope for heaven and could not know for sure whether he was going to hell or not until he was dead. The Protestants told him to live a good life to amend for his sins. The Buddhists insisted that if he had followed "the noble eightfold path" he wouldn't have committed the sin, but that never solved the problem. The problem was having sinned against an Eternal Being who lives forever, how do I pay for it unless I make an eternal payment? That is the problem. *They had no answer for it.* There is no answer for it, unless what the Bible says is true. **"The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseeth us from all sin"** (1 John 1:7). And again, **"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins"** Colossians 1:14.
