

EARNESTLY CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH –March, 2023

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THE EVIDENCE FOR GOD

God made us mind and all and He expects us to use it. The evidence for God is all around us and humanity is hardwired with a God consciousness so that all are without excuse (Acts 17:27; Rom. 1:19-20). The fallenness of mankind left him depraved and his ability to reason about God severely skewed. Although the image of God in fallen humanity is marred, it is still there, accounting for his ability to still reason. In his fallenness, God reasoned with Cain about sin (Gen. 4:6-7). To His rebellious people, God said, "Come now, and let us reason together" (Isa. 1:18). Paul reasoned with Felix about "righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come" (Acts 24:25).

LOGICAL ARGUMENTS FOR GOD

1. **Cosmological Argument:** The word cosmological comes from the Greek word *cosmos* meaning "world". Everything comes from something. Nothing cannot account for something. This argument says that every effect must have a cause. There must therefore be an uncaused cause of everything, and this cause is God. It all comes back to God Who is self-existent in a way that defies explanation. We are here so there must be a God.
2. **Teleological Argument:** The word teleological comes from the Greek word *telos* which means "end". This is the intelligent design argument. Design demands a designer. Order and harmony speak to the reality of a super-intelligence behind it all. The laws of nature speak to an ultimate lawgiver. The law of nature says that everything is breaking down (the 2nd law of thermodynamics) which harmonizes perfectly with what the Bible teaches regarding an original PERFECT creation that is now breaking down because of the effects of sin. If something is running down it stands to reason that it must have started in an optimum condition which is consistent with the creation account of the Bible. The reality of everything breaking down (the law of entropy) is the exact opposite of evolution which claims things are evolving for the better.
3. **Anthropological Argument:** The word anthropological comes from the Greek word *anthropos* which means "man". If there is no God why does humanity universally have a "God-consciousness"? People are moral beings with a God-consciousness including a universal fear of death. It has been said that no one is more obsessed with the idea of "God" than those who deny there is a God which just goes to prove that they "suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Rom. 1:18). People universally agree it is wrong to steal and kill, etc. Where did we get these universal ideals of "morality" if not from God?

GENERAL REVELATION V. SPECIAL REVELATION

General revelation in combination with being hardwired with a God-consciousness clearly points to God (cf. Ps. 19:1; Eccl. 3:11; Rom. 1:18-21; 2:14-15). However, it takes special revelation to bring us all the way home to the God of the Bible. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). It pleased God through the method of "the message preached to save those who believe." (1 Cor. 1:21). The gospel itself is "the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Rom. 1:16). Following the resurrection of Christ God NOW "commands that all men everywhere repent" and believe on Christ (Acts 17:30-31). This involves KNOWING and BELIEVING gospel truth. God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4).

So, while general revelation related to rational arguments has its place, by itself it is inadequate. Scripture starts with the presupposition of God. The Bible assumes the existence of God and does not provide all manner of philosophical arguments for God. God has revealed Himself in nature, but most clearly through the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Word (Heb. 1:1-4; 1 Jn. 5:20). Mankind is responsible for the light given and all are without excuse (Jn. 1:9; 8:12; 12:46-48).

Thot: The emphasis for God in Scripture is on Scripture! (Isa. 55:10-11)

Earnestly Contending, Pastor Dwight J. Oswald