

TITLE: CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES 2 – THE EXISTENCE OF GOD
TEXT: Romans 1:18-20
THESIS: The purpose of this sermon is to show the evidences we have for the existence of God.

INTRO: **Psalm 14:1** – “The fool (stupid, senseless) hath said in his heart, There is no God.” It is a *senseless* person who doesn’t believe in God. Webster: senseless – unreasonable, wanting the faculty of perception (this type of person doesn’t believe in God). This is not to say that we use our five senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste) to experience God. But we *can* use them to experience the evidence for God.

The best evidence for the existence of God is the Bible itself. A book is perfect evidence of an author. To the atheist however, using the Bible to prove the existence of God is foolish. Because, if the Bible were the only evidence for the existence of God, we’d be stuck using circular reasoning (*‘I believe God exists because the Bible says so. Why do you believe the Bible? Because it came from God!’*). I believe God understands this, and therefore He wrote in Rom 1, that His existence could be proven by the things that have been created (the things that exist).

I. ROMANS 1:18-20:

- A. Unrighteous men hold (hinder, obscure, make dark) the truth in righteousness. “Hold” can be good (as in **Prov 23:23**)
- B. Because what *can* be known about God has been given to them; God *showed* it to them. How? Has he shown it to all?
 - 1. (**v. 20**) Because the invisible things (his eternal power and Godhead/divine nature) are seen clearly. Where?
 - 2. They are understood through “the things made.” (so this applies to all who are living now, and have ever lived)
- C. So much evidence exists, and is so overwhelming, that anyone who chooses to ignore it is *without excuse (defense)*.
- D. It’s interesting to see *why* they ignore the **evidence**...because they don’t want to have God in their knowledge! (**v. 28**)

II. COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT:

- A. Κόσμος - (translated “world” – means “harmonious, or orderly arrangement”). Carl Sagan’s “Cosmos”
- B. Every material effect must have an adequate, sufficient cause (Footprints in the sand – couldn’t be caused by a fly - not adequate).
- C. The universe is an existing effect. Since every effect must have had an adequate cause, what was Cause of the Universe? If the universe were not here, you would not have to discuss its origins. There are only 3 options as to how the it got here:
 - 1. The Universe (matter) is **eternal**; it has always existed. It’s always been here and it will always be here. If not, then it had to have had a beginning.
 - This is the “cop-out” belief. Only those who put no effort into their search for truth hold to this view!
 - 2nd **Law** of Thermodynamics (**Law** of Entropy) disproves this. “In all energy exchanges, if no energy enters or leaves the system, the potential energy of the state will always be less than that of the initial state.” Matter and energy continuously proceed from a state of order to disorder. In other words, energy runs out. The universe, as admitted by agnostic astrophysicist Robert Jastrow, is “running out,” so it had to have a beginning.
 - 2. The Universe is not eternal; rather, it had a beginning. It **created itself** from nothing. The Universe came into existence out of its own accord.
 - a. Big Bang! Something destructive constructed! Evolutionists hold to this belief because they know that the Cosmological Argument is true (there must be a Cause). Supposedly this is their adequate cause! Can something create itself? A car? Bird’s nest? Then why the universe? “It” can’t create itself, because “it” doesn’t exist. If “it” created itself, then clearly “it” already existed. This is logical fallacy. Big Bang proponents say that all matter existed in a space smaller than a pinhead. (Even if this were true, where did the “pinhead” come from?) All matter, condensed into this pinhead, then exploded into the complex, well-designed, Universe we see today! As ridiculous as this is, what else can you postulate, if there is no God?
 - b. We are only seeing an illusion (a ludicrous philosophical thought)
 - c. Spontaneous generation (came into existence without a cause). This is against everything science stands for. Even in the 1800’s, scientists proved spontaneous generation is false.
 - d. **BUT: Law** of Biogenesis - life comes only from preexisting life (i.e., nothing comes from nothing)
 - 3. The Universe is not eternal, and it is not self-created; rather it **was created** by something (or someone) anterior to and superior to itself (before and outside of it). This is the **ONLY** logical explanation!
 - a. Do you see then why God could have Paul say what he did in Rom 1? **YOU ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE!**
 - b. An uncaused first cause anterior to and superior to man and the universe brought it into existence.
 - As hard as this is for some people to believe, it is the **ONLY** real explanation. This is why we have “no excuse.”
 - Heb 3:4** – a revelation of this argument (every house is built by some man, but he that builds all things is God).
 - Kyle, Matt, and I saw an old cabin in the middle of nowhere. We concluded that someone built it sometime.
 - The Hebrew writer isn’t just speculating about a “God.” He’s not just reasoning from the Creation to a Creator. God *does* exist, and He *has* communicated with his creation. He’s given us every reason to **KNOW** He exists, and He’s given us everything we need to know and **DO** in order to be pleasing to Him!

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD? DO YOU BELIEVE GOD? ARE YOU LIVING HOW HE HAS ASKED? ARE YOU PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER?

III.

TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT:

- A. Instead of approaching this from a theist view point, let's take the atheist viewpoint, and try to see if our view holds up under the pressures of the Teleological Argument.
- B. Purposeful design demands a Designer (similar to the Cosmological Argument)
 - A watch shows clear evidence of purposeful design, therefore it must have had a designer.
- C. Atheists claim that the vast space in the universe demonstrates a waste of space, and is therefore evidence of non-design. This then, they say, is evidence of NO designer. Two problems with this:
 - 1. First, this premise is faulty. If the Universe shows *any design at all*, then there MUST be a Designer (not necessary for everything to show design; or for us to recognize the design in everything).
 - a. There may be design, even though we don't recognize it (native in the jungle finds a watch, doesn't recognize it).
 - b. Something may have had design, but because of degeneration (Law of Entropy), its design/purpose is gone.
 - 2. Second, the vastness of space is *not* evidence of no-design. Rather, it demonstrates the power of the Creator **Psalm 19:1** – “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.”
- D. The Universe shows clear evidence of purposeful design.
 - 1. The earth is a sphere poised in free space (hanging from nothing – **Job 26:7**)
 - 2. It is the perfect distance from the Sun in order to support life.
 - 3. It rotates on its polar axis once every 24 hrs at a speed exceeding 1000 mph
 - 4. It travels around the Sun (631m miles) at approx 70k mph
 - 5. The Milky Way galaxy is estimated to be moving at approx 600k mph
 - 6. In its trip around the Sun, the Earth departs from a straight line only 1/9” every 18 miles (1/8” and we'd burn up!)
 - 7. The earth is 240k miles from the moon. If it were 1% closer or further from the moon, there would either be no tides that are so important to the infrastructure of the ocean, or the tides would completely inundate the landmass twice/day.
 - 8. Humans breathe in *oxygen* and breathe out *carbon dioxide*; plants take in *carbon dioxide* and give off *oxygen*!
 - 9. Next week we'll talk more about how *our bodies* show clear evidence of amazing design (that we can't duplicate).
 - a. The hand – compared to a prosthetic hand
 - b. The eye – see handout
- E. The Universe clearly shows evidence of design, therefore it is clear evidence of a Designer
As mentioned earlier, the Universe is *designed to run out*. It had a beginning (**Gen 1:1**), and it will have an end (**2 Pet 3**). No one knows when (even Christ doesn't know- **Mk 13:32**).

IV. MORAL ARGUMENT:

- A. Immanuel Kant – “Two things fill the mind with admiration and awe; the starry heavens above and the moral law within.”
- B. Man (every human) has within himself a sense of ought (what he should & shouldn't do). Where did man get his morals? On 9/11/01, people risked their own lives to help others get out of the towers before they fell. Man often responds to emergencies in the opposite direction of his best interests. Why?
- C. Remember, there is NO God, and man is supposedly the next step in the evolutionary chain (descending from animals).
 - 1. Have you ever seen a lion feeling guilty for killing a gazelle?
 - 2. A dog for stealing another dog's bone?
 - 3. Insects & animals eating their own young?Yet humans feel guilt and remorse when we violate our moral code.
Even the famous atheist George Gaylord Simpson of Harvard Univ. said, “morals arise only in man.” What or **Who** is responsible for man's morality?
- D. Paul wrote of this in **Rom 2:14-15**

CONCLUSION: Psalm 90:2 – “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” And David said “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” (**Psa 139:14**). When we think about these facts, about the vastness of this Universe, it's easy to ask the question that David asked in **Psalm 8:4**, “what is man that thou art mindful of him?” God *does* exist. And He *does* have a purpose and expectation for mankind. Have you studied His Word? Are you meeting His expectations? Are you prepared to meet him?