

sermon study summary

September 30 / October 1, 2023

Come and See Weekend – Why Believe in God?

Speaker: Dr. Henry Schorr

It is unreasonable and unrealistic to insist on absolute proof for the existence of God. You can't put God into a test tube and prove Him by the scientific method. We all make decisions based on high probability and seldom on absolute certainty. Even in a court of law, the prosecuting attorney tries to convince the jury beyond a 'reasonable doubt.'

Your identity, your view of people, your values, your ethics, your priorities and lifestyle are all a reflection of your worldview. There are three major worldviews—theism, atheism and pantheism.

1. THEISM teaches that God is real and the universe was created by God.
2. ATHEISM teaches there is no God and therefore all of reality is the result of random chance. Atheists don't disprove God; they simply define God out of existence. This worldview relies on Darwinian theory that the first cell emerged spontaneously by accident from slimy algae over 3 billion years ago. Atheists believe the universe has always existed.
3. PANTHEISM teaches that God is everywhere and in everything.

Both ATHEISM and PANTHEISM say that we are a product of chance. These worldviews lead to despair and hopelessness. They fail to explain the complexity of life we see today. Random impersonal chance does not produce complexity and organization, only greater chaos.

There are **only two possibilities** as to how life arose: (1) spontaneous generation arising to evolution, (2) a supernatural creative act of God. There is no third possibility.

A. The **COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT** for the existence of God.

1. Cause and effect. If the universe had a beginning, then there must have been a Beginner. The LAW of CAUSALITY states that every event has a cause. Nothing CANNOT cause something.
2. The universe is running out of usable energy, therefore it must have had a beginning.
3. The universe is expanding. That can't happen by chance. It must have a Creator.

B. The **MORAL ARGUMENT**. Human beings have an innate sense of right and wrong. If the chance formation of a single cell is calculated to be impossible, then how are we realistically to believe that a moral code of values in those cells happened by sheer chance? Christians believe that when God created us in His image, He wrote His moral values on our hearts.

The Bible does not attempt to explain where God came from. It assumes His existence. God, by definition, is eternal and uncreated. If God were a created being, He would not and could not be God. God is not an effect the way the universe is and therefore does not require a cause.

Some people try to suppress the truth of God or try to explain away His existence so they can live the way they want, but deep down inside every person knows there is a God. You need more faith NOT to believe in God than TO believe in God's reality.

Are you truly looking for reasons to believe, or are you looking for reasons to ignore or reject God? If you are looking for reasons not to believe, then nothing will change your mind. If you are genuinely open to exploring reasons to believe, then God will let you know that He exists and He is not silent.

The Scriptures teach that God has and is revealing Himself to us through His creation, through Jesus, through the Scriptures, and in many other ways. The Bible says there is only one way to true peace and purpose in life and that is to make your peace with God and to follow Him.

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. At what age have you asked the question, “Is God real?”
What was your response?
2. Have you ever had a conversation with someone who asked you to prove the existence of God? How did it go?

UP – PURSUE GOD

3. What is the Cosmological argument and what assumptions does Genesis 1:1 bring to the argument?
4. What is the difference between subjective and objective moral standards? Where do these standards come from? Why is it critical that objective moral standards exist?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. In what areas of your life do you find yourself looking for reasons to believe in God or to ignore or to reject God?
6. Think of someone you know who is asking for evidence that God exists. What compelling arguments can you share with truth and love?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Do you feel an inner sense of ‘oughtness’? Where does that come from? What is the purpose of oughtness? How do you explain it? Who could you share this with?

Bring a friend to “Come and See” on the first weekend of each month.

THE WORD

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

John 8:32

Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Isaiah 40:22

He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

Job 9:8

He alone stretches out the heavens
and treads on the waves of the sea.

Titus 1:2

in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

Romans 1:18-19

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Romans 2:14

(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law.

Psalms 62:1

Truly my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from him.

This week’s writers: Elsa Henderson, Mark Eckstein, David McMillin, and Jorel Quemuel