**There is a God**

**Introduction**

1. Is there a God? – This is an age old question. It has been the topic of numerous debates, and an ongoing discussion between men of this world.
2. As Christians, we obviously affirm that there is a God.
   1. Yet, we must be able to answer the question: **why do you believe there is a God?**
   2. We must be firmly convicted.
3. Why do we believe there is a God?
4. The Christian – an Apologist (One who offers an argument in defense of something.)
5. Understanding Faith
   1. ***“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is” (Hebrews 11:6*** – faith is necessary).
   2. **Asking the question, “why do I believe in God?” is not an indication of a lack of faith.**
   3. Where does our saving faith ultimately come from?
      1. **Romans 10:17** – God’s word produces faith – it is impossible to be saved without it, even if you believe there is a god without it.
      2. **God’s word is a revelation of His knowledge. Processing God’s knowledge, believing it, and putting it to action bears the result of this concept of “faith.”**
   4. Faith is not just blind belief.
      1. ***“For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7)***.
      2. Paul was not suggesting he believed without seeing anything at all.
      3. **Hebrews 11:1** – a description of what faith includes.
         1. **Substance of hope** – there is a bit of blindness here regarding faith’s relationship.
            1. ***“Hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?” (Romans 8:24)***.
            2. There is a concept of blindness (not seeing) with faith, ***but it is not illogical, and completely blind.***
            3. **Why is faith the substance?** – *Hope for what you do not have, but faith is sufficient to know it is there. 🡪*
         2. **Evidence of Unseen** – ***“conviction” (NASB)***. Something is not seen, ***but there is incontrovertible evidence it exists.***
            1. This suggests faith is not a blind leap of ignorance.
            2. **Faith is a confidence in conviction through rational thought concerning irrefutable evidence.**
6. Ready to Give a Defense
   1. **1 Peter 3:15** – This is an expectation and command from God for us.
      1. It is not enough to merely say, “I believe in God.”
      2. **We must be able to explain why. Even to ourselves.**
   2. **Defense – *apologia*** – verbal defense, speech in defense; a ***reasoned*** statement or argument. (Strong)
      1. Peter said, ***“to everyone who asks you a reason.”***
      2. Sometimes, when someone questions our belief in God, we consider it mockery (which it may be), *and we refuse to give an answer.*
      3. Peter says by inspiration that we must be ready, and able, to give one.
      4. **This concept of *apologia* is not a simple, “I believe because I have faith and trust He is there,” but a reasonable, logical argument for why you believe.**
   3. ***Conviction is a necessity. We see the evidence, and reason within ourselves that God exists. This is a personal thing we must all have.***
7. “Let us remember this fact: Human reason cannot prove the Christian religion to be true. It can only show it to be more reasonable than unbelief.” (L.S. Keyser, *A System of Christian Evidence*, pg. 31).
   1. **The only way we could prove once and for all to skeptics that God exists is if we could pluck Him out of the sky and show Him to them. (This obviously can’t happen.)**
   2. However, this certainly does not mean He does not exist.
   3. **In the same vein, the skeptic cannot prove once and for all that God does not exist. (Or else I myself would not believe.)**
   4. All anyone can do is present evidence, and reason.
   5. **The question is: what is most reasonable to believe – God exists, or God does not exist?**
8. *Why is it most reasonable to believe God exists? 🡪*
9. The Proof of God’s Existence
10. Existence of Matter (Has to have a cause. Opposed to chance.)
    1. Things exist. Where did everything come from?
       1. Why does it have to come from somewhere?
       2. ***“The universal law of cause and effect states that for every effect there is a definite cause, likewise for every cause there is a definite effect.”***
       3. **The Universe is an obvious effect of a cause. (Even unbelieving scientists understand this truth – Ex: big bang is the cause they say.)**
    2. **Is the cause mere chance?**
       1. ***Firstly, NO, because matter is not eternal. It had to have a beginning. THAT, scientists have no answer for.***
       2. **The idea is that, given enough time, anything can happen. (Given enough time, the universe eventually formed into what it is today.)**
       3. Numbered Penny example:
          1. Ten pennies numbered 1-10. Put in pocket and shuffle.
          2. Take out in sequence 1-10, putting each coin back and reshuffling after the draw.
          3. **Chance of drawing them all from 1-10 in succession is: ONE chance in TEN BILLION.**
       4. So many other factors and conditions are necessary for the material universe to come about by chance:
          1. “The earth rotates on its axis one thousand miles an hour; if it turned at one hundred miles an hour, our days and nights would be ten times as long as now, and the hot sun would burn up our vegetation each long day while in the long night any surviving sprout would freeze.” (A. Cressy Morrison, *Man Does Not Stand Alone*, Entire book.) (**BELIEVING scientist.)**
          2. “Again, the sun, the source of our life, has a surface temperature of 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and our earth is just far enough away so that this ‘eternal fire’ warms us just enough and not too much! If the sun gave off only half of its present radiation, we would freeze and if it gave half as much more, we would roast.” (*Ibid.*)
       5. **With regard to the chances of the entire material universe coming about by chance, the percentage number would be so infinitesimal that if it represented anything else, a person would just say, “ZERO CHANCE.”** (*If I told you I could perform the penny example, you would not believe me.)*
    3. **The cause is God!**
       1. **Hebrews 3:4** – We know when we see a house, it didn’t come about by chance.
          1. The house has a cause.
          2. That cause was the builder.
          3. **So it is with, *“all things,”* and the builder is God.**
       2. **Romans 1:18-23** – God has revealed Himself in creation.
          1. ***“God has shown it to them.”***
          2. ***(v. 20) – “understood by the things that are made”*** – see the effect, and know there is a cause. What kind of cause? 🡪
          3. Invisible attributes:
             1. ***“eternal power”*** – matter is not everlasting, but has a beginning. *Such beginning could only be brought about by a transcendent power (one that is everlasting).* What kind of Person has that kind of power? 🡪
             2. ***“Godhead”; “divine nature” (NASB)*** – since matter is not everlasting or eternal, no person of matter could possess such power. *The Person must be immaterial, or Spiritual – Divine.*
       3. **The creation speaks to us of God:**
          1. **Psalm 19:1-4a** – While there are no words, the universe speaks of God’s existence.
          2. ***“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalm 14:1)***.
11. Evidence of Design (Teleological Argument **– teleology – explanation of phenomena by the purpose they serve rather than their cause.** Why is this here? It is for this. Means it was designed for that purpose. Hence, a designer – God.)
    1. **Watch example:**
       1. Rolex watch – 115 moving parts.
       2. **All parts have a purpose, and must be placed correctly, and precisely in order for the watch to work.**
       3. Designer? OF COURSE!
    2. Animal behavior:
       1. Ever wonder what God means when He says He provides for the animals**? He means that, in His wisdom, He designed them to be able to function according to their needs.**
       2. **The Lion:** **Job 38:39-40** (*When God questions Job – can you explain how this works?*)
          1. **(v. 40)** – The lion’s posture while hunting is always the same. Why? God designed them to hunt that way!
          2. *Otherwise they would not catch their prey.*
       3. **The Hawk and Eagle:** **Job 39:26-30**
          1. **(v. 26)** – Hawk flies SOUTH for migration. Consistently when the season comes. Why? God designed them with the wisdom to do such!
          2. **(v. 27-28)** – Eagles nest is high because it is a stronghold. Keeps it away from other animals and danger. Why? God designed them to do such!
          3. **(v. 29)** – The height of their nest also allows them to find prey.
       4. **These things are regular. These animals always act in this way unfailingly. That is an indication of design. An indication of a DESIGNER.**
    3. Human body:
       1. **Psalm 139:14** – The Psalmist understood he was made. Made by God!
       2. **Digestion and nutrients:**
          1. **1 Corinthians 6:13** (Speaking of the misconception that fornication was okay.) – The stomach has a designed purpose. As does food.
          2. **Stomach needs food to digest and give nutrients to the body. Why do edible things exist? For the stomach – God made them both.**
          3. ***“Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11*** – because we NEED IT according to our bodies design.)
       3. **There are so many other examples concerning the human body.**
          1. ***“The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both” (Proverbs 20:12).***
          2. Eyes and ears are made, have a design, and a purpose.
    4. **Scientists can explain some of these things with animals and humans to a certain degree. *One thing they cannot do is explain the concept of morality that exists with humans, but not animals.* 🡪**
12. Existence of Morality
    1. **All men everywhere have a SENSE of right and wrong – may not be correct, but the sense is still there.**
    2. A.E. Taylor said that man may draw “the line between right and wrong in a different place, but at least they all agree that there is such a line to be drawn.” (A.E. Taylor, *Does God Exist?*, pg. 84)
    3. Where does this come from?
       1. **The anatomy and physiology of humans and animals can be observed, and explained to a degree.**
          1. *This is because these things are tangible, thus observable.*
          2. We know **we are carbon based**, because **our chemical makeup shows this to be so** – carbon is abundant on earth – ***“For dust you are, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19 – God to Adam)***.
       2. **Yet morality is not tangible.**
          1. **It is not SHOWN, but *KNOWN*.**
          2. So where does it come from?
       3. **The only explanation for an immaterial existence is an immaterial Person. I.e. God!**
          1. **Murder** – why do men think it is wrong to murder? – **Genesis 9:4-6**
          2. **Nakedness** – Why do men feel shame with nakedness? – **Genesis 3:8-11**
          3. **Homosexuality** – **Romans 1:26-28** – ***Although it is growing, the percentage of homosexuals is miniscule compared to the rest of the heterosexual world. Why?*** There is shame, and it is unnatural. (More and more think it is okay because of the debased mind God has given them over to.)
          4. **Many other examples.**
    4. **The universal existence of morality within man demands the existence of an eternal MORAL BEING – GOD.**

**Conclusion**

1. The most REASONABLE, LIKELY, and LOGICAL conclusion is that **There is a God.**
2. **Where did God come from?**
   1. God is the Cause of matter. *What caused God to exist?*
   2. God is the Designer of all we see. *Who, or what, designed God?*
   3. God is the Author of morality. *Who defined, or thought up, or created God?*
3. **God did not come from anywhere. God is the uncaused cause. That is the only reasonable explanation.**
4. ***“In the beginning God” (Genesis 1:1)***.
5. ***THERE IS A GOD***!