

I put my faith in Christ when I was 12 – but at the ripe old age of 18, while attending Bible College, I experienced a *crisis of belief*. I went through a period where I questioned God's existence and life's purpose. I questioned that if God was, then how was He to be known – after all, w/ all the world religions, surely they are not all correct? By default, having been raised in a semi-religious, part-time church-attending family, I assumed God existed and some form of Christianity was the correct way. But when I began to question everything I did and didn't believe – I found my head spinning and my heart swooning – so I began a short quest to find an answer to bring peace to my soul. The 1<sup>st</sup> question I had to answer – **Does God exist?**

The simple truth is the vast majority of people in our world believe in some sort of Supreme Being – and while I realize popular opinion is no means to measure actual truth, it's a great place to start. Why? B/c **WE ARE!** So either we're a colossal accident of universal nothingness that somehow became to be or we're the product of Divine Design.

Now, b/c we're sitting in church on a Sunday, I have a sneaking suspicion we all share a belief in God's existence; but just for grins, let's pretend we're not in church and we haven't a clue what each other think of God – then what?

**Where can't we begin** – w/ the Bible! But isn't the Bible the key to our faith? Yes! But to use the Bible to prove God's existence would be self-serving – **circular reasoning**.

**Example** – a man who believes in Islam might say he knows Allah exists b/c the Koran says so and then if asked about the authority of the Koran responds by saying, “The Koran is Allah's Word.” If you substitute God for Allah and the Bible for the Koran – you get the point (Gilmore).

This doesn't mean the Bible avoids the issue – from the start the Bible assumes God's existence – *In the beginning God...*

But to legitimately prove God's existence, we must look for evidence elsewhere to substantiate our claim. Today, I want to offer (3) reasons why I believe in God. Notice I said believe – no matter what you believe – it's still an issue of faith! Only faith is not devoid of reason.

## I The COSMOLOGICAL Argument

Also known as the CAUSATION argument – this argument says b/c there is a universe, something beyond itself had to have caused it b/c something cannot come from nothing.

Either something **CAN** come from nothing or something **CANNOT** come from nothing – **and since we have something – something had to have caused it.**

Science, like the Bible declares, says all the evidence proves the universe had a beginning. The difference is that the Bible says God is the cause while Science would claim that when nothing existed, somehow, some way, something came to be. In other words, **the Big Bang is the product of nothing combusting from nothing to make something.** (FAITH)

There's more. Even if something can come from nothing – **the universe still needs a cause to continue existing.** But according to 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Thermo-dynamics this isn't possible b/c left to itself things move from order to disorder.

Have you ever left your house a mess and returned to find it clean/organized but there was no cause to effect cleaning? Has your car ever replaced the gas in the tank on its own – **NO!** A car that's run out of gas will not run again until you walk to a gas station to purchase gas to refuel the car.

Oh – and the Bible addresses how God handles this:

*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created... all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* Colossians 1:17

Paul was saying that God through Christ is more than the author of life and creation; He is the sustainer of it too. He only has to w/draw His hand and it'd all collapse.

Consider the enormity of the problem. Science has proven the universe exploded into being at a certain moment. It asks, “What cause produced this effect? Who or what put the matter and energy into the Universe?” But science can’t answer these questions. For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who’ve been sitting there for centuries. NASA Astronomer Robert Jastrow

## II The TELEOLOGICAL Argument

Also known as the argument of DESIGN or ORDER – this argument says b/c there is compelling evidence of design, order, purpose, and complexity – there must be a designer.

In 1959 scientists discovered the earth is perfectly balanced. Where ever there’s a mountain mass on one side of the earth, something of equal weight is on the opposite side of the earth! That’s why the earth doesn’t wobble out of orbit! Even the oceans exert the precise pressure against the shores to keep the mountains standing – talk about a balancing act!

*Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or w/ the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? Is. 40:12*

Scientists have identified (75) finely tuned aspects of our world which if not present life couldn't exist. If even one of them were "out of tune" life on earth could survive.

If the earth were 1 degree closer to the sun, we'd fry! If we were 1 degree further, we'd freeze!

If the moon was any closer or larger, the tides would destroy the coast lines. If any smaller or further away, the oceans would die from a lack of nutrient movement.

If Jupiter were any farther, asteroids and comets would pepper the earth. If any closer, our orbit would be unstable.

If gravity was any stronger, earth would retain too much ammonia and methane gas. If any weaker, the atmosphere would lose too much water.

If the magnetic field were any stronger, electromagnetic storms would destroy us. If any weaker, the ozone shield couldn't protect us from stellar and solar radiation.

If the earth's crust were any thicker, it'd absorb too much oxygen. If it was any thinner; the volcanic and tectonic activity would make life impossible.

If the carbon dioxide level was any greater, runaway greenhouse effects would kill us; if any less, plants would be unable to maintain photosynthesis.

The probability of these (75) factors occurring anywhere in the universe – is  $12^{125}$ . If that's not enough – some 100 billion other things had to happen for these (75) to exist!

Scientist A.K. Morrison explains that the conditions for life on earth demand so many billions of minute interrelated circumstances appearing simultaneously, in the same infinitesimal moment, that such a prospect becomes beyond belief and beyond possibility.

**Don't get me started on DNA.** So what does this mean? It means the Psalmist knew what he was saying in **Psalm 19**.

*The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth. Psalm 19:1-4*

### III The AXIOLOGICAL Argument

Known as the argument of MORALITY – this argument contends based on man's conscious ideology of moral law there must have be a Lawgiver. B/c there appears to be a sense of right/wrong and good/evil – God must exist.

If life is the result of some random act of bang and evolution and God doesn't exist; then absolute truth, morality, and ethics are irrelevant and meaningless. But if life is the result of an omnipotent and holy God – then moral law not only makes perfect sense, it is absolutely necessary.

If moral law isn't from God, then it had to have evolved from non-moral matter – but such a notion is ludicrous b/c non-moral matter cannot evolve; either it is moral or it's not.

The reality of universal law is a very significant aspect of the human fabric. Throughout history there is a defined thread of moral conviction essential to human existence – w/out it, we would be hard pressed to qualify ourselves as human.

Henry Morris said – Each individual, however benighted, recognizes something in him that tells him that he ought to do the thing that is morally right and ought to shun wrong – even though individual standards as to what constitutes right and wrong seem to vary somewhat w/ time and place.

There is a true story from a respected university where a professor asked his students before an exam to sit one seat apart to avoid an appearance of evil – “as the Good Book says.” One of the students responded, “But what if I don’t believe the Good book?” The prof replied, “Then put (2) seats b/w you!” **Point – w/out morals life is unlivable.**

One of the great advocates of this argument was C.S. Lewis. He said there is a *real* right and wrong. If this weren’t so, how could we declare the Nazis wrong? Find a man who rejects this premise and you’ll quickly detect the hypocrisy. He may break a promise to you, but if you do the same, he’ll declare that’s not fair and falls back on a “real” rightness.

People miss the forest for the trees. If there is no God, there are no logical reasons for morality. But if I have a sense of morality it is b/c a Lawgiver sets the standard.

An excellent case in point is the French existentialist Jean Paul Sartre who rejected morality as meaningless yet could not live on the basis of that rejection. He said, “If God doesn’t exist, we find no values or commands to turn which legitimize our conduct. So, in the bright realm of values, we have no excuse behind us, or justification before us. We are alone, w/ no excuses.”



And by the way – the Bible speaks very specifically into this idea in Romans 1:19-25. *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, b/c God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are w/out excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator.*

These are just a few of the arguments one must consider w/ regard to God's existence. But for me, as I reflect back on those days in Bible College – and the intense few weeks of study, thought, and dialogue – I came to the place where I could not deny the evidence for the existence of God. **What about you?**

*The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." Psalm 53:1*