

Why I Believe in God

Psalm 8:1-5

Topic: God, Evidences of

Aim: To show that God does exist and give reasons for that belief

1. Psalm 8:1-5.
2. There are some questions that every man must answer for himself, they are that important.
3. One of those is whether or not God exists. The Psalmist obviously answered that question by contemplating what he saw in nature.
3. If God does not exist, then life can be lived in any way one might want. If God does exist, then it is reasonable to live life so as to please Him.
4. In this lesson I will give four reasons why I believe that God exists.

I. It is right to study this matter.

- A. To do so strengthens our faith, answers questions others may have.
 1. It is good to talk about our political heritage, it increases patriotism, instructs others.
 2. To talk about the existence of God increases faith, instructs others.

- B. Some have called God the "benevolent myth."
 1. They acknowledge the benefits the religion of the Bible, but deny it's reality.
 2. Some have even called for a new benevolent myth, because we have out grown the old.
 3. Implicit in this is an acknowledgment of the value of religion that could be developed into an argument for God's existence.

- C. But I submit to you that faith in God is not faith in a benevolent myth.
 1. Rather it is a faith in hard reality. It is a faith similar to that which we exercise daily.
 2. There are many things we do not fully understand, but we use them and believe in them anyway.
 3. Examples: electricity, airplanes, computers, telephones, television.
 4. Not all proof is empirical, that is able to be discerned by the five physical senses.

II. Four reasons why I believe in God.

- A. What is called "natural theology."
 1. That is what David was expressing in Psalm 8:1-5.
 2. Compare Romans 1:18-23.
 3. We see design and order all through nature. That design and order argues for a designer.

- B. The second builds on and expands the first. There must be a sufficient and necessary cause for what we see.
 1. Let me illustrate with story of Robinson Crusoe. When he saw the footprint in the sand, he correctly reasoned that there must be another human on the island.
 2. Why? Only a human can make a human footprint.
 3. The existence of another human is the only necessary and sufficient cause of the footprint.
 4. What is the only necessary and sufficient cause for the universe? That is God.
 5. No other explanation is adequate.
 6. Even if evolution could explain the physical presence of life, it cannot explain the existence of such realities as love, beauty, faith, forgiveness.

7. Part of the notion of the "benevolent myth" is that man invented God. That he is the result of our religious evolution. To turn the argument around, is man a sufficient and necessary cause for God? Who would invent an idea, a god who would expect so much of man, and expect him to deny his flesh?

C. The third derives from the nature of man.

1. Illustrate with person who comes upon a drowning man. Three impulses, save self, save the drowning man, and "What ought I to do?"

2. There is no explanation in nature for the sense of ought which all men have.

3. No beast of the field has it, only man in all of creation.

4. There may be differences of beliefs as to right and wrong but all men and all cultures have this innate sense of ought.

D. Finally, there is evidence of God having been here, just as the footprint was evidence of a man, all around us.

1. The Bible.

2. The Jewish race.

3. The Christian religion.

4. The church.

1. Is God a benevolent myth, an idea someone dreamed up that has benefited mankind or is He real?

2. He is real. And because he lives, we ought to live our lives to please Him.

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