

# WHY WE BELIEVE IN GOD

Jon Macon

The most important question for any person to consider is that of the existence of God. Everything else that we believe in our lives, every decision we make, everything that we do, ultimately hinges upon whether or not we truly believe in our Creator. In actuality, there is no “question” about whether God exists. He *does* exist, and the proof of His existence is beyond legitimate dispute. The only real question is whether or not we are willing to believe the *proof* of God’s existence. Our own personal answer to *that* question will determine our eternal destination. Hebrews 11:6 says, “But without faith it is impossible to please him: *for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*”

## **The wrong system of belief**

By definition, an *atheist* is one who says that there is no God, a *skeptic* doubts that there is a God, and an *agnostic* says that there is not enough evidence for the existence of God and he therefore cannot know if there is a God. Although there are some subtle distinctions among these various groups of unbelievers, the one thing they all have in common is that none of them *believe* there is a God. The label that God has for all of these people is found in Psalm 14:1 and 53:1: “*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.*” In fact, Romans 1:18-32 teaches that all men know in their heart that there is an eternal, powerful God and that those who do not glorify Him as God are worthy of death. From “the creation of the world,” God has revealed His existence to all men, “*so that they are without excuse.*” The problem is that “when they knew God, they glorified him not as God,” and “*they did not like to retain God in their knowledge.*” People who decide not to believe in God are merely denying what they know. In that sense, there is actually no such thing as an “atheist,” “skeptic,” or “agnostic.” They all *know* God exists in spite of what they say about it. Typically, these very people will accuse believers in God of holding to superstitions and not dealing in facts, of taking a leap in the dark with their beliefs. The truth is that they are the very ones refusing to deal in facts and are very much following their own system of superstitious beliefs. They do not believe in God, but they *do believe* there is no God. That is their belief, and is certainly not a fact. They cannot truthfully say that they *know* there is no God. Furthermore, those who reject a belief in a Creator are forced to believe that matter either created itself or is eternal, as those are the only other alternatives. The Bible points out the inarguable truth that matter did *not* create itself (Psa 100:3), and is *not* eternal (2 Cor 4:18). Also, not believing in God requires a person to believe in “spontaneous generation,” that life somehow originated from non-living matter. Every piece of evidence that exists demonstrates that life comes from preceding life, or, as stated in the first chapter of the Bible, all living things produce after their own kind (Gen 1:11-12). And the first life on earth came from the ultimate and eternal Life, God. In science, it is recognized that there are no exceptions to the rule that life only comes from life, which is referred to as the *Law of Biogenesis*. There are other beliefs that disbelief

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in God requires, but in every case those beliefs are held in spite of all evidence to the contrary. Atheism is without question its own system of belief, and truly is a “leap in the dark,” ultimately into *outer darkness!*

## **The evidence for what we believe**

Acts 14:15-17 points out that God has “left not himself without witness” that He truly is “the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein.” The very first verse in the Bible declares God’s existence: “In the beginning, *God* (Gen 1:1). But a person does not even have to read the Bible to know that God exists, as the proof is all around us. The proof is not of the *empiric* variety, as God Himself cannot be experienced directly through our five physical senses. Rather, God’s existence is proven by *prima facie* (literally, “first view”) evidence, meaning it is self-evident and sufficient. All the evidence (i.e. the creation) points to the existence of a Creator, God. Psalm 19:1 says, “*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.*” Even a child knows that “nothing comes from nothing.” If ever there were a time when nothing existed, there would still be nothing, but since something does exist, it must be that something has always existed, and that is God. Hebrews 3:4 says, “*For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.*” The universe, including ourselves (Psa 139:14), contains order and design, and demonstrates the existence of an intelligent Designer. The proof of God’s existence goes beyond the physical part of the creation. For example, how will God judge the Gentiles who lived before Christ and were not under the Law of Moses? Romans 2:15 explains that God will judge them according to how they lived in regard to their own built-in sense of right and wrong, “*their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.*” Man has been created in the image of God (Gen 1:27), and, along with that, has been created with a *conscience*. We all have an innate understanding that certain behaviors are wrong (Rom 1:28-32; 1 Cor 11:14). For example, no one has to be taught that murder is wrong. Man is capable of *defiling* the conscience he was given by God (1 Tim 4:2; Titus 1:15). But that is no excuse for doing evil. In fact, the war criminals of World War II, who had obeyed orders from their superiors of their own nation in slaughtering millions of innocent people, were condemned on the basis of their violation of “Natural Law.” That is, they committed acts that *nature* (i.e. God) has made us all know are wrong, period. The existence of our conscience and a sense of morality is evidence of the existence of God. The moral did not arise from the non-moral, but was created by a moral Being, God. The fact is, our belief in the existence of God is the only reasonable conclusion and belief to have. *Not* to believe in God is unreasonable, and denies the evidence that our Creator has given. As we have seen in Hebrews 11:6, we *must* believe that He is!