

Is there a God?

True or False

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Thanks be that he knows my name, my address, my social security number. He knows about my DNA and everything else in between. Amen? Amen. Hallelujah.

If you have your Bibles tonight and I am very confident that this is a group that does and I'm sure probably because you make sure I'm doing right but that's good so let's go ahead and turn in our Bibles to 1 Peter 3 and we'll read verse 15. Once you get there, let's all stand and we'll read and we'll pray and ask the God of the heavens for his mighty, mighty help tonight and I pray that somebody will be greatly encouraged. But also give me some tools, some instruments to be able to help you and myself share the good news of the gospel with those who don't know Christ as their Savior. Amen.

Let's look over at 1 Peter. This is our launching pad right here. The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:15, Peter says under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Peter says this, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready," sometimes. Oh, I'm sorry, "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." We're going to call tonight's true or false: is there a God?

Father, I pray tonight that you'd help us. I pray, God, that you would guard our minds, our hearts. I pray, God, that you would reveal the truth to us and help us to not only embrace that truth but also share that truth. I pray, God, that you would fill my vessel up with your Holy Spirit. I pray, God, that you would guide every part of my body, Lord, every thought that comes across my mind, every word, every syllable that comes from off of my lips and my tongue. I pray, God, that you'd be the Guider of and the Great Director. I pray, God, that your words would seep into the minds and the hearts of all those who are present, all those who are watching and all those who will watch later. With that, God, we'll thank you.

I pray, God, that each of us will be challenged in our thinking. I pray, God, we'd be encouraged by your word. I pray, God, that we'd be motivated to understand the importance of studying the word of God, studying about trees and perhaps our bodies and minds and perhaps even lazy about entering into but help us, God, to be motivated to do these things and we'd be able to give those an answer of the hope that we have. With that, God, we'll thank you.

Then, of course, if there is one among us or one that's missing that doesn't know Christ as their Savior, I pray, God, that your Holy Spirit and I can't do it, I can't convince anybody but I pray, God, that your Holy Spirit would convict, conflict and convince them of the truth and they would see the Lord Jesus as their Savior. With that, God, we'll thank you. Help us for it is in your Son's name that we pray, Jesus. Amen.

You may be seated.

True or false: Is there a God? It's amazing, there is so much information that has floated in my mind this last week that there's no way I'm able to get it all out, let alone arrange it in my head. Amen? But I'm amazed at those who do not believe that there is a God. I'm astounded by the rhetoric that I hear that flows from them. A lot of them think that we as Christians are ignorant. They believe that we have a blind faith, we just believe, but look in your Scriptures, check your word, the Bible says just believe because our next question will be this: believe what? What are you asking me to believe? Not just believe, but believe what? So we don't have a blind faith but we have a faith that is based upon facts. We take these facts and then, my dear friends, we believe in them and we find ourselves being placed into the precious family of a holy God.

But as we ask the question about is there a God we, of course, have to at least touch on evolution even though I want to do that as a separate message but we've got to still touch on evolution. And just to give you a definition, the definition itself is a vast one. I've tried my best to condense such a matter to understand it but evolution means this: it's a gradual process in which something changes into a different and usually more complex or better form. So, it's evolving; it is changing. As you study evolution and those who believe it, first of all, we need to be reminded that evolution is a theory. A theory, an assumption. There is no scientific proven fact and they'll let you know and they'll be honest, that evolution absolutely exists. As a matter of fact, they've been fighting against this but as I mentioned, I believe last week, there were 600 and some scholars and chemists and biologists and the list goes on from various high-ranking colleges that put out a letter in which they were saying that they refuted Darwinism, they do not believe in evolution and these are people with higher learning. But since then, the number has reached 750. Somebody says, "Well, that's a small number in such a large community." But hold on, no matter how "smart" someone might seem to you, we are talking about over 700 people who are well-learned in evolution, who know all the terminology and all these types of things but they have come to the conclusion that evolution cannot be proved and they do not believe in evolution or Darwinism. Now, my dear friends, that's...by the way, when they did this, they took out two full pages in the newspaper stating these facts about what they believed about evolution.

But that doesn't make the big news and then those who still do not believe have ridiculed and said, "Well, these are folks who used to be this and used to be that." They don't talk about used to be, where are they at now? Yes, they were one of your colleagues but now they are saying they do not believe in evolution. Well, evolutionists believe that information can arise from disorder or by chance. My dear friends, that's ludicrous as

you're going to see here in a few moments. I'm not trying to be unkind, I'm trying my best to not be because I'm going to just give you some facts, I'm just going to give you some information and I want you to make the decision. When I say "you," I'm just meaning in general. I want you to make a decision whether or not there is a God. There is a God.

Now, how do you come to this conclusion? Well, how do you recognize the evidence of the Creator? Well, and I've got so much stuff here – well, if there's a car, if you see planes, or computers, or stereos, or houses, appliances, each of these things let you know there was somebody that created or put that particular item together. You would not say there's a car, it would just "poof" came out of nowhere. No, if there's a car there, if there's a plane there, that man should know that was someone that created this. It did not just happen by chance and that's what evolution is primarily based upon, is things coming together by chance. But as we proceed, you will take this information into your mind and you just look at it from a scientific standpoint and you decide whether or not evolution is true or is God true?

So how do we recognize that there is a Creator? By creation itself. If there's something that's created, you know that something must have put it together. Look with me for a second in Romans 1:19. I'm going to give you a few verses first but then I'm going to look at the external evidence, things outside the Bible – don't get nervous – but things outside the Bible that prove that there is a God and the Bible tells us this: creation itself. Look at Romans 1:19, look what the word says about creation itself, "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them." Here we go, "For the invisible things," the unseen things, "of him from," what? "The creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." In other words, they are without defense. Let's look a little bit more carefully. The invisible things of him from the creation of the world. That word "world" means "orderly arrangement." The world was orderly arranged. It was not just chaos that came together. It was orderly arranged and the Bible says right here "the invisible things," the unseen things, "from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made."

Look a little bit further, drop down to verse 25 of that same chapter. The Bible says this, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." That word "creature" is the word also "creation." Is that not what we are today? Folks worship creation instead of the Creator. The one not who made it but that which he made. That is what people are worshipping today but, now, I want you to grasp this: this was written down over 2,000 years ago about how man would worship creation more than the Creator. It was happening then and it's even worse today. "Well, we're talking about Mother Nature." It's raining outside, it's lightning, someone says, "Man, Mother Nature is acting up." Mother who? That's God's nature, ain't Momma nature. Amen? Our God created all these things and as we'll see in a few moments, we'll look at evidence – I'm about to have a spell – external evidence that God exists.

Creation. Well, creation is worshiped instead of the Creator. Let's look real quickly at evidence of a Creator and there's so much more, guys, and I want to encourage you to read people like Ken Hamm and Lee Strobel and Josh McDowell. They have books that you can go on the internet, you can go to YouTube and put in those names and they will actually have them speaking and talking about various things: about physics; about DNA which we'll talk about tonight; and things like this that prove that there is a God. There is a Creator. There is a Creator and that Creator is God himself.

The first thing I want to look at is the earth. There is some external evidence that the earth itself proves that there is a God. Let's look real quickly. This is what it says about the earth. The earth, it's size is perfect. The earth's size and corresponding gravity holds a thin layer – don't try to catch this – it holds a thin layer of mostly nitrogen and oxygen gases only extending about 50 miles above the earth's surface. If earth – listen now – if earth was smaller an atmosphere would be impossible like the planet Mercury. If earth was larger, its atmosphere would contain free hydrogen like Jupiter. Earth is the only known planet equipped with an atmosphere of the right mixture of gases to sustain plant, animal and human life. Are you trying to tell me that a big boom caused all that to take place? If it's off by a tiny fraction, friends, this place is gone. But they're saying that chaos created order. That doesn't make sense but hold on a minute here, we've got a long way to go here, we've got to get going.

The earth is located the right distance from the sun. Now, let me pause. This is external evidence, these are scientific facts I'm giving you. This hasn't got anything to do with – this is science and people know this. I'm sure that Brother Russell and some of you others could verify what I'm talking about here. Now listen: the earth is located in the right distance from the sun considering the temperature swings we encounter, roughly -30 degrees to +120 degrees and if the earth were any further away from the sun, we would all freeze. Any closer, and we would what? Burn up. Even a fractional variance in the earth's – let me say that again – even a fractional variance in the earth's position to the sun would make life on earth impossible. The earth remains the perfect distance from the sun while it rotates around the sun at a speed of nearly 67,000 miles per hour. It is also rotating on its axis, allowing the entire surface of the earth to be properly warmed and cooled every day. Our moon is the perfect size and distance from the earth for its gravitational pull. The moon creates important ocean tides and movement so ocean waters do not stagnate and yet our massive oceans are restrained from spilling over across the continents.

That's order, not chaos. If it's off a little bit, we've got problems, we've got major problems. So you look at the earth itself, it's existence and are you trying to tell me that that has all happened by chance? By chance? No, friend. Here's the evidence. But not only do we have the earth but also water. “What do you mean, Preacher?” Somebody said, “You just preached it.” That's what you think. Water is colorless, odorless and without taste and yet no living thing can survive without it. Plants, animals and human beings consist mostly of water. About 2/3 of the human body is water. You'll see why the characteristics of water are uniquely suited to life. It has an unusually high boiling point and a freezing point. Water allows us to live in an environment of fluctuating temperature

changes while keeping our bodies a steady 98.6 degrees. Brother Russell, you're the resident nurse here. If my temperature is at 103 and it stays that way, what's going to happen to me? I'm going to die. It needs to be not 99, not 98, 98.6. Are you telling me "boom" 98.6, that just happened like that? There was a Creator that told this to take place. I'm not done.

Water is a universal solvent. This property of water means that various chemicals, minerals and nutrients are able to be carried throughout our bodies and into the smallest blood vessels. Water is also chemically neutral without affecting the make-up of the substances it carries. Water enables food, medicines and minerals to be absorbed and used by the body. Chance? I've got to grab a hold of this thing because what they're saying is that over a long period of time, this one cell – I'm going to stop right here. I'm going to get ahead of myself. We're going to get there.

Water has a unique surface tension. Water in plants can, therefore, float upward against gravity bringing life-giving water and nutrients to the top of even the tallest trees. Water freezes from the top down and floats. "Why, Preacher?" So fish can live in the winter. Chance? Did it just happen that way? Because if it flows upward, the fish, they're gone but it's downward, friend.

Not only that, 97% of the earth's water is in the oceans but on our earth, there is a system designed which removes salt. Chance? Come on, man. Removes salt from the water and then distributes that water throughout the globe. Evaporation takes the ocean's waters, leaving the salt and forms clouds which are easily moved by the wind to disperse water over the land for vegetation, animals and people. It's a system of purification and supply that sustains life on this planet, a system of recycled and reused water. Chance? We're talking about creation. We need the clouds to take the water over here. That just happened, Brother Dennis? Chance? Come on.

Alright, let's move on. The human brain. Some are better than others but the human brain simultaneously processes an amazing amount of information. Your brain takes in all the colors and objects you see, the temperature around you, the pressure on your feet against the floor, the sounds around you, the dryness of your mouth, even the texture of your keyboard. Your brain holds and processes all your emotions, thoughts and memories or lack thereof. That's for me. At the same time, your brain keeps track of the ongoing functions of your body like your breathing pattern, eyelid movement, hunger and movement of the muscles in your hands. "What are you talking about, Preacher?" Your brain is somehow able to do a whole bunch of stuff and you didn't even realize it. Information is going everywhere. Chance? No.

Not only that, friend, the human brain processes more than a million messages a second. Your brain weighs the importance of all this data, filtering out the unimportant then screening functions and will allow you to focus and operate effectively in your world. The brain functions differently than other organs. There is an intelligence to it: the ability to reason; to produce feelings; to dream and plan; to take action; and relate to other people. That's just a little small part of the brain.

Alright, the eye. The eye can distinguish among – this blew my mind – among seven million colors. I didn't know there were seven million colors. When I was in school it was green, yellow, blue. It's amazing but your eye can distinguish among seven million colors. It has automatic focusing and handles an astounding – listen, guys – 1.5 million messages simultaneously. Wow! There are a lot of messages happening throughout your body. Evolution focuses on mutations and changes from and within existing organism yet evolution alone does not fully explain the initial source of the eye or the brain, the start of living organisms from non-living matter. The eye, my friends, itself will blow your mind. I've got to hurry.

Let's look at gravity. No, I'm going to skip gravity because I've got to get out of here. Gravity, mark that one down.

Let's look at DNA for a second. DNA, all the instruction, all teaching, all training comes with intent. Someone will write an instruction manual and does so with purpose. Did you know that in every cell of our bodies, there exists a very detailed instruction code much like a computer program? As you may know, a compute program is made up of 1s and 0s like this: 110010101011000. The way they are arranged tells the compute program what to do. The DNA code is in each of our cells. Hang onto that thought, now. The DNA code in each of our cells is very similar. It's made up of four chemicals that scientists abbreviate as A, T, G, and C. These are arranged in the human cell like this: CG TG TG ACT CGC TCC TGAT and so on. Now, listen to this, guys: there are three billion of these letters in every human cell. Three billion of these letters in every human cell. Now, hang onto that thought. There are trillions of cells that make up the human body. There are trillions of cells that make up the human body and in each human cell there are three billion of these letters. Chance? Or did somebody design that? There is a Creator.

Well, just like you can program your phone to beep for specific reasons, DNA instructs the cell. DNA is a three billion letter program telling the cell to act in a certain way. The cell, then add on the other trillions. It is a full instruction manual. Why is this so amazing? Do I have to ask? How did this information program wind up in each human cell? These are not just chemicals, these are chemicals that instruct. They instruct. That code is a very detailed way exactly how the person's body should develop. Natural biological causes are completely lacking an explanation when programmed information is involved. You cannot find instruction, precise information like this without someone intentionally constructing it. Boom! That cell, three billion, all the trillions.

Friends, there is so much more. There is so much more. Time is moving. Let me read you this from a person who was an atheist. He said, "I was an atheist at one time and like many atheists, the issue of people believing in God bothered me greatly. What is it about atheists that we would spend so much time, attention and energy refuting something that we don't believe even exists?" That's a good question. "What causes us to do that? When I was an atheist," he says, "I attributed my intentions as caring for those poor delusional people, to help them to realize their hope was completely ill founded. To be honest, I also had another motive. As I challenged those who believed in God, I was deeply curious to

see if they could convince me otherwise.” Think about that. He goes on to say, “Part of my quest was to become free from the question of God. If I could conclusively prove to believers that they were wrong, then the issue is off the table and I will be free to go about my life. I didn't realize that the reason the topic of God weighed so heavily on my mind was because God was pressing the issue. I have come to find that God wants to be known. He created us with the intention that we would know him. He has surrounded us with evidence of himself and he keeps the question of his existence squarely before us. It was as if I couldn't escape thinking about the possibility of God. In fact, the day I chose to acknowledge God's existence, my prayer began with, 'Okay, you win.' It might be that the underlining reason atheists are bothered by people believing in God is because God is actively pursuing them.”

Why else would I spend my time writing books if I did not believe that there was a God? If I don't believe that there's a God, I might as well just let you all go home.

I was listening to one guy, he's an atheist and his name is Richard Dawkins. He's a big-time atheist and this guy was telling him about what he had spent his life doing for 50 years. He said he was delusional, he said, “You were just hallucinating.” He said, “My God changed me,” and he said he was hallucinating. That was his answer, “You're hallucinating.” Well, maybe Mr. Dawkins is hallucinating. We're not the ones who are hallucinating. There's evidence. “I'm not the only one,” he said, “who has experience this.” Malcolm Muggeridge, socialist and philosophical author wrote, “I had a notion that somehow besides questing, I was being pursued.” CS Lewis said this, he remembered, “Night after night, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of him who I so desired not to meet, I gave in and admitted that God was God and knelt and prayed. Perhaps that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all of England.” Lewis wrote a book entitled “Surprised by Joy.” “As a result of knowing God, I too had no expectations of then rightly admitting God's existence, that over the following seven months, I became amazed by his love for me.” Jesus said the gospel is pursuing us. There's also evidence that there is a God.

“Preacher, what hinders us from seeking God?” One thing is pride. Look with me real quickly to Psalm 10:4. I have so much more but we haven't got time. Look at Psalm 10:4. What I'm going to do if nothing else is to whet your appetite. Look at Psalm 10:4 and look what the Psalmist says here in verse 4, “The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.” Let's break that verse down. The wicked: that word “wicked” means they've done wrong, morally wrong. Through the pride, the arrogance of his countenance and his face. Will not seek or ask after God. God is not in all his thoughts, that means his plans or his purposes. He doesn't want God because of pride.

You have to admit a lot of scientists and I did a lot of reading and I've got a lot more reading to do but a lot of scientists, if they were to actually say, “Okay, there is a Creator,” that would mean this: they would be responsible to him. You see, as long as there's no Creator, then I'm not held responsible to anybody. I can do whatever I want to do. That's when this teaching comes in: what's true for you is true for you; what's true for

me is true for me. I don't want to be held responsible for what I do. My dear friends, that really boils down to pride. I don't want to yield to someone else.

Not only pride but also feelings. Look at Psalm 14. This is a familiar verse here that you've heard at least, somebody probably quoted it. The Bible says in Psalm 14:1, "The fool hath said," where? "In his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." The Bible says the fool: the word "fool" here means "the foolish, the wicked or the senseless." Now, "senseless" means "less sense." But saying there is no God, makes no sense. Another thing that has no sense is a fool who says there is no God and it's all because of what? In his heart: the word "heart" here means "his inner man, his mind, his will, his feelings, his intellect." You see, a lot of folks say, "If I cannot explain it then I shall not believe." But just because you can't explain it doesn't mean it isn't so. There are a lot of things I can't explain. I can't explain how a cellphone works but it does. I've got to call somebody in Granada or Costa Rica and we haven't got any wires attached. I don't grasp that whole concept. By the way, everybody else's voice is going – because, you know, there are voices here right now, you just can't hear them. You need some type of reception to be able to pick up the voices but we can't hear all these voices going through here but if I had a receptor, had a receiver, I'd be able to pick up the right voice that my receiver is connected to. Come on, man!

One more and we're done. But also not wanting God stops folks from seeking him. Look at Romans 1:28 and there's so much, like I said, folks who are here, those who are watching, read these various books and be open-minded enough – you say, "Well, I'm open-minded." Are you really? I mean, seriously? Because if you're open-minded, my dear friends, you won't be afraid – I'm going to use that word – afraid to read somebody that thinks differently than you do. We may be afraid they might have the truth and you don't. Because most of the time what happens is this, those folks would say, "Well, I read, I this." You agree with stuff about folks who don't believe already. The reason he does believe is they have the same type of traditions as they have. If you're honest about this whole thing but like what I found in my research, they go by what they heard somebody else say but they've not done the research themselves.

Look at what the Bible says here in Romans 1:28, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge." "Retain" means "to hold." They did not want to hold God in their knowledge. That word means they did not want to acknowledge him. "God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient," or fit or becoming. Why? Because here, these folks here, my dear friends, they did not want to retain God, to hold God in their knowledge. Did not want him in their minds. They didn't want to know him. Some people really don't want to know if there is a God and then most of the time, what you'll find out is that if somebody does have hatred toward God, more than likely it's hatred towards someone else, someone perhaps that they grew up with that they know personally. They said they were Christians and they said that they were following God but yet they did things that were totally contrary to what the word of God has to say. Some of them were abused in their various forms whether it was verbally, whether it was physically, whether it was sexually and they say, "You know what, that person was a priest, that person was a preacher, that person was a deacon, that person was

a treasurer, that person was a choir member, that person was this and if there's a God how could he allow such a thing?" Some folks were actually mad at a God who they do not believe exists. How can you be mad at someone who does not exist? You see a lot of times, not all the time but a lot of times these are things that they cannot reason it out in their mind. They cannot reason it out.

But, folks, there's so much. There's so much and we're going to talk about some of these things in the next few days but we've got to get done here because like I said, we'd be here all night. But nonetheless, is there a God? Creation itself proves there is a God. It's too orderly. It's too arranged. The galaxies, the stars, the moon, the sun, the distant. Just off a tad bit and we would have problems, huge problems. It didn't just happen. Somebody created it. Oh, that's right, Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God."

Here's my question, one question and what's your answer? Is there a God?

Father, thank you for your wonderful blessings. I've done my best in the allotted time that I had, the small amount of time that I had. It was just too much, Father, this is a lot of information but I do pray, God, that you'd take some of this information that was given out and, Lord, let it help somebody. If nothing else, challenge their thinking. If nothing else, cause them to want to dig a little deeper to find out the truth. So many have sought the truth sincerely and because of that they have found it.

Father, I pray that you'd help some soul tonight whether they be here, whether they are watching or whatever the case might be. Thank God for those who already know that you exist, they already have you in their hearts. I pray, God, that this just reaffirms to them the truth that you exist. Perhaps that is one who comes to pray tonight and we ask you to help them as they pray for those they love and they care for, those of their neighbors or their classmates or their coworkers or even a family member. They want to be able to help them, Father, and they want to have the right words to say. Father, I pray that you give them your wisdom to know what to say, how to say it and when to say it. With that, Father, we'll thank you. Perhaps, God, there are some folks who want to thank you for showing them the truth and then to receive it. Whatever these are, help us come to talk to you for a few moments. Why? Because we need to for it is through your Son's name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

Let's all stand. Perhaps the Lord has spoken to your heart tonight to come and talk to us for a few moments.