

"I Believe in God"

Is there a God? Did He create me? Am I accountable to Him? Hello, I'm Phil Sanders, and this is a Bible study "In Search of the Lord's Way." Many people question the existence of God, but there are good reasons to believe. Stay tuned.

Welcome to In SEARCH of the Lord's Way! We're here to search the Scriptures for God's will. Because the Scriptures come from God, they reveal God's wisdom and His character. If God is true, then His words are true and they give us confidence. I'm thankful for the confidence I can gain through a study of the word of God, because it provides a solid and true foundation in a world of uncertainty and fabrications. I want the truth, and I know the true God has given it to us through His word! Thanks for taking time with us today. I want to be a part of your life each week.

Someone may ask the question, "Why do you believe in God?" Well, that's an important question and it deserves an answer. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." As an evangelist, I'm asking you to deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Christ. I'm asking you to believe God created you, and that you're accountable to Him. I'm asking you to believe Jesus died upon a cross for your sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. Now, I realize what I'm asking of you is far more critical than asking you to buy a certain brand of soap or a certain type of car. I'm asking you to give yourself completely to Jesus.

Many reject God and Christ, offering many reasons why they no longer want to affiliate with any God or any church. If God exists, you're risking your soul by rejecting Him. By rejecting God, you'll lose the opportunity to enjoy His promises in this life and the one to come.

Now, we offer this study free on the existence of God. And if you'd like a printed copy or a CD of our study and you live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, you can call our toll-free telephone number. That number is 1-800-321-8633. We also have materials free on our website www.searchtv.org. The Edmond church will now worship in song, we'll read from Psalm 19 verses 1 to 3, and explore the reasons we believe in God!

Our reading today is a psalm of David and in his first part of the psalm he talks about creation. And how the creation talks of the glory of God. Psalm 19 verses 1 to 3. The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.

That's the words of David. Let's pray together. Father, we're so thankful that You have left a witness of Your glory and Your power throughout the universe. And even in our own

selves. And Father we pray that we will come to believe in You more strongly. And may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen.

We should accept only those ideas supported by adequate evidence. Now, the evidence for God comes to us not only from His revealed word, which we'll talk about later, but also from what we can observe in the universe, in nature, and in ourselves. Hebrews 3 and verse 4 says, "For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God."

Our universe reveals order and design with laws and stability. The reason Americans could land on the moon in 1969 was because of the stability and predictability of our universe. Our earth is orderly and designed to be sustainable. God promised Noah in Genesis 8 and verse 22, "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease." This promises from God, has held true. And has held true even to this day, even though thousands of years have passed since the time of Noah. We can plan our calendars and seasons by the predictability of our solar system. Now to suggest that this happens by accident is absurd. Only an all-powerful, all-knowing supernatural Person could make this universe with its order and design and laws and keep it in working order.

Someone objects well, "If God made this universe, who made God?" Well, there had to be something in the beginning. The chances of nothing becoming something is zero. There had to be a first cause. The scientific, second law of Thermodynamics demands a beginning; and God is that unmoved mover that started everything. God is self-existent and has always existed. Psalm 90 and verse 2 explains, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." Again, only an all-powerful, all knowing supernatural Person could make and sustain this universe.

Our universe also reveals what kind of Creator we have. Romans 1 and verse 20 says, "For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made." When we examine what God has created, we can clearly see His power and divine nature. David spoke about God's role in making his human body in Psalm 139:13 to 14, "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."

The complexity of the human body with trillions of cells, a brain, the eyes, the ears, the nose, the tongue, the skeleton, the heart, the lungs, the skin, the hands, and the feet. Your nervous system, your hormone system, your digestive system, your circulatory system, and your muscles all declare wisdom and design. You, my friend, are not cheap junk. God made you in His image.

Now, I have a smart phone. It connects me to the world through the phone and through the internet. I have apps with entire libraries, apps that tell me the news and weather, apps with helpful utilities, apps with movies, and apps with games. It's a marvelous tool and contains ten

times the memory of my first laptop computer. Does anybody in the world think that a smart phone made itself or is the product of an accident? Why, of course not!

Yet, I can say with confidence that just one living cell in your body (which has trillions of cells) is more complicated, more detailed than anything in a smart phone. According to "Genome Facts," in Nova Online, the amount of information in one DNA molecule would fill 1000 books of an encyclopedia size. It would take a person typing 60 words per minute, eight hours a day, around 50 years to type the human genome. And if all the DNA in your body's 100 trillion cells was put end to end, it would reach to the sun (90 million miles away) and back over 600 times. My friend, you are fearfully and wonderfully made by an all-knowing, all-powerful God. This DNA code determines what we are as living creatures. It is specific and complex. It couldn't just happen; God caused you. Created you. God is our intelligent Designer.

Now, add to this your ability to live. Acts 17 verse 28 says, "'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring.'" Now as the offspring of God, we have a spirit that thinks, a conscience that judges, a heart that loves, and a soul that hopes. Well, how did our thinking mind, our consciousness come about? Did we get it from non-living matter? While there are theories, there simply are no scientific facts describing the origin of life or consciousness.

Is it accidental that we can ask a question or reason or have morals? You know, even people who do not know God have a sense of right and wrong, because of God. Romans 2:14 to 15 explains, "For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them." Well, who gave you a conscience that continually judges your thoughts and behavior?

No rock or mineral could of given you a conscience. The presence of morals implies more than just a conscience, also it implies a moral governor, someone who is moral and made moral laws. That moral governor is God who hates sin and loves righteousness. Hebrews 4 verses 12 to 13 says, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

Yes, because He made you, He has the right to hold you accountable for your attitudes, your words, and your actions. Romans 14:12 says, "So then each of us will give an account of himself to God." While your body will one day pass away, your soul or spirit will survive. If God is real, and He is, then what He says about heaven and hell are true. Only a God who sees and knows more than we can see and know, more that we could know, could speak of judgment and eternity. We can believe what God says about things we cannot see, because He speaks so clearly in the Bible about the things that we can clearly see.

Sometimes people object to God's existence, saying, well "Faith in God isn't scientific; it's a leap in the dark." Many think if you believe in science, you can't believe in God. They suggest faith in God is unreasonable. Really? Have you considered that many credible scientists and logicians have professed faith in God? For instance, the book of Romans in the New Testament was used for centuries as a primary source in the study of logic. According to Louw and Nida, in their Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, there are 122 separate vocabulary words in the semantic section dealing with thinking and reasoning. Yes, the Lord and His people knew how to think in the first century; and you know what, they know how to think today.

Well, who are some of the scientists and intellectuals who believe in God? Well, Nicholas Copernicus was the Polish astronomer who put forward the first mathematically based system of planets going around the sun. Sir Francis Bacon was a philosopher who is known for establishing the scientific method of inquiry based on experimentation and inductive reasoning. Johannes Kepler was a brilliant mathematician and astronomer. He did early work on light, and established the laws of planetary motion about the sun. Blaise Pascal was a mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer and theologian. He published a treatise on the subject of geometry and established the foundation of probability theory. Pascal invented a mechanical calculator, and established the principles of vacuums and the pressure of air. Isaac Newton was an undisputed genius in optics, mechanics, and mathematics. He is most famous for discovering gravity. He wrote in his book, *Principia*, "The most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being."

Oh, we could also mention Faraday, Boyle, Pasteur, and Mendel. We can even include Albert Einstein as a believer in a Supreme Being. It was the harmony of what exists that led Einstein to study science. He remarked to a young physicist, "I want to know how God created this world, I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know His thoughts, the rest are details." Though Einstein, a Jew who rejected a personal God, and he did that, he was not an atheist. He complained, "In view of such harmony in the cosmos which I, with my limited human mind, am able to recognize, there are yet people who say there is no God. But what really, he says, makes me angry is that they quote me, that is Einstein, for the support of such views."

Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, did not deny the existence of God. He said it was illogical to believe the universe created itself. "The impossibility of conceiving that this grand and wondrous universe, with our conscious selves, arose through chance, seems to me (he says) the chief argument for the existence of God...I am aware that if we admit a first cause, the mind still craves to know whence it came, and how it arose."

Darwin saw intelligence and design in the incredible complexity of the eye. He admitted in *The Origin of Species*, "To suppose the eye, with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical

and chromatic aberration, could have formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree." When I read *The Origin of Species* years ago, I was struck with Darwin's many statements questioning what he was claiming. He spoke often about all the things that he was guessing and did not know for sure. To this day, the theory of evolution remains a theory and has never been proved concretely. No one has ever seen one kind of animal become another kind of animal, and the fossil record doesn't reveal this kind of transition. Even Darwin admits at the end of *The Origin of Species* that there is a Creator responsible for the origin of life.

Science can sometimes tell us what happened, but it cannot always tell us who, why, or how. It can theorize and guess, based on what it knows; but science cannot test and verify the creation or beginning. It cannot tell you the origin of life. It cannot tell you how one-celled animals became multi-cellular, how cold-blooded animals became warm-blooded, or how spineless creature developed a vertebrae, or how fish could breathe underwater, and how birds developed the ability to fly.

Science cannot tell you how you became a conscious, moral being. My friend, faith in God makes sense in this world. It's far more believable to accept God as my Creator than it is to accept my conscious, moral life arose accidentally out of non-living matter. People in every culture in every place in every age have believed that there is a higher Being who created them and gave them life. He made you, and one day you will give an account to Him for your life.

Let's pray. Father we are thankful that You created this world so beautiful and that You created us, as marvelous and wonderful beings. Help us to have great faith in You and to love You always. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

If there is no God, you're simply a product of chance and accident. You don't know where you came from, you don't know why you're here, and you don't know if there's any life after death. If there is no God, there's no one who can tell you why you are alive, why you are conscious, and why you and I can communicate to each other. When your conscience says you have sinned, you have no answer to your guilt. If there is no God, you have no one to forgive you. If there is no God. When your loved ones die, you have no confidence of ever seeing them again. When you face a crisis, you have no God to pray to. You have no one to thank for your blessings. If there is no God, you're alone without a purpose, a hope, or a future.

But there is a God! He created you and sustains you with air, water, food, and many blessings. He sent His Son Jesus to teach the truth and bear the cross for you, so that you could be forgiven and have a good conscience. God loves you and wants to bless you now and in the life to come. He is real, and you can believe in Him!

To be right with God, believe and confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Change your heart and life in repentance, truly making Him "Lord." Be baptized into Christ to be united with Him in His death, burial, and resurrection. And when you're baptized, God washes away your sins in

the blood of Jesus, gives you newness of life, makes you His child, and adds you to His church. Why not obey the Lord today?

We hope today's study about the existence of God has stirred you to consider your soul. If you live in the United States and want a free printed copy or a CD of this message, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to searchtv@searchtv.org. Or, you can call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. You can also download these lessons or a newsletter online at www.searchtv.org. There's also a schedule of our programs and a map with the location of churches in your area. You can watch SEARCH anytime on YouTube! Please subscribe to our channel, "SearchTVMinistry." All one word. We also offer free Bible Correspondence courses. Now don't worry, we're not here to get your money. We're here to help you to be right with God and to go to heaven.

And there's no better day than today to get your life back on track by going to church. There's probably a church of Christ in your area. Why not worship with them today? And if you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll be happy to help you find one. We'll be back next week, Lord willing. So we ask you to keep searching God's Word with us, tell a friend about this program, let em know that you're watching and encourage them to watch too. And as always we say to you, God bless you, we want Him to bless you because He loves you. And you know what? We love you too. We love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.