

# I Know ... God Exists!

## #2 in a series

**Text:** Romans 1:16-25

### **Introduction:**

1. Believe it or not, many people desire our world to be like a "god" and without the God ... thus able to move forward and be free from what they feel are the shackles and shortcomings of "traditional" religion. For example, we find that humanism is making great inroads in our society as far as denying and working against religion as most people would view it. Humanism itself has been ruled a religion by the United States Supreme Court (Torcaso Case, 1961; Seegar Case, 1964), yet it denies the need or existence of God, thus a no God religion. Notice what is said of "traditional" religion in the *Humanist Manifesto II*:

As in 1933, humanists still believe that traditional theism, especially faith in the prayer-hearing God, assumed to love and care for persons, to hear and understand their prayers, and to be able to do something about them, is an unproved and outmoded faith . . . Reasonable minds look to other means for survival. (13)

No deity will save us; we must save ourselves. (16)

As nontheists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity. (16)

Obviously such people feel that there is no place in man's needs nor should be in his desires for a God in heaven. In the same Manifesto the statement is made that, "The next century can be and should be the humanistic century" (14).

2. We need to ask, "Is their desire coming true? Is the 21<sup>st</sup> century destined to be the 'humanistic century'?" ***WE BETTER OPEN OUR EYES!***
  - ◆ Have you noticed the continual degradation of morals in the media? Adultery, cursing ... every kind of immoral act is now glorified in the name of human pleasure.
  - ◆ The Bible (which has withstood attacks throughout the centuries and is able to withstand them for centuries to come) is under renewed attacks. Biblical events are ridiculed as being "myths." Even in "traditional religions" there are divisions as to whether the Bible is inspired and they are even voting to decide! Various so called translations are written, not with the desire to set forth plainly the will of God, but to remold the Bible to fit man's needs.
  - ◆ Biblical beliefs, long held as dear have been rejected, not because they have been disproved, but because they do not meet the needs and wants of man. For instance, recent polls among "traditional religions" show that over half of those religious leaders questioned do not believe in heaven or hell. Many do not believe in God or the inspiration of the Bible. Of course there

are many more such examples among "us."

3. It seems that such "ungodly religion" is making much headway – maybe more than we would like to admit. Many ask, "Why? Why is such making the advances that it is in our society?" I think there are two basic reasons.

1. **First of all, we have failed to realize how and by whom this "religion without God" is promoted.** If we notice the signers of the Humanist Manifesto, both I and II, we see some enlightening things. Notice the list below of those who signed and the position they filled at the time they signed the Manifesto denying and deriding the existence or need of God.

**John Dewey.** He was a professor at Columbia University from 1904 until 1929 when he retired. Most authorities believe him to be the single most influential individual on the public education system in the 20th century. Thousands are guided by his ideals and teachings in public education, yet have not even heard his name.

**Alan F. Guttmacher.** President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

**Corliss Lamont.** Chairman, National Emergency Civil Liberties Commission.

**Betty Friedan.** Founder, N.O.W.

In addition to these there were numerous authors, including such men as Isaac Asimov and Francis Crick. Well over half of the 200 asked to sign were professors at well known universities. The point is, *we should not be surprised at the "anti God" influences surrounding us. Many of those in "power" or positions of influence and public trust hold to such ideals and they use their influence to bring about the "humanist century."* Many times the very people we select to lead us in studies, government and such will use their position to propagate this "no God" philosophy.

2. **We have failed to prepare ourselves to defend our belief in God.**

Some look to Psalm 14:1 and find that "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" and thus walk away from such ones thinking they have no responsibility.

**Question...** Does 1 Peter 3:15 have any application to one who does not believe in God who asks us about such? Note - we are saved by hope (Romans 8:24)... but what is the object of our hope to be?

- ◆ Psalm 31:24 – Hope in the Lord
- ◆ Psalm 33:22 – Hope in thee
- ◆ Psalm 39:7 – My hope is in thee
- ◆ Psalm 42:5 – Hope thou in God
- ◆ Acts 24:14-15 – Paul here makes his defense of his "hope"

toward God”

- ◆ Romans 5:2 – we rejoice in “the hope of the glory of God”
- ◆ Romans 15:13 – the “God of hope” fills us with joy and peace so we can “rejoice in hope”
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 15:19 – “If in this life only we have hope of Christ we are of all men most miserable.”

It was likely with such hope that Paul obviously felt that the “fools” in Ephesus needed to be taught that God is! (Ephesians 2:11-13). Without the ability give a reason for our belief in God it is impossible to fulfill the great commission! (Matthew 28:18-20)

## **How Can We KNOW God Exists? How do we answer the question “Why do you believe in God?”**

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. I Believe In God Because Of The Word He Has Given** (Another lesson will deal with the undeniable inspiration of the Bible).

Hebrews 1:1-2

John 20:30-31

But some accuse us of “circular reasoning” ... thus we can also say

#### **II. I Believe In God Because of Nature**

Psalm 19:1-6

Romans 1:19-20 (It is so plain, that “they are without excuse”)

[Must then go to the Word to know *about God*]

#### **III. I Believe In God Because of Logical Reasoning**

##### 1. Hebrews 3:4 – **Cause and effect** (cosmological argument)

(1) There are only a few options as to where the universe came from...

- ◆ Illusion (if someone insists on this, might be at a deadend!)
- ◆ Spontaneously arose from nothing (science says spontaneous generation of living or non living is impossible)
- ◆ Always existed (science says matter is not eternal)
- ◆ Created from nothing by a creator (who must be spirit)

(2) An “easy” question... which came first, the chicken or the egg? The grown human or the baby?

##### 2. Psalm 139:14; Psalm 19:1-6 – **Design and designer** (teleological argument)

(1) Purposeful design is evidence of an intelligent designer

(2) Illustrations...

- ◆ Shaking plastic and metal in a can ... how long before a watch is formed!?

- ◆ How long would a monkey type randomly before the works of Shakespear came forth?!
- ◆ Note the marvels of the human body ... eye, cardiovascular system, reproductive system...
- ◆ Note the marvels of the animal kingdom ... bombardier beetle
- ◆ Note the marvels and intricacies of the universe ...

#### **IV. I Believe In God Because of the Alternative ... The "Fruit" of a World Without God**

1. **A world filled with immorality.** In the book of Romans we read of those people who "did not like to retain God in their knowledge" (1:28). Notice what is said of their "lifestyle" in the verses that follow. They were "filled" with such things as fornication, wickedness, covetousness, murder, spiteful, disobedient to parents, unmerciful .... How tragic! But of course they could say, "I did it my way." Perhaps the saddest epithet given these people is found in verse 32 where we are told that they "not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." They desired that others join them in their way of life – a life without God.
2. **A world without answers.** Have you ever wondered where everything came from? Without God there is no answer to that question. Every "answer" that man derives at by himself contradicts his own knowledge. But God gives the answer (Genesis 1:1-31; Exodus 20:11). Have you ever faced a choice and didn't know which was right – men were giving different answers to the same question. But God can give the answer (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3). You see man's answers change depending on what he wants. God's answers stay the same because He looks to what man needs.
3. **A world without hope.** Have you noticed the rising suicide rate – those who say life is not worth living? Have you noticed the rise in the number of homeless – those who simply decide life is not worth the effort? Have you seen the increase in the number of those overcome with depression – who see no way to cope with the pressures of life? A world without God is a world filled with hopelessness and despair. Man cannot find in himself the answer to "Why should I keep on?" Life without God has no purpose that gives hope. God has the answer (Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Philippians 3:14).
4. **A world of loneliness.** How many of those who want a life without God have someone they can truly trust. Someone they can say loves them above all else? Paul painted the sad picture of those who lived for self and left God out when he said "all seek their own" (Philippians 2:21). Without God there is no reason for anyone to seek anything other than their own reward or

self gratification. God has a better answer (John 13:35; Galatians 6:1-2; Hebrew 3:12-13).

5. A world without God? A world of loneliness, immorality, puzzles with no answer, hopelessness.... How terrible that so many think that is the way things should be. It is obvious that in the world in which we live there are many who have fallen prey to this horrible way.

Something though, that is stranger is that so many go headlong into a world without God because they look at the world about them and think, "If there is really a God, how can the world be like this?" Because they see a world filled with all that is ungodly they reject God. But what they fail to see is that the world is "like this" because so many still refuse to "retain God in their knowledge." The distressing things we see in the world are not the result of an unloving God, but the result of a people who do not love God. Life with God is never lonely, it is moral, it has the answers we need and long for and is filled with hope. I pray all mankind will see the need to live there and go to God that they may.

### **Conclusion:**

1. Why do I believe in God?
  - ◆ Because of His Word
  - ◆ Because of nature
  - ◆ Because of rational thinking and logic
  - ◆ Because of the unacceptable alternative
2. It is imperative that we understand...  
The NECESSITY of KNOWING (BELIEVING) GOD IS  
The NECESSITY OF BEING PREPARED TO HELP OTHERS KNOW