

## We Can Believe

### Part 2

**Text** – Genesis 1 : 1

**Intro.** – Interestingly enough, the Bible never tries to prove the existence of God. **It simply assumes it.** With that being said, can we absolutely prove the existence of God? We cannot. **God is a unique being Who exists outside of our understanding and reason; therefore, He is not subject to our testing.** Consider **Isaiah 55:8-9** – “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Understanding that, we can build a strong and compelling case for the existence of God.

As mentioned last week, we want to look at **Christian apologetics.** As you may remember, the word “**apologetics**” comes from the Greek word, “**apologia**” and denotes a courtroom scene and suggests presenting one’s defense in the face of opposition – providing the reasoning for one’s legal position.

**Apologetics is a giving of reasons for what we believe and practice as Christian believers.** We also noted the Biblical mandate for apologetics found in **I Peter 3:14-15** – “And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, 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;”

We started looking at the **reasons** why we can believe with confidence that God exists, and we considered the question, “**Why does it matter?**” Today let’s consider the following two reasons for God’s existence:

#### **I. What the Bible Teaches Us About God –**

- As I mentioned, the Bible never attempts to prove the existence of God; it simply assumes it.
  - But on what basis? What does the Bible teach us about God?
- 1. God is a Personal Being** –
  - Throughout Scripture you see God represented as a person.
  - He assumes the attributes of a person in that He...
    - **Speaks** - Genesis 2:16 – “The Lord God **commanded** the man, saying,…”
    - **Listens** - I Peter 3:12a – “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his **ears** are open to their prayer.” (ESV)
    - **Reasons** – Gen. 2:18 – “Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.’”
    - **Displays Emotion** – Ps. 7:11 – “God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels **indignation** every day.” (ESV)

- **Interacts** – Is. 1:18a – “Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord,”

## 2. God is a Creative Being –

- The Bible begins with these words: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen. 1:1)
- God is not only a creative being, but He is also powerful and can bring about what He imagines through His created order.
- Think about the intricacies of creation: our planet is at just the right position in the solar system – any closer to the sun, we would burn up; any further away, we would freeze to death.
- Look at the brilliance of the oceans, the tides, the skies, the created order and the variety of plant and animal species that inhabit this rock we call earth.
- Listen to agnostic astronomer, **Robert Jastrow**: “For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance, he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”
- There is a reason why David wrote what he did in **Psalm 19:1** – “The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.”

## 3. God is a Loving Being –

- To understand this, you need only consider **John 3:16** – “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”
- God has powerfully demonstrated His love for us through sending His only begotten Son, Jesus, to this earth to die for our sins.
- God, in His love had to have a way to pour out wrath on sin and yet allow sinful man to be in fellowship with Him.
  - His answer was found in Jesus.
  - Jesus, as the perfect Lamb of God, lived a sinless life and died on Calvary for our sins.
  - He took our sins onto Himself so that we might have redemption through His sacrifice.

## II. What Reason Teaches Us About God –

- At this point, someone may argue, “OK, so what if your Bible teaches the existence of God. Can you prove it without your Bible?”
- Let’s consider the following:
  1. **The Cosmological Argument –**

- “A cosmological argument draws upon the nature of the universe (Greek – “cosmos”) to point toward the existence of a powerful transcendent Creator.
- In a nutshell, is one compelling Cosmological Argument:
  - A. Everything that begins to exist has an external cause –**
    - We know, from common sense, nothing that comes into existence can be the cause of its own existence.
    - Look at your Bible, cell phone, or watch.
      - You would never look at your leather-bound Bible and assume it created itself; nor would you think that about your phone or watch.
      - We know there are artisans, skilled assembly workers, and plants where these things are assembled and brought together into a whole.

**B. The universe began to exist –**

- For this argument, we gather evidence from two sources: **logic and science**.
- As one writer states: “Thinkers of all worldviews and disciplines understood that a contingent entity such as the universe could not be self-existent or eternal and thus needed to have a beginning.”
- Science has, at least for now, landed on their idea of the universe’s beginning.
  - They call it the **Big Bang theory**. This theory holds that the universe came into existence with no prior physical state or cause; that is, our space-time universe began to exist.
- Of course, we as believers know that the universe began when God spoke it into existence.

**C. Therefore, the universe has an external cause –**

- Again, a quote from **Robert Jastrow** – “In the scientist’s version of Genesis, as in the Bible, the world begins with the dazzling splendor of the moment of creation.... Many details of the scientific account differ from those in the Bible... but the essential feature is the same in both stories: There was a Beginning, and all things in the Universe can be traced back to it.”
- If you’re following this argument, **the Cause of the universe’s beginning has to be someone or something that has to be timeless, spaceless, and incredibly powerful**.
  - Sounds a lot like God, doesn’t it?

## 2. The Design Argument –

- A design argument is also referred to as a **teleological** (Greek: “telos” = function, end, or design) or **“fine-tuning”** argument.
  - These arguments point to an apparent design seen in the universe that leads us to an intelligent God Who has created it.
- One design argument is stated thusly:
  - A. The apparent fine-tuning of the universe is due to necessity, chance, or intelligent design.**
    - Atheist astronomer **Fred Hoyle** – “A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super intellect has monkeyed with the physics, as well as the chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature.”
    - The universe is precisely calibrated to allow for the possibility of life.
    - There are **3 layers of fine-tuning** in the universe:
      - (1) Macroscopic Fine-Tuning** - Scientist, **Hugh Ross**, posits that there are more than two dozen different laws and constants that are precisely arranged in order for life to exist in the universe.
      - (2) Terrestrial Fine-Tuning** – This is important in that there are also laws and constants that are necessary for life to be possible on a particular planet within a particular galaxy somewhere in the universe.
        - **For a planet to be hospitable** it must possess a molten core, be protected by an atmospheric shield, travel in an elliptical orbit an appropriate distance from a star of suitable strength and size, with suitable moons orbiting the planet, within a solar system with more distant planets and/or asteroid belts to absorb cosmic asteroid/meteorite events, in a suitable portion of an appropriate galaxy.
      - (3) Microscopic Fine-Tuning for Life on Earth** –
        - Consider the water molecule. “The chemical composition of water (H<sub>2</sub>O) facilitates the existence of life even in colder regions of the planet. Water is the only molecule that is denser (heavier) as a liquid than as a solid. As such, water freezes from the top down rather than from the bottom up; and rivers and lakes can continue to have flowing liquid water even while the surface is frozen.”

- The beauty, complexity, and exactness of what God has created is so powerful that even scientists who don't believe in God have to admit the truth of intelligent design in the universe.
- Listen to several of them:
  - “An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going.”
  - “The collection of felicitous ‘coincidences’ in physics and cosmology implies that the Great Designer had better set the knobs carefully, or the universe would be a very inhospitable place... Scientists have long been aware that the universe seems strangely suited to life, but they chose mostly to ignore it. It was an embarrassment – it looked too much like the work of a Cosmic Designer.”

**B. The Apparent Fine-Tuning of the Universe is not Due to Necessity or Chance –**

- For a long time, **random chance** was often the go-to explanation for perceived design or fine-tuning in the universe.
- However, that doesn't add up. No one in their right mind is going to think that you could put the individual pieces of a computer on a table, blow it up with a stick of dynamite, and believe the pieces of that computer are going to come together in a functioning machine!

**C. Therefore, the Apparent Fine-Tuning of the Universe is Due to Intelligent Design –**

- The late clergyman, **William Paley**, used the idea of coming across a watch along the beach of some island. Even if you were the only human on the island, and even if you didn't know of any previous human ever visiting the island, you would recognize the watch as a product of human intelligence because blind natural forces do not create gears and springs intricately placed to form a functioning mechanism.

- Let's conclude our discussion with this question: **What would an intelligent fine-tuner of the universe have to be like?**
  - The logical answer to that question would have to be a **God** Who is:  
**Transcendent** – above and beyond the universe that exists.  
**Powerful** – able to bring new things into existence.  
**Creative** – possessing the imagination to create vast domains of space filled with innumerable physical objects.  
**Wise** – knowing how best to create a world capable of sustaining intelligent life.
  - Who we have just described is the God of the Bible!

**INVITATION** – "The Existence of God"

One day a 6-year girl was sitting in her classroom. The teacher was going to explain **evolution** to the children.

The teacher asked a little boy: **Tommy do you see the tree outside?**

Tommy: Yes.

Teacher: **Tommy, do you see the grass outside?**

Tommy: Yes

Teacher: **Go outside and look up and see if you can see the sky.**

Tommy: OK. (He returned a few minutes later) Yes, I saw the sky.

Teacher: **Did you see God?**

Tommy: No.

Teacher: **That's my point. We can't see God because he isn't there.**

The little girl spoke up and wanted to ask the boy some questions. The teacher agreed and she asked the boy:

Tommy, do you see the tree outside?

Tommy: Yes.

Little girl: Tommy, do you see the grass outside?

Tommy: Yesssss. (Getting tired of the questions by this time)

Little girl: Did you see the sky?

Tommy: Yessssss.

Little girl: Tommy, do you see the teacher?

Tommy: Yes.

Little girl: Do you see her brain?

Tommy: No.

**Little girl: Does that mean she doesn't have one?**

**Beloved, we can believe there is a God, and we can trust Him as our Lord, Savior, and faithful God.**

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