

Understanding and Defending the Reasons of our Faith in a World Gone Mad

Session #7

1. The Transcendent reality:

- a. **Deuteronomy 4:39**, “Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other.”
- b. **Isaiah 37:16**, “O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.”
- c. **Daniel 4:34-35**, “For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’”

2. The Transcendent necessity:

- a. Fools deny the existence of God (Psalm 14:1):
 - i. All the various atheistic philosophies (e.g. Darwinian naturalism, various forms of materialism, Marxism, etc.) have said in their hearts, “there is no God”.
 - ii. Those holding these views are “the fool”, and their philosophies are foolish.
- b. The way of the fool leads to darkness and destruction:
 - i. Psalm 1:6, “For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.”
 - ii. Proverbs 4:19, “The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know over what they stumble.”
 - iii. Proverbs 12:26, “The righteous is a guide to his neighbor, But the way of the wicked leads them astray.”
 - iv. Proverbs 13:19 “The companion of fools will suffer harm”.

[Though the destruction resulting from godless philosophies may take different forms at different times, destruction and destructive outcomes *are* their end. Atheists do not necessarily agree to or practice atrocities like forced sterilization, ethnic cleansing, gulags, extermination camps, abortion, euthanasia, etc. and may even decry these things; but these, or other similarly destructive practices, are inevitable products of atheistic philosophies and cannot be restrained by them. In as much as atheists refuse to see the connections, they prove Proverbs 4:19 to be true: “They do not know over what they stumble”.]

3. The Transcendent answer.

- a. Life is incoherent and impossible without God.
 - i. Incoherence: “The fool says in his heart there is no God” “The way of the wicked leads them astray.” “Fools hate knowledge” (Prov. 1:22).
 - ii. Impossibility: Matthew 5:45; Isaiah 33:5-6.
- b. The difficult task of helping the fool to see his folly.
 - i. Do not answer him according to his folly (Prov. 26:4).
 - ii. Answer him according to his folly (Prov. 26:5).

[Life does not make sense or work without borrowing from the transcendent reality of God (more specifically from Christianity). While atheists will ardently and often very intelligently deny that they are using Christian realities for the structure of their thoughts and life, answering them according to their folly includes making an effort to help them see the incoherence and impossibility of life apart from God.]

4. The Transcendent rebuttal (what about all of the Christian atrocities?):

- a. In pointing out the inevitable atrocities that flow out of Godless philosophy, there will often follow the charge of wicked acts carried out in “the name of Christ”.
 - i. The Crusades (Late 11th to late 13th)
 - ii. The Spanish Inquisition (1478-1834. The one thing agreed upon by all was that it was the “secular” authorities that did the *inquisitioning*, that is, the burning at the stake.
 - iii. The Salem witch trials (1692-1693. 19 people were hung.)
 - iv. Galileo and the persecution of science (17th century)
 - v. Etc.

- b. We are all sinners alike and inconsistency and hypocrisy plague all alike, but the discussion is not advanced by pointing to inconsistent and hypocritical acts but assessing whether the acts are, in fact, inconsistent and hypocritical.
 - i. Is offering penitential reward to children in exchange for military service consistent with Christianity? Was Stephen (Étienne) of Cloyes a hypocrite?
 - ii. Is eugenics consistent with Darwinian naturalism? Was Oliver Wendall Holmes a hypocrite?
 - iii. Is turning over a heretic to a secular authority for execution consistent with Christianity? Was Pope Sixtus IV acting hypocritically when he issued a Bull ceding power to try heresies to King Ferdinand?
 - iv. Is totalitarianism consistent with Marxism? Were Stalin and Mao hypocrites?
 - v. Is hanging someone convicted of witchcraft on spurious charges and without due process consistent with Christianity? Was Increase Mather acting hypocritically when he opposed these acts in writing?
 - vi. Is abortion consistent with Egalitarianism or Feminism? Was Margret Sanger a hypocrite?
 - vii. Is protesting homosexuality at military funerals consistent with Christianity? Is Westboro Baptist Church acting hypocritically when they protest in this way?
 - viii. Is transgenderism consistent with Freudianism? Is Bruce (Caitlyn) Jenner a hypocrite?
 - ix. Etc.