

A Closing Plea to the Atheist

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Atheism Is An Implausible and Impossible Speculation

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God..." (Psa 14:1)

Atheism Is Unnatural

There is little doubt that all men are born with an awareness of a power that is greater than, and outside of themselves. The most primitive peoples worship someone or something. Their "theology" may be suspect and their methods of worship offensive to civilized society, but intuitively they are aware there is a God. Too often the god of their uninformed imaginations, although greater in power than they, is on no higher a moral plane.

Man Creates God in His (Man's) Own Image

The gods of ancient Greek and Roman mythology were a peevish, cantankerous lot. They were, in general, guilty of all the sins that the Mosaic law and the succeeding Christian doctrine forbid. Mankind has so often reversed the divine creative order of things thus: "...and *man* created *God* in his own image." In the divine order God intended (and still intends) to bring man to perfection because God Himself is perfect. In the idol-worshiper's scheme of worship man keeps the god he has created down on man's level of imperfection because the creator, man, himself is woefully imperfect.

God has placed in each person a sense of a **God** somewhere above and beyond the person. This God-sense is primitive and needs to be refined by teaching and by the personal example of godliness shown by the teacher. Romans 10:14 asks rhetorically, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and **how shall they hear without a preacher?**" The innate God-sense is akin to one's conscience. A fully enlightened conscience is not native to the individual. The rudiments of a conscience are born in a person, but this rudimentary conscience has to be developed and taught priorities.

The sense of a God, if left untutored, can metamorphose into many concepts vastly different from the Creator. Some concepts are downright blasphemous, but God does not hold the worshipers accountable if they are sincere in their worship – and some are not. The others are guilty of creating a god who is nothing like the Creator. in ignorance of the one, true, righteous God. Worship is their intent even if their method of worship borders on the sacrilegious.

Result of a Lack of Teaching

They need someone to open their eyes to the one true God. That is why God has sent preachers and witnesses of the Gospel throughout the world. Since the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) they have had the responsibility of taking the innate concept all peoples have of a god into the enlightened realm of **the God**. As we have noted, humans, left to develop their own crude system of worship, spawn gross concepts of God. Primitive peoples so often envision a plurality of gods, one for every conceivable need, geographical area or carnal appetite. The supposedly civilized parts of the world's population fare little better in their ideas of God. Some countries such as India still worship a multiplicity of Gods. In the United States, most religious scholars address themselves to only one God. Lay persons, however, quite often still have the perception of three separate Gods and it confuses their worship.

It is not such a great a step from these self-made images of God to the belief that there is, after all, no God. The human mind can tolerate only so long a god who is so woefully imperfect. Who needs such a god? The two errors, 1) gross ideas of what God is like and 2) the ridiculous notion that there is no God, both spring from a beginning incomplete and untutored concept of God.

But, to repeat: Atheism is not an innate persuasion. It is induced by the above-mentioned erroneous teachings and, possibly, by the desire to rid the mind of moral restraint and the thought of eternal punishment for the lack thereof.

God Is the Prime Mover behind All Creation

Gen. 1:1

Genesis 1:1 states without equivocation, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." You and I will have no great controversy if you will only admit that it was God in the beginning and that He brought a universe into being. We may disagree on methods and length of time, but if you say, "In the beginning GOD," I'll be content.

Unbelief Does Not Lessen God's Glory

Of course, as the all-sufficient God He is, the failure of humankind to admit that God exists in no way dims the brightness of His glory. God reigns now in the hearts of His people, but some day He will reign throughout the universe in might and glory. There will be no creature that does not acknowledge God as Lord.

Deadly Consequences of Atheism

Atheism does no damage to the great God of creation, but it does do serious harm to those who harbor such rebellious thoughts. As they deliberately exclude God from their consciousness, so shall He one day utterly deprive them of any sense of the divine Presence. All men have that unrecognized awareness. It is a part of man's makeup. Even the atheists who shrilly deny the existence of God, have the unwitting innate sense of the Presence they so vehemently disallow. One day, though, they will see their wish fulfilled. They will not be able even remotely to sense the presence of God. Their wish will be fulfilled, but it will be a terrible, tragic end. God will leave them to their own pitiful devices. It will be an eternity of hell and no longed-for death can deliver them from an excruciating sense of physical suffering. Nor can a futilely longed-for insanity dull their keen mental torture as they crash on the staggering reality – I HAVE REACHED THE END AND THERE IS FOR ME NO GOD AND NO HOPE.

What a tragic waste of Grace!

How Can There Be No God?

No Creator, No Universe

Having a universe without a Creator is the same as possessing the most complex and efficient computer in the world without there being an inventor or a manufacturer who produces the original invention. No, that is not true: A computer pales into complete insignificance before a universe like the ridiculously feeble light of a candle daring to stand up against the noonday sun. A universe contains innumerable wondrously intricate objects and systems and holds all the inventions of man, including the amazing computer. These things were either made directly by God or by men using the items and laws that are a part of a universe created by God. The Creator bestowed the inventive and scientific genius, of which man boasts, on him. It is evident to all but those whose minds are warped by a smattering of knowledge that someone greater than we created all these things. So how do we have the audacity to say there is no God?

Where Did It All Come From?

In the universe we know, everything we see, including those things that can't be seen without a microscope, came from some preceding item. Someone or something made everything we see. A simple piece of cloth came from yarn or threads that once clothed an animal or were synthesized by man. The animal threads were made by the animal's body doing what it was originally programmed to do by God. Manmade fibers were created respectively from various chemical elements and compounds put together and treated variously under differing circumstances. Where did the chemicals and the equipment to test and make products from them originate? If you trace them back as far as you possibly can, you will find that they came from chemical elements. All matter is composed of chemical elements, which are composed of atoms, which, in turn, are made up of incredibly tiny things called quarks. I'll stop this line of discussion here because frankly I am not equipped to go further.

A scientific study of some of the commonplace objects around us is very revealing. One of the lowliest of created things would be a rock. Nothing fancy there; just something that lies around unnoticed by man until he needs it to build with or hurl in destructive anger. But this unassuming rock is not exactly what it seems to be. It appears to be solid, but that is an illusion. Large or small, it is made up of trillions of atoms so small that the unaided eye cannot see them. In turn, the atoms are components of molecules that are still so small that they cannot be seen without the aid of a powerful microscope. You have already been introduced to the runt of the family, the quark. All atoms consist of a nucleus of even smaller protons and neutrons that are orbited by an electron. All of this is a part of the rock that seems to be so solid! It is definitely not the simple structure that it appears to be.

The Intricate Structure of Living Creatures

We have discussed the lowly rock to bring home a point. The point is this: If the rock is such a marvel of creation, consider how vastly more complex and wonderful a living plant would be. From there we can go a step higher and imagine the intricate construction of living sentient creatures. They are replete with the marvels of God's creative genius. For example, all higher forms of life have within them various specialized systems contributing to the efficient working of the whole. Physiologists and biologists have identified nine systems operating within the body of the higher forms of life. We will consider three of them here:

1. The nervous system brings information about the outside world as well as the inner workings of the body to the brain through nerves. This makes possible the senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. Without them an animal could not be a cognitive or aware part of its environment.
2. The reproductive system brings into existence other beings like itself in order to perpetuate the species. Organisms can create likenesses of

themselves because they possess genes, the basic units that transmit a species' characteristics to the next generation. Genes are arranged on strands of chromosomes. Each chromosome of each species has a definite number and sequence of genes that govern the structure and function of the entire organism.¹

3. The digestive system ingests food and uses it as fuel to power the body's many activities. Digestion is a process by which the body changes food into soluble products that the blood can carry to the various parts of the body

This cursory look at some of the body's innumerable wonders does not get into seemingly impossible phenomena at work within the brain alone. Nor does it delve into the miraculous chain of events involved in reproduction and the corollary complex "laws"² of genetics. Nor does it poke an inquisitive nose into the tortuous ways by which food is broken down in the body and then the respective parts parceled out to the areas of the body where nature intended for them to go. These amazing miracles are only components of the all-

¹From Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia © 1999 The Learning Company, Inc.

² The laws or regulating forces of creation were necessarily infused into the many areas of creation to make those areas self-governing. God put together the whole mechanism known as creation and made it capable of regulating and reproducing its various parts as needed. Thus, God does not involve Himself, **except when He wishes**, in every act within the entire operation: He deliberately made it to run on its own. I can say that God made me, but He did not make me as He made Adam, in direct fashion. He put in nature the laws of reproduction and placed in man the instinct to reproduce, and then God sat back and oversaw the operation. Where He saw the need of direct intervention, He acted accordingly.

inclusive, impossible miracle of “**being**” and cognizance. Did they happen by mere chance? Be reasonable.

How can we say, then, there is no God?

And there is more. We have not yet begun to learn, so let’s dig a little deeper and unearth more data we can use to poke holes in the fallacy that there is no God.

Man, the Pinnacle of God’s Creation

Let’s look at man, the pinnacle of God’s creative work. Or perhaps, in order not to offend those whose vision is so blurred they cannot see a God in creation, we should just say that man is “the height of creation,” rather than **God’s** creation. But if it is not God’s handiwork, whose is it? Somebody or some Force, if you will, brought this magnificent thing called Creation into existence.

In a literal sense mankind is composed of some very common chemicals he can find all around him in his earthly habitat. The atoms with which he is structured are much the same as in all creation. They are oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon and various trace elements, making man, from this standpoint, on a par with many other living entities. Just at this level the knowledge and power of God are astounding. His limitless creative power is abundantly evident in everything He has made, whether animate or inanimate.

To repeat: Man is the pinnacle of God’s creative work. Of no other creature did God say, “Let us make [it] in our image, after our likeness.” Man is the crowning achievement of God’s creative work not necessarily because of his complex structure, but because God set His affections uniquely on man and decreed that he should be special. It is true that the Psalmist said that man is inferior to the angels, but that is only temporary.

“What is man, that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: all sheep and

oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea..." (Psa. 8:4-8a)³

When the writer of Hebrews repeats this passage in Hebrews 2:6-8 (RSV), he indicates that man is inferior to the angels just for a while, thus:

"Thou didst make him *a little while* lower than the angels..."

This scripture is just as valid as that in Psalms and gives us a better understanding of the one in Psalms. As the Psalmist suggests, although man is very insignificant when compared with the sweeping expanse of God's total creation, he is nevertheless God's highest creative work. It is notable that all the creative week before man's advent (Gen 1:1-2:3) was apparently a pointing toward the *piece de resistance*, the supreme feat: the making of man. Man was God's last work, after which came the Sabbath on which God ceased from His labors of bringing a universe into being. And what a stupendous work it has been!

That God created man in His own image and after His likeness makes it clear that God considered man to be His greatest accomplishment. After man was made God told him to

"...replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the face of the earth." (Gen. 1:28)

³ Some translations render this "a little lower than God." The New King James Version has this to say: "8:5 Hebrew *Elohim, God*; Septuagint, Syriac, Targum, and Jewish tradition [all] translate [Elohim] as *angels*." Assuming that scripture (Heb. 2:6-8) translates scripture (Psa. 6:4-6), we retain the "angel" translation.

This coincides with the passage in Psalms 8:4-8 that we just considered. It is incontrovertible that the making of man is the greatest act of all of God's creative works. That is the point I am trying so strenuously to make: There had to be a God behind it all, behind man and the whole of creation. Happenstance was not the creator. It is a complete absurdity to think that creation just chanced to be. It doesn't even call for a rebuttal. Nor did man make it – he would have had to make himself in the process. Was an impersonal Force the causative agent? What "Force" without "feelings" could have made the beauties and wonders of Nature? How could an unfeeling Force have created man with his sensibilities and aesthetic taste? That would be creating something on a level above the creative Force. Man has made machines that are capable of feats that excel man's ability, but at the top level of creativeness there has to be a super Being who is superior in every way to His created works. There has to be an uncreated Primal Cause transcending all created things. Without a doubt there was in the beginning a "God Person."

You are saying, "What are you doing? You are making statements without proof!" You are right. I am making assertions from my gut – instinctive postulations that I know are right because my inner self (not to mention my God, who some people say doesn't exist) tells me they are fact. You don't have to accept my unsubstantiated statements, but I am certain that someone will. There will be a response, in some who read this, to what is actually proven by the fact of creation itself. Your existence and mine are indisputable evidence there is a God – not just "somewhere," but all around us and in us who believe in Him. Consider these points:

- Man did not will himself into existence nor did he just happen to appear on the scene of creation.
- Birds and animals did not spring unaided into being.
- Who spangled the night sky with stars, which are actually huge orbs speeding through the void of space in orbits that are so vast they would make the earth's orbit around the sun appear to be the

minuscule orbiting of a carnival Ferris wheel
around its own axis?

Why can't we just acquiesce to there being a God and know the satisfaction that at last we are thinking reasonably? He is out there. Not only is He "out there"; He is very close to all of us. He is knocking at the door of your heart, waiting for you to invite Him to come in. Face reality and acknowledge there is a God and then ask Him to make His abode in your heart. The peace and joy He will bring you will be another bit of "evidence" that there is really a God – and that now He is with you and in you forever.

These are the inducements I am presenting to you: Peace, joy and eternal life with a personal God or confusion, unhappiness and everlasting torment without Him. Making the right decision is actually a no-brainer; still the choice has to be yours. Do you realize what time it is? It is almost the midnight hour, the "witching hour" when your luxurious coach will turn into a rocket with you in tow, plunging straight to the tortures of hell.

This doesn't have to be.

God Is the Prime Mover Behind All Creation

If we were to assume that atheism is true and that there is no God, we would then have to do away with the created worlds all around us and extending infinitely into space. Contrary to the logically defective arguments of the hard core evolutionists, there had to be a beginning for all that we see and are, and there had to be a "Beginner." There is a cliché analogy that, despite its overuse, is still powerful in the truth it portrays. When you see a beautiful, precision-made watch, accurate to within a few seconds a year, you never assume that the watch just happened to be. You do not think that by some inexplicable set of converging happenings the various parts of the watch came together, each in its proper place and thus made themselves into a valuable watch. No. From experience you know that things do not happen that way. There is not the slightest doubt in your mind that there was a master watchmaker involved.

Similarly, when you see a universe or an individual planet or a man in his greatly marred but still discernible likeness to God, you cannot help but know that there is a Great Creator thoroughly involved in it all. Or did man's parts come together on their own like the bones did in Ezekiel's vision? (Eze. 37) And if that were possible, where did the bones originate? And who clothed them with flesh?

Someone who must have been a believer has speculated that the odds against man's having just chanced to be must be something like 1,000,000,000,000 to 1. That is a positive slant on the belief in creation, but there actually can be no odds that postulate such a complete impossibility. It is manifestly impossible that the universe came into being by chance; and no odds, no matter how prohibitive, can be set on the probability. Just as there was a watchmaker "creating" the watch, there is a Creator creating man and all his cosmic neighborhood - out of nothing.

Unbelief Does Not Lessen God's Glory or Man's Punishment

Of course, as the all-sufficient God He is, the failure of humankind to admit that God exists in no way dims the brightness of His glory. It does do serious harm to those who harbor such rebellious thoughts. As they deliberately exclude God from their consciousness, so shall He one day utterly deprive them of any sense of the divine Presence. They will then be left to their own pitifully insufficient devices. Death cannot then deliver them from a heightened sense of physical suffering and no longed-for insanity will ever dull their mental torture of NO GOD AND NO HOPE.

Our God Is Real

We who believe know the experiences we have had with God. There is no way we can lightly say that He doesn't exist. So perhaps we have determined that God is real and eternal partly because there is no other means of explaining Him. When you feel the breath of God flowing over your inner being, as if to

say softly, “Receive ye the Holy Ghost,” you can’t say it didn’t happen any more than you can deny the wind blew although you have never seen the wind. But that is precisely what the world criticizes: the subjective nature of the experience we have with Him. Because they have never felt the breath of God, they choose to ignore our assertions to that effect. They sagely tell us that you can’t prove there is a God by scientific means, which demand proofs that flow from the mathematician’s calculations or the test tube of the laboratory. This is true, but still we should not discount the experiential basis of the dedicated believer’s faith.

There are two different spheres of operation in existence as we know it: the natural and the spiritual. We (believers in Christ everywhere) know the power and eternal quality of the spiritual realm. It predates the natural world and will eventually survive it. The Christian philosopher knows that the verities of the spiritual world are more real than a seemingly everlasting Rock of Gibraltar or a towering Mount Everest. Those enduring heaps will someday be flattened and nonexistent while the eternal verities will continue to be, well – eternal.

We believers know these things. To us they are the data or “factual information” (Webster) that satisfies any questions we have about the existence of God. A well-known song says, “You ask me how I know He lives; He lives within my heart.” That, of course, is not proof to an unbeliever, but to the believer in Christ it is all-important. He has no words to defend such a stand except to say, “I feel it in my heart.” That is strictly subjective and spiritual evidence, if we may even call it evidence.

Yet, what did we just posit about the spiritual realm? It alone is forever enduring. When craggy, unmovable mountains have been flattened by the wrath of God and the entire material world annihilated, the world of the spirit will be around, not for billions or trillions of light years, but forever.

That is a long, *l-o-n-g* time.

Perhaps the core of the unbeliever’s difficulty lies in this: In order to get the proof he seeks for a God, he has to first accept God on God’s own terms. When the former unbeliever accepts

God, God will then give him the so-called subjective proof that heretofore he couldn't accept. God will work in the new convert's life and on his being in such a manner that he will have to say, "God is so real to me!" without physically seeing Him or hearing Him.

You who still don't believe will just have to humble your "intelligent" selves and accept this God on the conditions He lays down. Then He will give you all the proof that your enlightened heart requires. But you must do it God's way. Sometimes it isn't wise to be too wise in one's own mind.

We have a God. We have the Scriptures. We have our own daily communion with Him. We have Him. It's enough.

Sorry about you who don't believe.

One Last Word to the Atheist

“Darwinian Theory Darwin's theory of evolution, which holds that all species of plants and animals developed from earlier forms by hereditary transmission of slight variations in successive generations, and that natural selection determines which forms will survive.” (Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia © 1999 The Learning Company, Inc.)

Are you confused by the theory of the evolution of plants and animals as opposed to their creation the way the Bible describes it? Let's take a look at the situation. But be alerted beforehand that I can't bring overpowering arguments to bear on the matter. All I can do is remind you that the Bible is our final authority. Therefore, if science produces theories that do not clash with the Bible, we may well accept them, remembering all the while that they are only *theories*, not proven fact.

First, allow me to further confess my shortcomings relating to this issue: I cannot argue forcefully *against* the theory of evolution as I am not learned in the sciences. Nevertheless I can be an effective proponent for creationism because I have a fair knowledge of Scripture and the Author of Scripture, and that

knowledge teaches me that the Author of Scripture is also the Author/Creator of all things seen and unseen.

Speaking candidly, anyone who has the required degrees behind his autograph (and has assimilated what they portend to give him), can lose me in the dust of his sophisticated polemics. I can't rebut what I don't understand – but no one can ever shake my belief in a Creator of all that exists. There are two reasons for my saying this:

1. Creationism is scriptural and I happen to put my faith in the God who made man rather than in the man He made. Man has been a fumbling, bumbling simpleton almost from the moment he appeared on this planet (or, if you are an evolutionist, from the time he evolved into a large-brained primate – all by chance, of course).
2. Logic, not only biblical logic, but logic of a purely secular kind presents an overpowering case against the chance popping into existence of the many varied species of life on Earth.
3. There is an infinite number of cells, both animate and inanimate in the universe. How did the animate cells become alive? For that matter, where and how did any cell, animate or inanimate, originate? Oh yes, I've heard the usual profound explanations, but, as authoritative sounding as they are, they fail to make sense to this poor ol' simple mind of mine. Moreover, there is no sane mind so limited that it isn't aware that everything we see has a beginning; it did not spring unaided out of a vacuum. And even the concept of a vacuum presumes the absence of matter that has been *created*.

We can't pursue this any further; our space is restricted. I have not made much progress with this topic, but I can cop out by reminding you that this spiel is not meant to answer complex questions; it is designed to make you think and to present you with simple answers to simple queries. Nevertheless, I hope

what I have dangled before your mind will cause you to dig into the issue of creationism vs. evolution and perhaps come up with your own answers gleaned from the Word of God.

It's Now Time to Determine Your Fate

The believer in God and the atheist are alike in this: There is a certain point in the postulation of the origin of all things beyond which they, the believer and the atheist, cannot go. For the atheist the point is this: From where did the primordial or very first matter, regardless of how infinitesimal, come? What placed it there – and where is “there”? Space was not yet formed. And who or what set in motion the unbelievably complicated chain of events resulting in the formation of all matter as we know it?

The believer has no difficulties with these questions. He knows that his God created everything from nothing (and then there is the question: how can there be nothing when God is everywhere?), although exactly how God did it is a debatable topic. But however He did it, it was God who was “in the beginning” orchestrating the entire creative melody. Furthermore, the believer can go a step beyond the existence of the first matter. The believer is certain that all matter was created by God. But at that point even the staunchest believer has reached a blank wall. Who created God? But that is actually not a valid question for us: we know God was not created. He had no beginning and He will have no end. God simply IS.

The atheist sneers incredulously, “Hmph! How can that be – a being who has no beginning? Everybody knows that all creatures and matter have a beginning. They didn’t just exist from forever.”

Ah, that’s just the point. God is not a creature. All creatures were created in the beginning of their line and the line has since propagated itself (angels excepted). God was not created. As He said in Ex. 3.14b, “Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” The I AM is an all-embracing term, covering all of time in the eternal present and covering all situations and possibilities and doing away with

all accidental happenings. Many things happen that are accidental or chance with us, but they didn't sneak up on God. He knew from forever that whatever *has happened*, or *is happening* now or *will happen* in the future, *would happen*.

Read that last sentence again. God is a solid imperturbable Rock that is not fazed in the slightest by wind, fire, flood, death or – worst of all – the imminent doom of mankind. When He realized that man was destined for an eternity of torment in hell by bucking against the righteous law of God, God had a plan of salvation for him. And when did God realize man's danger and when did God devise a plan to save him? Why, of course, from an eternity ago.

If you are not a child of God or think there is no God, your course is irrevocably set for hell – and God knows that too. But you have the power to alter the unalterable. You have the power to make God see that you will be with Him in heaven just by what you do now. (Please read my blog post, *Are You in Charge of Your Destiny*, June 6 2005.) You can determine God's foreknowledge of you by the decisions you make and the actions you take NOW. You had better run quickly to Him; you haven't much time left.

“Don't Bother Me, God!”

But perhaps you still want to have nothing to do with God. You insist that you don't believe in Him and would like to shake off all traces of God that remain in your memories of growing up in a Christian home, (By the way, why are you even reading this?) You spout the usual sayings of the atheist: “Religion is a crutch for the weak,” “The existence of God can't be proved by scientific means,” etc., etc. You are on a dangerous path, but if you insist on bulling your way to damnation, here is one way to get there quickly:

In trying to avoid even the slightest consciousness of God, you could do as Cerberus the mythical guard dog of Hades did upon his release by Hercules. With a growl, He dived headfirst into the earth and made his way straight home to Hades. In a sense you can do the same thing. Because you will have rejected

God for the last time, hell would gladly receive you and you could, in a figure, dive headfirst into the depths of the earth, as Cerberus literally did. Then you can furiously claw your way “home” to hell to sin in abandonment with your godless colleagues.

Going home to hell is only a figure of speech now, but when you die – as you must – and are shunted off to hell's anteroom in real time, you will have no time to relish your victory. It will truly be a Pyrrhic victory, in which you will have lost everything. You will have wrested from God's hands all your unconscious sense of the presence of God and thereafter you will be consumed in the intense agony of the damned. Your frantic bellows for help to this God whom you can't perceive in any way because He is not "there" in your senses, will be futile. Your desperate cries will go nowhere. They will reverberate like cursed maddening echoes around your head and you will know beyond all doubt that you are ultimately and forever free of all godly taint and restraint.

Congratulations will then be in order – although there will be no one to offer them to you. You will be a free cursed wretch tormented in the searing flames of *What if...* and *If I had only...* You will exist eternally with the anguished thoughts of the many times God stretched His arms out to you in mercy and you curtly rejected Him. Yes, you will finally have won, but at what an extreme and everlasting cost!

The World Will Miss Our Love

Remember this final plea, my atheist friend:

L O V E

On this often overlooked thread hangs the fate of the world. But it will not hang there forever. Soon the Church will be snatched out of this hell-bent world. The absence of the Church will bring consternation. The love of God the individual

members brought as beams of light in an enveloping darkness will be sorely missed.

We know that without any works of charity, even though the motivation is not always pure (tax write-offs, reputation, etc.), earth would be a horrible planet. There would be rampant, unchecked misery in every land. How much worse will it be without the works of charity that are motivated by love? Earth would be a totally horrible and unlivable planet without the warm glow of love emanating from each saint.. There would be little or no tolerance of insults, offenses or the opinions of others, resulting in terrible acts of violence; unbridled envy and desperate attempts to obtain what others have; self-seeking and fierce pride; unbelievably cruel actions and evil directed at others; a deadly absence of hope, causing individuals and nations to throw all caution away where iniquity is concerned. (Refer to the definition of love in 1 Cor 13.) It appears that the mollifying warmth of love emanating from the Church is all that is keeping this world from going berserk.

“For the secret of evil is even now at work: but there is one who is keeping back the evil till he is taken out of the way.” (2Th 2:7 BBE)

The Bible talks about the cup of God’s wrath. You can visualize this as a large goblet into which, daily and by the moment, the sins of mankind are being poured at an alarming rate. The cup is large, but the sins of men are many and the level is rising with frightening inexorability. It is inching up toward the top. Soon it will brim and, in an excruciating and dreaded moment, begin to spill on the sinful heads of men everywhere.

Is this even now the first seconds of the “dreaded moment”? Are we seeing the “beginning of sorrows?” I don’t have to tell you about the tragedies and catastrophes occurring all over the globe. Without seeking to be alarmist, I can say it will only get worse. But the good news is that we who trust in God have no need to be frightened. All we need to do is keep our lamps trimmed and burning and rest in Jesus Christ. He alone is our hope; He alone is our Savior. As a matter of fact, He alone is ALL we need.

I am sorry about you, my atheistic friend, but you don't believe and you alone have excluded yourself.

A Reluctance to Let You Go

Let me add what will be my very last attempt in this space to save you:

Where Will You Be at the Midnight Cry?



This segment is excerpted from the book Pulled from the Web, "At the Midnight Cry." (<http://www.lulu.com/content/5441220>)

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (I Thes. 4:16, 17)

I have always thought that the glorious shout Christ will utter and the sound of the trumpet that will occur at the moment of Christ's literal appearance "in the air" would not be heard by the world. But what if they should hear it? To my knowledge the Bible doesn't say they won't. Imagine what a terrifying scenario that would be!

Think of the dread it will produce throughout the world when that trumpet blasts its call to doom (for sinners) and deliverance (for saints) throughout the skies all over the earth and the Lord gives a mighty shout that reverberates in the atmosphere and shakes the mountains and the seas and cries, "Come,

my children!” This relates to the “midnight cry” of Matthew 25:6:

"And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."

The midnight will be darkness and doom for unbelievers while at the same time it will signal the beginning of a glorious new day for the children of God.

"Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine." Psa 78:65 KJV.

The wine will be His own spirit that inflames Him to tremendous action. He shall have endured enough and seen enough of His children's suffering at the hands of their enemies. God shall then begin taking a final and terrible vengeance on His adversaries.

If this should be the true scenario — and who can say it will not be? — there will be a tremendous fear gripping the inhabitants of the earth. Some will seek for the salvation we have been proclaiming to them all these years, but they will not be able to find it easily. There will be no Holy Spirit to come into their hearts and lives, no humans to preach a Gospel that will not be readily available to them. (The so-called preachers who are left will be ashamed to hold up their heads.) There will be no apparent hope; only a paralyzing fear and despair.

Contrariwise, there will be some who will harden their hearts against what they have seen and heard and continue on their obstinate way to their predestined doom. My heart goes out to these persons who will bring on themselves their own judgment. But no matter what the individual reaction will be to the rapture of the saints, to be left behind to face the fury of the tribulation years will be a terrible fate. That is why the Church needs to reach out and gather all they can into the body of Christ where there is peace and safety and salvation.

That is why our earnest plea to the unsaved is this:

Please, please, come to Jesus now; don't let your soul be unprepared at the midnight cry.

