



Thru God's Eye: Life in the REAL World

Is There a God? Why Does It Matter?

Crossroads, September 25, 2011 - Mark Bickel



Intro

Isaiah 40:21-26

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood since the earth was founded?
He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.
No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.
Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Psalms 24:1-2

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Assault on God

- **In the Past Week ...**
- **The "Old Atheists"**
 - Until a few hundred years ago there were no atheists!
 - 19th century – what Mohler calls "the 4 horsemen of the modern apocalypse"
 - **Friedrich Nietzsche** – Philosophy - God is Dead
 - **Sigmund Freud** – Psychology - Concepts of God all in the mind
 - **Karl Marx** – Politics - Religion is the opiate of the masses
 - **Charles Darwin** – Science – Origin of Species, Evolution, Natural Selection
 - *They changed the game from a world where God was assumed and seen everywhere to one where the very existence of God could be questioned and where whole areas of life and study could be undertaken without God*

- **The “New Atheists”**

- Today – what Mohler calls “the 4 horsemen of the new atheist apocalypse”
 - **Richard Dawkins** – Oxford – “The Selfish Gene”, “The God Delusion” – also “Viruses of the Mind”, “A Devil’s Chaplain”, and the kids book “The Magic of Reality”
 - **Daniel Dennett** – Tufts – “Darwind’s Dangerous Idea”, “Breaking the Spell: Religion as Natural Phenomenon”
 - **Sam Harris** – “The End of Faith”, “Letters to a Christian Nation”
 - **Christopher Hitchens** – “God is Not Great: Hoe Religion Poisons Everything”
- Mohler gives 8 summary statements about the new Atheists:
 1. Marked by unprecedented boldness
 2. Clear and specific rejection of the Christian God of the Bible
 3. Explicitly reject Jesus Christ
 4. Grounded in Scientific Argument
 5. Refusal to tolerate moderate or liberal forms of belief
 6. Attack on toleration
 7. Question right of parents to inculcate belief in their children
 8. Argue that religion itself must be eliminated in order to preserve human freedom
- *Seeking to change the game again, from OK to question God’s existence to instance God does not exist and the need to eradicate the concept of God*
- Example: “**Curiosity: Did God Create the Universe?**” by Stephen Hawking

- **Small Groups**

- How do you think about this (not what you would say, but how think)
- What might you say to a friend? (if they expressed some of these ideas, asked about show...)

Defense of God

- **Classic “Theistic Proofs”**
 - Ontological Argument
 - Cosmological Argument
 - Teleological Argument
 - Moral Argument
 - Pascal’s Wager
- **Lewis’s “Arguments” for God** (see C.S. Lewis’s “Miracles”)
- **McDowell’s “Evidences” of God** (see Josh McDowell’s “Evidence That Demand a Verdict”)
- **Keller’s “Clues” to God’s Existence** (see Timothy Keller’s “The Reason for God”)
 - The Mysterious Bang
 - The Cosmic Welcome Mat
 - The Regularity of Nature
 - The Clue of Beauty
 - The Clue-Killer ... as Clue
 - Morality

All Men Know There Is a God! - Romans 1:18-20

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

All Men Suppress That Truth - Romans 1:21-25

21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Implications of Romans 1 for our Thinking

How do you view God

How do you view / think about people around you

Applications of Romans 1 of our Life

How do you interact with people around you

How do you approach / get to know the true God yourself

Ultimate Application for each person - **Worship our Creator!**

Closing Worship Video: "Creation Calls – Are You Listening?" (TheBranch.org, available on YouTube)

Recommended Reading

"Atheism Remix" by R. Albert Mohler Jr.

"The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism" by Timothy Keller

"Miracles: How God Intervenes in Nature and Human Affairs" by C. S. Lewis

"Evidence That Demands a Verdict" by Josh McDowell

NEXT WEEK: Who Are We? Why are you here?



September / October Calendar

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
25 6:30 Crossroads Is There a God? Why does it matter? (hang-out @ Lisa's)	26 6:00 Sports Last week of Frisbee at Strath Haven	27	28	29 8:00 Bible Study "Weird" week 1	30 7:00 Game Night	October 1
2 6:30 Crossroads Who are We? Why are you here?	3 6:00 Sports Basketball in Grace Gym	4	5	6 8:00 Bible Study "Weird" week 2	7-9 BFC Young Adult Mission Training Weekend At Pinebrook	
9 6:30 Crossroads What Went Wrong? The problem of evil and good (meal)	10 6:00 Sports Basketball in Grace Gym	11	12	13 8:00 Bible Study "Weird" week 3	14	15
16 6:30 Crossroads What About Religion? Can it meet our most basic needs?	17 6:00 Sports Basketball in Grace Gym	18	19	20 8:00 Bible Study Open Forum	21	22 Fresh Encounter Prayer Seminar

Upcoming Events

Friday September 30 at 7:00 pm

Game Night at Mark Bickel's place (bring snacks, games)

Weekend October 7-9

BFC Young Adults Missions Training "Retreat Within a Retreat" at Pinebrook - ** Required for summer BFC Young Adult Missions trip to Mexico **

Weekend October 22-23

Sat. 9:30 – 3:30 / Sun. 6:30pm

Fresh Encounters Weekend – Saturday Prayer Seminar,
Sunday Night Worship-based Prayer

Friday November 4 at 4:00 pm

Go with International Students Bowling

Stay in Touch!

Web: GraceBFC.org/Crossroads
Facebook: Crossroads Young Adult Community
Email: mbickel@gracebfc.org

Mark Your Calendars

Week of Nov. 13 – 20

Grace BFC Missions Conference

Week of Nov. 20

International Student Thanksgiving

February 10-12, 2012

Crossroads Winter Retreat

Other Events of Interest

Sign Language: Thursday 7-8 pm, see Jesse

Grace BFC Sun. Sermon Series: Faith in Formation – Spiritual Development in the Life of Joseph

Grace BFC Sun. Bible Study Hour: James: Putting Feet on your Faith; Life of Faith: Trusting God in Daily Life; Raising Cain: Parenting in 2011

Grace BFC Wed. Family Night: Discipleship Explored; Prayer: What Difference Does it Make?; GriefShare; DivorceCare