

Basic Facts of the Faith

信仰的基本課程

The Existence of God

神的存在

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Men have different ideas about the existence of God. In this lesson we will see some wrong ideas about God, then give reasons why we believe in the one true God.

Atheism

The Atheist says, "I know God does not exist. I have proof." This is a statement the atheist cannot prove. An atheist would have to be everywhere at the same time to prove God does not exist. However, "being everywhere at the same time" is called "omnipresence." "Being everywhere at the same time" is one of the characteristics of God.

A person must be able to be everywhere at the same time to prove God does not exist. For example: If you were looking for your friend and heard that he was in America, you could come to America and visit some of the major cities looking him. While you are in New York City, your friend could be in Chicago. If you then go to Chicago, your friend could have moved on to Dallas. By the time you made it to Dallas, your friend could have gone on to Los Angeles. You might travel around the whole country and never find your friend. But you would not be able to make the statement, "I know my friend is not in America." To make that statement, you would have to be everywhere at the same time.

So, a person would have to become God to prove God does not exist! But if a person was God, then God would exist! Atheists cannot prove their claims!

Agnosticism

The Agnostic says, "There is not enough evidence to prove there is or is not a God." This is really what the atheist believes. There is much evidence to prove the existence of God. We will discuss this evidence later in this lesson.

Deism

The Deist says, "A Supreme Being created the universe, gave laws, then had no dealings with his creation." He will admit the universe did not just happen. But, he claims that the God who created the universe does not care for his creation, and does not provide for the needs of man.

Theism

The theist believes that God created the universe, but does not believe that He is the God of the Old and New Testament, does not believe in Christ, the church, or the plan of salvation. This would include Jews and Moslems. It would also include the polytheist. The polytheist believes there is more than one God. Buddhists, Hindus, and other eastern religions fit into this category.

Christian Theism

The Christian theist believes in the one God of the universe, the God of the Old and New Testament who created the universe. This would include belief in Christ as the Son of God, the one church that was planned by God and established in the first century, as well as God's plan for saving man.

經說 神有一些不同的特性。祂是『無所不能』(創 17:1);『無所不在』(詩 139:7-11);『無所不知』(來 4:13);『公義』(詩 89:14);『自有永有』(詩 90:1-2);『關愛世人』(約 3:16);『與世人溝通』(提後 3:16-17);彼後 1:20-21)。

信基督而不信 神是不可能的。耶穌告訴我們 神是存在的。祂證明祂的話是真的。我們必須相信 神才上天堂 (來 11:6)。

Bible speaks of our one God having many attributes. He is all-powerful (Genesis 17:1); everywhere (Psalm 139:7-11); all-knowing (Hebrews 4:13); just (Psalm 89:14); eternal (Psalm 90:1-2); concerned for man (John 3:16); and He communicates with man (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

It is impossible to believe in Christ and not believe in God. Jesus tells us that God exists. He proved His words were true. We must believe in God to go to heaven (Hebrews 11:6).

關於神的存在、人有很多不同的觀念。在這個課程中、我們要提到關於神存在的一些錯誤的觀念、然後說出為什麼我們相信只有一位真神的原因。

无神论

無神論者說、『神不存在、並持有證據以資證明』。但是、無神論者沒有辦法證明這話。無神論者必須是神通廣大以至於無所不在才能證明神的不存在。然而，神的特性之一正是無所不在。

人必須無所不在來證明神不存在、比方說：假如你在尋找你的朋友也聽說他在美國、你便會到美國去一些大城市找他。你在紐約市的時候、可能你的朋友在芝加哥。於是你就去芝加哥、但是這時你的朋友卻已經去德州的達拉斯。當你一到達拉斯時、可能你的朋友又已經去洛杉磯了。可能你圍繞全國也找不到你的朋友。但是、你不能說、『我確實的知道我的朋友不在美國』。因為你必須是無所不在的才可以這麼說。

所以、爲了證明神不存在、一個人必須變成神。但是、如果一個人能成爲神、神就存在！無神論者沒有辦法證明他們所宣稱的話！

不可知論

不可知論者說、『缺乏足夠的證據、以證明神的存在』。這就是無神論者所相信的。有很多證據能夠證明神的存在。等一下就會談論這證據。

自然神論

自然神論者認爲宇宙是由一位高高在上的神所創造，萬物法則亦由祂訂立。但卻在其創造之物自生自滅。祂會承認宇宙不是偶然產生的。但是、祂卻宣稱神然後棄祂所造的萬物於不顧、對於人類的需求漠不關心。

有神論

有神論者相信神創造宇宙、但是不相信這位神是舊約和新約的神、不信基督、教會、或神拯救人的計劃。這包括猶太人跟回教徒。這也包括多神論者。多神論者相信有好幾個神。這包括佛教、印度教、還有其他東方的宗教是屬於這一類。

基督徒有神論

基督徒有神論相信宇宙有一位真神、是創造宇宙、舊約和新約的神。這包括相信基督是神的兒子、被神有計劃在第一世紀建立唯一的教會、還有神拯救人的計劃。

The Origin of the Universe

When we talk about the existence of God we must also talk about the origin of the universe. From where did the universe come? It is a fact that the universe had a beginning.

There are two possible explanations for the origin of the universe. It either came into existence by accident or it was created. Did the universe come about by accident? No, it did not. Things do not come into existence by accident. If I said the watch that I wear came into existence by accident, you would laugh. You would not believe it.

Who Created The Universe?

Since the universe did not come about by accident, it was created. Who created the universe? Man certainly does not have the power or ability to create the universe. How do we know? The nearest star is 4.3 light years away. Man does not have the ability to reach the nearest star in the universe. There are billions of stars in the universe. If man cannot reach the nearest star, how could he create the universe?

The Bible emphasizes that God exists and he created the universe. In addition to the first two chapters of Genesis, note the following passages: *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse"* (Romans 1:18-20). *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard"* (Psalm 19:1-3). *"For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God"* (Hebrews 3:4).

Design—Designer

Because the universe has design, this means there was a designer. Clothes have a design because they have a designer. If they came about accidentally, there would be no design. However, because there is a design, there has to be a designer.

Cause—Effect

If a ball rolls into the room, we would wonder who threw the ball into the room. The ball coming into the room is the effect. Whenever, there is an effect, there must be a cause. The universe is the effect, so there must be a cause. The cause of the universe is Almighty God.

Add to all of this the example of the human body. It could not have happened accidentally. Man was the creation of God (Genesis 1:26-27).

Attributes of God

The God of the universe does not have just one attribute. Some seem to think that God has only one attribute. People will say God is only a God of love, or only a vengeful God, etc. The Bible teaches there is just one God (Isaiah 44:6; 1 Corinthians 8:6). However, the

宇宙的起源

我們談論到神的存在時、我們也必須討論宇宙是從那裏來的。宇宙是從那裏來？宇宙萬物的形成均有一開始、不可能無中生有。

宇宙的起源有兩種可能的說法。經由創造或是偶然產生的。宇宙是偶然產生的麼？不是。東西不是偶然產生的。我若說、我所帶的手錶是偶然產生的、你會笑。你不會相信。

誰創造宇宙？

因為宇宙不是偶然產生、所以宇宙是被造的。誰創造宇宙？人類的能力是無法創造宇宙。我們怎麼知道呢？離我們最近的星星距離是 4.3 光年。人類沒有辦法到宇宙中離我們最近的星星。宇宙有好幾十億星星。如果人類沒有辦法到最近的星星、怎麼會創造宇宙呢？

聖經強調神的存在、也強調祂創造宇宙。除了創世記頭兩章之外、並請注意下面的經節：『原來 神的忿怒，從天上顯明在一切不虔不義的人身上，就是那些行不義阻擋真理的人。神的事情，人所能知道的，原顯明在人心中；因為 神已經給他們顯明。自從造天地以來，神的永能和神性是明明可知的，雖是眼不能見，但借著所造之物，就可以曉得，叫人無可推諉』（羅 1:18-20）。『諸天述說神的榮耀；穹蒼傳揚他的手段。這日到那日發出言語；這夜到那夜傳出知識。無言無語，也無聲音可聽』（詩 19:1-3）。『因為房屋都必有人建造，但建造萬物的就是神』（來 3:4）。

设计 ~ 设计有

宇宙有设计、其含意就是宇宙有设计者。衣服有设计、因为有设计者。如果是偶然产生的、就没有设计。然而、正因为有设计、所以就必然有设计者。

原因 ~ 结果

假如有球滚进屋子里来、我们会问是谁丢进来的。球滚进来是结果。有结果、就必有原因。宇宙是结果、所以就必有其原因。宇宙的原因便是无所不能的神。

加上另外一个例子、就是人类的身体。它不可能是偶然产生的。人类是被神创造的（創 1:26-27）。

神的本性

宇宙的神不只有一種特性而已。有一些人以為神只有一種特性而已。人們會說『神只是愛的神』或『神只是報應的神』、等類。聖經教導我們說只有一位真神（賽 44:6；林前 8:6）。但是、聖