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THE PAPER PULPIT

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The Religion of Atheism

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A Religion Without a God

Most atheists would likely bristle at the assertion that their movement is a religion, but that does not mean that it isn't. They say that they "believe" in the theory of evolution and in the so-called "big bang" theory, as the best explanations of the origins of the universe and life on Earth. They want others to believe what they believe and to practice what they practice. They reach out to the youth of America and teach them their beloved theories, as though they were undisputed facts. They defend their dogma by questioning the intelligence of anyone who dares to demand proof of their assertions.

Without a doubt: atheists behave very much like a religious group. In fact, atheism is like a **false** religion, with no basis in Scripture, or in any authoritative source. The god of atheism is anyone or anything but the God of Heaven. Atheists worship intelligence and science, but they are unconcerned about the truth, if it contradicts their pet theories. They worship nature and the cosmos, but only inasmuch as these things are consistent with their philosophy. They worship humanity and human ingenuity, and they pity the

"ignorant masses" that give credit to God for man's achievements. There are atheist marriage and funeral ceremonies. According to census data, atheism is one of the fastest-growing religious institutions in the United States.

Why should Christians be concerned about the religion of atheism? Because atheists are targeting our children. Many outspoken advocates of atheism have plainly stated that it is their goal to recruit as many young Americans as they can, so that, within a few generations, there won't be any Christians left. They are poised to realize their goal, and they are making great strides toward it, right now. They already have the coop-

eration of most American educators, who are teaching our children to think that the Earth was not created by God, but by cosmic processes that we do not fully understand. They have the cooperation of most media outlets, which perpetuate misconceptions about the universe by presenting the pet theories of atheism, as though they were unassailable facts. Prominent atheists have declared that "the debate is over" and that the "big bang" theory and the theory of evolution have been proven to be true. We must let the world know that the "debate" is still on.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

—Psalm 14:1

Quotable Quotations

“Defending the Word of God is the responsibility of every Christian...We should be ready to give answer to anyone who asks concerning our belief. We should be prepared enough to answer the atheist.”

—Dr. Roger E. Dickson

“The most insidious and damaging ideology ever foisted upon the mind of

modern man is the notion that human beings are but animals, and the offspring of other, more primitive creatures. It is known as the theory of organic evolution.”

—Wayne Jackson

“People are constantly being bombarded with atheistic, evolutionary, humanistic philosophy. From the time that dinosaurs are introduced

to preschoolers and elementary school children until those students graduate with the terminal degree, they are indoctrinated with the supposition that the universe is tens of billions of years old, that life began over one billion years ago, [and] that dinosaurs preceded man by over one million years...”

—Dr. Curtis A. Cates

Atheistic Evangelism

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”

—1 Peter 5:8

Evangelistic efforts put forth by atheists are much more massive than those of most denominations. Atheist doctrine about the origin of the universe and life on Earth is taught in the vast majority of science textbooks, while even the suggestion that God made the world and all that is in it (Neh. 9:6) is not allowed. Christians with children in public school must counteract this evil influence by exposing their children to Biblical teaching on these subjects at church. If parents put as much emphasis upon learning the Bible as they do upon learning to read and write, there

would be more Bible scholars in the church. As it is, there are hardly enough who are qualified to be preachers, teachers and elders.

Atheistic evangelism also includes the media; primarily on television and the Internet. Even educational shows that are aimed at small children teach them to believe things that contradict what is written in the Bible. At the earliest age possible, Christian parents must begin to teach their children about God and what the Bible says about creation. There are excellent alternatives to public television

and other atheistic programming for kids, which parents need to teach their children the truth.

It is never too early to be on guard against the efforts of atheists to steal away the faith of the next generation. If we fail to protect them, they will be vulnerable. It is our God-given duty to “bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). But, if we fail to take our kids to church, and to talk to them about the Bible, and to expose them to sound Biblical teaching, the consequences may be catastrophic!

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Man on God's Throne

When the serpent approached Eve, in the garden of Eden, it tempted her with the very same appeal that atheism uses today (Gen. 3:4,5). First, it contradicted what the Lord had clearly said, "*Ye shall not surely die*" (cf. Gen. 2:17). Distortion of God's Word is a common tactic of advocates of false religion. The Devil is a master of such manipulation (Mat. 4:1-11). Second, it implied that God was being unfair to Adam and Eve, "*for God doth know.*" The Devil has long argued that God has conspired to hold humanity back from realizing its full potential, and that man must rebel against God, in order to free himself from tyranny. Third, it suggested that Eve and her husband could har-

ness great power, if they would give in to temptation, "*ye shall be as gods.*" At the heart of their belief system, atheists think that belief in God and the practice of religion is a hindrance, which stifles human ingenuity. Recent remarks made by **Bill Nye** have brought that particular issue to the forefront of public discussion, he, along with hosts of other atheists have predicted the eventual demise of faith in God and the practice of religion.

The problem with notions like these, which seek to exalt humanity and debase God is that they are logically and intellectually indefensible. It has always been God's will that humanity "*have dominion*" over all

the Earth (Gen. 1:26,27), which implies that God means for humanity to achieve a mastery of science and all that man can learn from it. God wants humanity to prosper and to achieve great things, but He also wants humanity to be humble and to recognize the source from which all good things ultimately spring (Jam. 1:17). What is overlooked by modern atheists is the fact that the scientific advancements that make possible the standard of living we have today were made, for the most part by God-fearing people who wondered at the creative power of the Almighty and struggled to understand it. We don't have to abandon our faith in God to further our understanding.

"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."

—Genesis 3:4,5

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Web Sites That Won't Waste Your Time...



www.gbntv.org

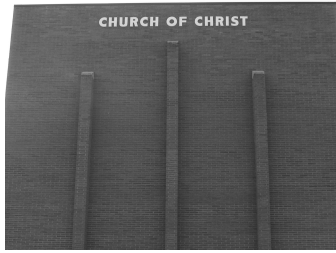
The **Gospel Broadcasting Network** is a 24-hours per day, 7-days per week television network, which airs programming exclusively produced by members of the churches of Christ. Watch their live video stream, or archived programs at their web site.



Apologetics Press is a group of Christians who are dedicated to the publication of printed materials and audio/video materials, which are designed to refute atheism and advocate for Biblical Christianity. Their web address is www.apologeticspress.org.



Focus Press is a group of Christians who are also dedicated to the publication of various materials, which are designed to refute atheism and advocate for Biblical Christianity. Their web address is www.focuspress.org.



Madisonville Church of Christ

Sunday Morning Bible Study

—9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship

—10:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship

—6:00 p.m.

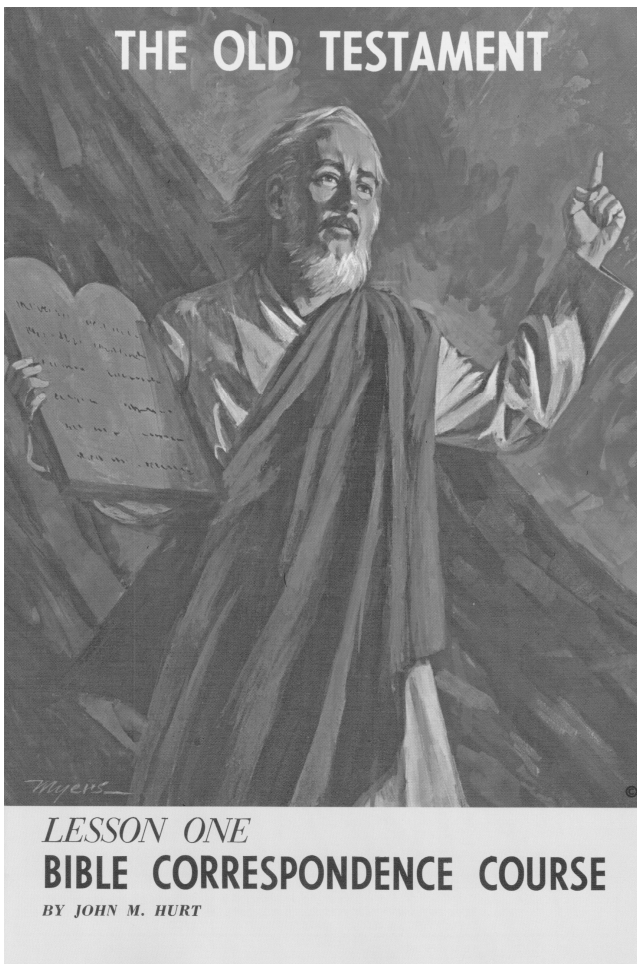
Wednesday Evening Bible Study

—7:00 p.m.

A Christ-Preaching, Bible-Teaching Church

Is Atheism a Religion?

Yes! It certainly is. Atheists would probably tend to disagree with this assessment, but their movement bears many of the hallmarks of religion; only without God. Religion is defined in Webster's Dictionary as, "commitment or devotion to religious faith." Atheists are committed and devoted to the notion that God does not exist—in spite of the many proofs of His existence. Atheists are actively seeking converts to their faith in the notion of the non-existence of God and they want you to join their ranks.



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