



Reasonable Reasons an Atheist Can Believe

Psalm 14

Message Notes by

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Have you ever wondered: "If God exists, why did He make so many atheists?" Perhaps it is because God gave us all minds to question and probe, so people naturally seek answers. Some find answers easily. But others struggle with doubt.

Psalm 14 gives the rationale for God's existence. This Hebrew poem set to music is written by David, former shepherd and giant-killer and king of Israel. David had seen people practice "practical atheism."

What are some of the proofs for the existence of God? What do you say to the honest skeptic? In the passage we learn **four proofs** for the existence of God.

I. The Inner Witness of God's Existence (verse 1)

1. Atheism is **rebellion** against God.

naw-bawl = disobedient or **rebellious** one; cf. Psalm 19

2. Atheism is contrary to our **conscience**.

laab = inner self; cf. Romans 1:20

3. Atheism is continued **deafness** to the **voice** of God.

aw-nar = talk to oneself/gnostic aorist; cf. Isaiah 43:8; 53:6

II. The Inner Search for God's Purposes (verse 2)

1. God is looking for people who "**understand**" cf. Hebrews 9:27

2. God is looking for people who "**seek the Lord**"
cf. Jeremiah. 29:13; Hebrews 11:6

III. The Inner Value of God's Moral Code (verses 3-5)

1. We are all **sinners**. "*all have turned aside ... corrupt*"
cf. Romans 3:23

2. We need moral **absolutes**. "*evildoers ... who devour my people*"

IV. The Inner Happiness with God's Messiah (verse 7)

1. Jesus gives **salvation**. "*Oh, that salvation ... would come ...*"
yeshewah = **rescue**, deliverance, **liberation**; in a moral sense.
2. Jesus gives **restoration**. "*.. the Lord restores the fortunes*"
shoob = to turn **back**, to **reverse**; meant in a spiritual sense.

Your Response:

1. Do you believe in the existence of God?
2. Have you given God control of your life?
3. Are you living as if God doesn't exist? What are the areas of rebellion in your life? Ask God to forgive you and set a plan to repent/change.

For Further Thought/Discussion/Homework:

1. Develop your own personal "life story" that tells how you came to believe. Write it out in 500 words or less. Try to include some of the reasons you came to faith in Christ.
2. Try to tell your "life story" to one unchurched person this week.

Resources:

Philosophers Who Believe by Kelly James Clark

Exposition of Psalms by H. C. Leupold

Intellectuals Don't Need God and Other Modern Myths by Alister McGrath

Not A Chance: The Myth of Chance in Modern Science and Cosmology
by R. C. Sproul

The Atheist Syndrome by John Koster

Who Needs God? by Harold Kushner

How to Defend Atheism by George H. Smith; available on the Internet
(http://www.infidels.org/library/modern/george_smith/defending.html)

My Life Without God by William Murray

Southern Gables Church
4001 S. Wadsworth Blvd.
Littleton, CO 80123
sgc.org