

16. The Book of Romans 1:19-20-Part 3

Paul's Epistle to the Romans
A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(5-17-23)

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In our study of the Book of Romans, we find ourselves in a section where Paul (acting as a prosecuting attorney) wants to show that the whole world apart from Christ stands condemned before God.

The theme of the Book of Romans is the Gospel of Jesus Christ—which Paul knows that before a person will see their need for a Savior—they must first be made to see themselves as sinners.

And so, he starts in verse 18 to prove that the pagan is condemned before God—before moving to the moralist and then finally to the religionist.

This will lead to Paul's final charge in his 'closing argument'—the whole world apart from Christ is guilty before God—'*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (sinless perfection).'

Now to many this seems blatantly unfair that God would judge and send people to hell who have never heard the gospel. Well, in verse 19-20 of Romans 1—Paul answers that accusation for us:

Romans 1:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ 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.

In other words, even people who have never had the gospel preached to them, have had the knowledge of God revealed to them—thru the creation!

We used this truth to 'springboard' into a parallel study on how we can know *exactly* how the creation testifies to the existence of God.

And so, we started looking at 3 reasons or proofs or arguments from creation that proves the existence of God:

I. The Cosmological Reason

II. The Teleological Reason

III. The Moral Reason

Last week we finished looking at the first 2 reasons, and tonight we want to look at the third reason we know how the creation proves the existence of God—

III. The Moral Reason

Romans 1:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them...

Romans 2:14–15a (NKJV)

¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts...

What Paul is talking about here is morality.

➤ *Where did morality come from—this innate sense of right and wrong?*

If we're just the result of chemical processes—chemicals are *amoral* and can't produce morals.
The evolutionist can't explain this, but the creationist can—our God is a moral God.

He is a God Who declared certain behaviors good and others evil according to His righteous standard—and then He placed into the heart of man (whom He made in His image), this innate sense of right and wrong we call morality.

This innate sense of right and wrong, which all people possess, gives testimony to God's existence—

C.S. Lewis—*“Every prescription has a prescriber. Every moral law has a moral lawgiver. There is a universal moral law; therefore there must be a universal law giver.”*

In a world of moral relativism where people are doing whatever seems right in their own eyes—you can still prove moral absolutes exist.

Norm Geisler said that his favorite person to debate was a Jewish atheist—one who didn't believe in moral absolutes.

He said,

“Every Jew knows the Holocaust happened and everyone of them believes that it is morally wrong—absolutely wrong for anyone to practice genocide.

Atheists, agnostics and antagonists toward Christianity can talk about moral relativism all they want and how there is no absolute right or wrong until you talk about someone like Adolph Hitler—and suddenly they realize that they do believe that some things are absolutely wrong.”

Alan Bloom said he used to use this one on his university of Chicago students who didn't believe there were any absolute morals, so he asked them—

“If you were part of the British Protectorate in India and they were using the custom back in the rural areas where when a husband died, the living wife was to be cremated with him, and you were in charge—would you allow them to cremate the wife just because the husband died?”

There's something intrinsic in all of us that says that something like that is wrong.

Atheists will often jump on this and say, *“There can't be an absolutely perfect, absolutely righteous, just God—look at all the evil and injustice in the world.”*

C. S. Lewis the former Oxford atheist said,

"I used to think that way too, that injustice in the world proves there cannot be a God. Until I started to think—'What does injustice mean?' It means 'not just.' So I must have understood what justice was. And if I felt something was absolutely unjust then I must have been presupposing a standard of absolute justice by which I measured this world to be unjust. In effect I was positing an absolutely perfect moral standard God in order to argue against God."

Often, people don't believe in God not because they don't like the concept of 'God.' No, the real reason they don't believe in the God of the Bible is because—they don't want to be subject to His moral laws nor the judgment upon those who violate them. So, they do away with God (the God of the Bible) and become atheists.

(Listen: Example of the honest atheist on the radio.)

But that leaves them with a problem—how did everything get here?

They need an explanation for the existence of the universe, so they invented an alternative belief system that replaced creationism ("*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...*")—that system is called *naturalism*.

Naturalism is the belief that everything in the universe, including earth and all life on the earth, came about thru *natural* processes (the Big Bang and evolution) without any *supernatural* input by a deity (and by that they primarily mean the God of the Bible).

As one pastor and author put it—

"Naturalism is the reigning ideology of our day embraced by most of the intellectuals, scientists, educators, politicians, and judges in our country and around the world. A naturalist believes that God only exists as a fantasy in the minds of religious non-intellectuals. In our universities naturalism is the virtually unquestioned assumption upon which all matters of life are based."

Of course, naturalism, as a belief system, leads inevitably to the worship of the natural world (God created us to be worshippers *by* nature—but not *of* nature!).

Worshipping the natural world is nothing new—Paul talked about it and those who practice it in Romans 1—

Romans 1:22-25 (NLT2)

²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles...So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

Naturalism is the foundation the theory of evolution is built upon. The men who gave us the theory of evolution—Erasmus Darwin (Charles' grandfather), Charles Lyell and Charles Darwin were men who had a definite agenda. Erasmus Darwin and Charles Lyell were products of the Enlightenment which was a movement that tried to throw off the yoke of religion and look to science as man's 'god'.

To accomplish this objective, they had to find a way to cause people to doubt the Bible—primary the book of Genesis.

So, these men along with the help of others invented the theory of evolution (based on changes within a kind and not one kind becoming another kind) primarily to do away with God as the Supreme Lawgiver of the universe—because they didn't want God interfering in their lives.

They didn't want to be bound by His moral laws or subject to coming judgment for breaking His laws—so they came up with an alternative explanation for the existence of everything—an explanation that did away with God.

Charles Darwin, in his own words, said that he rejected Christianity because he couldn't accept the idea of a God who punished sin and sent men to hell if they didn't repent—he called this a 'damnable doctrine.'

One pastor put it this way—

“Evolution was invented to kill the God of the Bible—not because evolutionists and materialists and naturalists didn't like God as Creator, but because they didn't want God as Judge. Evolution was invented in order to kill the God of the Bible, to eliminate the Lawgiver, to eliminate His divine, immutable law, the binding standard for human thought and conduct. Evolution was invented to do away with universal morality and universal guilt and universal accountability. Evolution was invented to eliminate the Judge and leave people free to do whatever they want without guilt and without conscience.”

Of course, that's true because evolution is amoral, so by rejecting the God of the Bible (Who is a moral God) and replacing Him with the 'god' of naturalism which is '*chance*' (chance plus time equals everything)—man is free to live anyway he likes (or so he thinks).

So many have *enthusiastically* embraced evolution in their desire to live unrighteously.

Even though, Paul in Romans 1:18-25 tells us that God is a moral God. But if there is no God, then there is no such thing as morals, which means there is no absolute right or wrong. *So, man got rid of God to get rid of God's moral laws*—but in so doing, he didn't realize that to do so would bring upon the human race some very serious consequences—morally speaking.

If naturalistic evolution is right and man hasn't been made in God's image (because He doesn't exist)—then man is no better than any other animal that has evolved on this planet—absolutely no different.

So, naturalism has given rise to organizations like PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals)—whose founder and president, Ingrid Newkirk made this infamous statement some years ago—*“A rat is as a pig is as a dog is as a boy.”* In other words, in her way of thinking (and many others like her) there is no difference between people and animals, they're all just different species of animals—all have equal value.

A few years ago, I read about an animal rights group that said that killing chickens was equal to the Holocaust—they said it was no different from the Nazis killing the Jews.

This kind of idiocy results when people don't believe man has been made in the image of God, but is simply the product of evolution just like any other animal on the earth—which of course means, he really has no purpose for existing and no eternal destiny.

But the implications of evolutionary thought go far beyond a group of animal rights nuts.

For example, Karl Marx sought to dedicate “Das Kapital” to Charles Darwin.

Adolph Hitler was a committed evolutionist and used the theory of evolution as the justification for his personal vision of a super race that would grow stronger by wiping out those that were genetically inferior and less 'evolved.'

You see, the principle that under girds all evolution is survival of the fittest—the strong killing off the weak which strengthens the species and guarantees its survival.

Evolutionists call this ‘*natural selection*.’

Hitler believed he was just applying a form of ‘natural selection’ to mankind in an effort to *hasten* the process of evolution and genetically engineer a super race of people.

Dr. George Marsden, an evolutionist said,

“Creation scientists are correct in perceiving that in modern culture evolution often involves far more than biology. The basic ideologies of our civilization including its entire moral structure are at risk. Evolution is sometimes the key mythological element in a philosophy that functions as a virtual religion.”

In fact, as one author put it: *“Naturalism has now replaced Christianity as the main religion of the Western world, and evolution has become naturalism’s principal dogma.”*

So, *theism* (leading to creation) and *naturalism* (leading to evolution)—are competing belief systems and lead to two entirely different ways of looking at and living one’s life.

The Bible says that God made man
*“a little lower than the angels and
crowned him with glory and honor.”* (Psalm 8:5)

But most of the Western world (academia especially) has rejected the Creator and has embraced evolution which teaches that man evolved *“a little higher than the apes”*—a huge difference! You see if you remove God/creation from society and substitute naturalism/evolution as God—you remove the uniqueness of man from the animal kingdom. (Genesis 1:24-28)

The Bible says that man was made in the image of God—but if there is no God then man couldn’t have been made in His image. If mankind wasn’t made in the image of God—then there is no difference, morally speaking, between man and any other animal that evolved on this planet.

Which is the very thing our public schools teach our children from the time they enter kindergarten. But here’s the problem—if we teach our kids they came from animals—it shouldn’t surprise us when they act like animals! We see kids growing up in our society without God and without morals (the Ten Commandments have been removed from public schools)—a society which now places little or no value on human life.

We see gangs that have taken over the inner city and have turned it into a war zone battling each other over drug turf and killing innocent people who get caught in the crossfire.

We see kids bringing guns into their schools and wiping out classmates simply because they didn’t like the way someone looked at them or ‘misgendered them’ or talked to them (or about them) on Facebook or on some other social media platform—but what do we expect?

From the time these kids started public school they have been taught a humanistic, naturalistic worldview—a philosophy of life void of God, where they evolved from animals.

A worldview where everything came about by chance and genetic accidents and where there is no purpose for life, no life to come and no God to answer to!

What do we expect when they act as if human life doesn’t mean anything?

You see, any philosophy of life that's based on the idea of the survival of the fittest, the strong eliminating the weak as the basic means of evolving from lower forms of life to higher more complex forms. If that's the ideology that's governing man's thinking and shaping his worldview—guess what, it's going to produce a lot of evil consequences—and it has.

Then ultimately according to evolution...

- If evolution is true and we are just animals that have evolved higher than the other animals in the animal kingdom—then why should we bother helping the weak, the handicapped, the elderly and the sick? Let's do away with them—let's embrace infanticide and euthanasia!
- Why keep these people around if they're just keeping the rest of us down by draining the resources needed to strengthen the genetically superior.
- I mean if evolution is true—then Hitler was right!!

Again, Hitler was a big fan of Charles Darwin and a big proponent of evolution and sought to hasten the process of evolution on human beings and bring about a master race by exterminating all those whom he considered genetically inferior and less evolved—the strong killing the weak (his version of natural selection)—and who could have argued with him if evolution is true?

But of course, it isn't true—and here's why.

First of all, more and more scientists are being forced to admit, based on advancements in genetics—that evolution is impossible.

It's impossible because the genetic coding of each cell's DNA will never produce anything else—and any mutations in the cell are almost always bad and produce devolution not evolution (speaking of 'macro' not 'micro' evolution—Explain)

But let's come at it from a different angle—people.

Where did compassion and mercy come from? The evolutionist would say, *"They evolved as we evolved."*

But evolution doesn't produce compassion and mercy because evolution is based on the survival of the fittest—the strong preying upon the weak. If the strong start showing mercy to the weak it would undermine the very foundation upon which evolution is built—natural selection—that is if evolution was true.

Why is it when a tsunami or an earthquake or a plague of some kind hits some third world country, that the rest of the world (Western world built on Judeo-Christian values) mobilizes and sends workers, food and medicine?

Or, why do we worry about a little baby born 3 or 4 months premature and spend millions of dollars to save that child's life? Isn't it a tremendous drain on our resources—why not just let the child die?

I mean, they're not a productive member of society yet—why not just let natural selection take over and eliminate the weak?

The same goes for the elderly who are no longer productive members of society and sap valuable resources from the 18 to 50-year old's who *are* productive members of that society?

We do it because life is precious—all life!

Why do we believe that life is precious? Because we have been made in the image of God, a merciful and compassionate God, Who created us and put the sanctity of life in our hearts. In other words, gave us His morals!

Folks, there is no mercy and compassion in the jungle—there's only the survival of the fittest. Man is unique from the animal kingdom because our Creator made us unique! Only man has the capacity to reflect the glory of his Creator in the way of love, compassion, mercy and kindness. The only explanation for morality is the existence of God who is a moral God and Who made man in His image and put His moral law into our hearts.

Creationism is the only thing that answers the question of man's origin and makes sense of life.

Hopefully now you see how important the first verse in the Bible is—it doesn't just introduce the book of Genesis; it becomes the foundation for understanding and living our lives on the earth.

Without the first verse in the Bible, *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..."*, life is nothing more than an exercise in futility—in other words, *"life without God is a meaningless life not worth living"*.

But fortunately, that isn't true, there is a God who created everything and everyone—in fact, the Bible says that, not only are we not an accident—we are God's masterpiece!—

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us for a purpose, so we can do all the good works he planned for our lives even before we were born." (paraphrase of Ephesians 2:10)

And so, God created you on purpose for a purpose—and He has been preparing you for that work even from before you were born!

The apostle Paul mentions this in Galatians 1:15 when he was giving his testimony how that it pleased God, *"Who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace..."*

Our lives are the product of God's creative genius—whether or not we live up to our potential is up to us, but just so you know—you are not an accident as evolution teaches!

Once again, the moral argument for the existence of God is irrefutable!

So—the creation declares the glory and existence of God!

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

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