

WHAT ABOUT THE HEATHEN WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD?

Let me assure you that no one will be condemned for failing to believe in something he/she has never heard about.

Answer

1. God is fair.
2. All men have some light.
3. God judges people on basis of light they have received.
4. Missionaries have brought the Gospel.

Response

You know, the real problem is not those who have never heard. It is those who have heard and yet have done nothing about it. You have heard. God will assess you on the basis of that which you know about Christ and what you have done with that knowledge. Let me show you the response God expects.

WHY IS JESUS CHRIST THE ONLY WAY TO GOD?

Remember, it was not the church, nor some person, who said Christ was the only way. It was Christ Himself. So the real question is, who is Jesus Christ—does He really have the authority to exclude those who don't come through Him? And, what has He done which qualifies Him to be the only Savior?

Answer

1. All people are in danger because they are sinners and deserve separation from God.
2. There are two ways to solve the problem.
 - a. Try to solve it yourself.
 - b. Find someone else who can solve it for you.
3. Another person in the same predicament cannot help you.
4. Only someone who is safe himself can save us (only Christ qualifies).
5. If there was another solution, then the death of Christ was unnecessary.

HOW CAN YOU PROVE THAT CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE?

We have to distinguish between absolute proof and sufficient evidence. In a court of law you only have to prove something beyond any reasonable doubt. God hasn't given us mathematical proof or the kind of proof you would demand for a scientific experiment. If He had done so, then we would have no choice but to accept it, and that would eliminate our freedom--make us puppets. But He has given sufficient evidence upon which faith can intelligently be based.

Answer: the resurrection of Christ

1. Four facts
2. Possible Explanations
3. Only Reasonable Conclusion

Response

If Jesus Christ did rise from the dead then obviously He was more than a mere man. If this is true then we can trust all that Christ said. One of the most amazing statements He ever made is (refer to your gospel presentation or Law 4 of the Four Spiritual Laws).

HOW CAN YOU PROVE THERE IS A GOD?

How can you prove that there isn't? Usually when something is widely accepted as true, the burden of proof is on the person who denies it. Can you prove that there is no God? Do you have total information? How much of the world's knowledge do you possess? Is it possible that God could exist outside your realm of knowledge and experience?

Answer

1. Suppose, for the sake of argument, that God does exist. List all the things we can think of that would support this assumption.
2. Do the same thing for the assumption that God does not exist. What facts would support that idea?
3. I think if you look objectively at the evidence pro and con, you have to admit that there is more to support the idea that God does exist than the belief that He does not exist. But there is one more aspect necessary to make it convincing.

Response

There is a very good reason why people sometimes find the existence of God hard to accept. Jesus explained it this way (explain John 3:1-21). God is a Spirit and if we are to have fellowship with Him we must be spiritually alive. (Illustration: just as radio or T.V. waves are present but we can not hear or see their message without a receiver, so...). That is what is meant when the Bible says, "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 3:23). Part of this death is our inability to experience the reality of God. Jesus Christ Himself claimed He could bridge the chasm between God and people, and reveal God to us —prove His existence to us. When we invite Jesus Christ into our life through faith, He makes God real in our experience.

YOU ARE BASING ALL OF THIS ON THE BIBLE. I DON'T BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS TRUE.

Have you read the Bible recently? There are thousands of very intelligent, highly educated people who have studied it very carefully and they have come to the conclusion the Bible is accurate. Let's just narrow our discussion to the New Testament. There is more reason to accept the reliability of the NT than that of any other ancient book."

Note: Sometimes you can side-step the necessity of getting into the evidence for arguments for the NT by saying something like this: *The NT was written by eyewitnesses who were much closer to the scene than you or I. Can we agree that it is a reasonably accurate historical writing which records accurately the things Jesus said and did?*

Answer

1. There is no basis for saying that the supernatural element crept into the NT after it was originally written.
 - a. The academic discipline of textual criticism demonstrates that we possess accurate copies of the original manuscripts
 - 1) Number of manuscripts
 - 2) Other Sources
 - 3) Age of the manuscripts
 - b. Kenyon: "The interval, then, between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small

as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established." *The Bible and Archeology*, p. 288f.

2. There is no basis for saying that supernatural elements entered into tradition before the writing of the original manuscripts.
 - a. No time
 - b. No source
 - c. No likelihood of acceptance
 - d. No incentive

Response

These are facts of history. They make an unshakeable foundation for the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. There is only one more question to be answered: 'what will you do about it?' There is only one thing you can do, reasonably, and it is (refer to the Gospel).

JESUS WAS JUST A GOOD MAN

Have you ever looked carefully at the evidence for the deity of Christ? It must have been convincing evidence for those first disciples to believe it. Remember, they were Jews, strict monotheists, and to them the idea that God would become a man was incredible.

Answer

1. Christ's claims
2. Quotation from C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*:
"A man who was merely a man and said the things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would have been either a lunatic on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg-or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that alternative open to us. He did not intend to."

Response

Who do you say Jesus was, the Lord, a liar, or a lunatic?

ALL OF THE SUFFERING IN THE WORLD PROVES GOD (A GOOD GOD) DOES NOT EXIST

Restate the question: "In other words, you are saying that if GOD IS and if GOD IS GOOD, and if GOD IS IN CONTROL why all the evil? Let us take these propositions one at a time.

Answer

1. God is.
2. God is good.
3. God is in control.
4. What if God stopped things now?

Response

One day God will stop evil. The Bible says He is waiting until everyone who will repent does so (2 Peter 3:9-15), and then He will bring history as we know it to a close. At that time He will judge those who refused to believe in Christ, and take believers into eternal fellowship with Himself. Suppose God were to step in and stop things today. Would you be ready? (Refer to the Gospel to explain how they can be ready.)

ISN'T THE CHRISTIAN FAITH JUST PSYCHOLOGICAL?

That's a good question. I agree that the important thing is not if a belief is helpful, but that it is true. I suppose a person could get some help from believing anything if he or she believed it strongly enough.

Answer

1. The important thing is not, "Does it help me?" But, "Is it true?"
If someone told me that believing in fried eggs gave inner peace, I would want to ask certain questions.
 - a. Who else has had this experience?
 - b. On what objective historical fact is this faith based?
2. Any belief in anything has psychological overtones, but that in itself cannot establish whether it is true or false. There must be reasonable evidence. I believe that the Christian faith is based upon such evidence.
3. How do you know that your unbelief is not just a psychological thing? Aldous Huxley, the famous atheist, wrote: "I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning, and consequently assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption . . . For myself, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation, sexual and political." (*Ends and Means*, p. 270).

Response

Would you agree that unbelief based upon prior motives or prejudices is about as ridiculous as faith in fried eggs?

WON'T A GOOD, MORAL LIFE GET ME TO HEAVEN?

Well, it might, if you were good enough. But, how good is good enough?

Answer

1. Illustration: botulism poisoning
2. God's standards are high.
3. We tend to measure ourselves by others.
4. God measures us by Christ.
5. We all fall short of God's standards. If you are going to go to heaven by being good, you must be as perfect as God is.

Response

1. Have you reached the point in your spiritual experience where you know for certain that you will go to heaven when you die?
2. If you were to die today and you found yourself standing before God, and He said to you, "What right do you have to enter my heaven?" what would you say?