

Study of the Cult of Atheism - 1

Luke 18:8

I. Introduction (Luke 18:8)

- A. We are currently watching the decrease in **faith** of any kind – world wide
- B. For the moment, people are moving away from believing in ANYTHING traditionally spiritual
- C. But that doesn't mean they are living without beliefs
 - 1. Believe in the fairytale of survival of the fittest, and mutations for life (Evolution)
 - 2. Believe in angels, and astrology like never before
 - 3. Believe in **humanism** – that man will only get better and better with time and politicians
 - 4. Believe more and more in themselves and their sufficiency without the need for answering to any absolute higher power
- D. But as far as worshipping and following a god – well, that I out! At least for a while.
- E. It won't last
 - 1. God made us to worship Him (Colossians 1:16; Rev 4:11)
 - 2. God made people to NEED Him (Acts 17:24,25; Rom 8:20)
 - 3. People will start turning back to traditional faiths – mainly the catholic faith just before Jesus returns (Rev 17 & 18)
 - 4. But almost no one will believe the Bible in the near future (Luke 18:8)
- F. So we will look at Atheism – the Belief of Non-Belief
 - 1. Where it came from
 - 2. Why is it so popular
 - 3. What it means
 - 4. What are its dangers
- G. And then next time we will look at how to witness to them and win them to faith in Jesus Christ!

II. Some Definitions

- A. **Theism** – the belief in God. Specifically belief in the existence of a god or gods, specifically of a creator who intervenes in the universe.
- B. **A-theism** – the belief that there is no God
- C. **Agnosticism** – just uncertain (Acts 17:23)
 - 1. Atheism makes absolute statements against everything spiritual and non physical (John 4:24)
 - 2. Agnosticism means 'not knowing' or 'no knowledge.' They say they have looked at the evidence and have concluded there is no God, but they say they are open to further evidence for God's existence.
 - 3. Times of doubt are expected and normal – that's agnosticism

III. What Atheism “Believes” – Modern Atheists, New Atheists

- A. Modern atheists say this about themselves... “Atheism has no belief, no doctrine, no dogma, and no rules of any kind.” But that is not true!
- B. Atheism is a **philosophy** (Col 2:8) – a belief system about life, and death that excludes any concept of any supernatural being that is not seen or natural.
- C. A rejection of all religious deities and authorities

1. According to Atheism, people do not need to rely on gods or holy writings to create moral codes to rule life.
 2. They are against the inclusion of any religion in public affairs.
 3. They believe that any belief in any god or spirit is the same as believing in Santa or the Tooth Fairy
- D. There is no need for any religion, no god telling anybody what is right or wrong. They believe all proper morals, all standards of right and wrong are based on whether what we do helps or hurts others. That's it. At least that is what they SAY they believe, but their lives say otherwise – they are out for themselves!
- E. Some people who are Atheists are actually quite religious.
1. They practice Buddhism, because it agrees with principles of Atheism,
 2. Many modern religious groups that grew out of Judaism and Christianity take a humanistic approach to life and do not focus on the existence of God at all, only on the good works that *the followers* of Jesus and God do.
 3. You will find most modern churches filled with religious atheists!
- F. They say they believe in only evidences, proofs – not in holy books, or miracles
1. They want to perfectly understand something BEFORE belief (John 20:29)
 2. There is plenty of evidence to believe here (Heb 1:11:1-3; Rom 1:20; Job 12:-72)
 3. To most of them however, no amount of evidences will change their minds, so they are hypocrites!
- G. They believe you get your religion simply from the culture, the **environment** you live in
1. If you lived in India, you would be Hindu
 2. If you lived in ancient Greece, you would believe in Zeus
 3. If you grew up in central Africa, you would believe in the Great Juju
 4. That's funny. If Richard Dawkins grew up in Syria or Saudi Arabia, then he wouldn't be an atheist
- H. They believe that religions are irrational and that there is not enough evidence to prove the existence of **any** religion.
- I. They believe that religious people are not self-reliant because they turn to God or gods.
- J. They believe that religion often causes division and war, undermines basic human rights, and prevents scientific research.
- K. Believe that everything is not designed, but only has the **appearance** of design!
- L. Believe that **evil** does not exist. Richard Dawkins said, "The universe we observe has the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference." [River out of Eden]
1. To a true atheist, it is not morally wrong to torture pets, rape, abuse weaker people, perform experiments on human subjects
 2. To dislike these things is merely a matter of personal taste since there is no superior law governing men's actions.
 3. Yet not many modern atheists say any of these things are good to do, but will hold to their stance that there is no good or evil.
- M. They believe that only particles, and physical forces of nature exist. That all our actions, feelings, free will, and abilities to reason are caused simply by the laws of physics
- N. They believe that **science** is the only way to find truth, yet they are always forced to admit that science can never answer questions of meaning, value, truth, love, selflessness, beauty, right, and wrong.

- O. Whether they admit it or not, their worldview, like ours, takes faith.
- P. There are four big things they believe that cannot be verified
 - 1. **Evolution** - Like the fact that evolution is the right answer for how we all got here
 - 2. **Logic** - Like how we are rational, for no reason – if evolution is true, we should simply and only seek to survive
 - 3. **Big Bang** - Like how the big bang brought everything into existence, accidentally, from nothing
 - 4. **Dead End!** That there is no life after a person dies
- Q. Require Four **Miracles**
 - 1. Getting everything that there is, from nothing
 - 2. Getting non-life to arise from non-living things
 - 3. Getting order out of chaos
 - 4. Getting immaterial things like love, selflessness, reasoning, etc, from material things like bones, blood and skin.