Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. [NIV]
Outline

Part I: Setting the Stage
- Atheism and its implications
- What is an argument?

Part II: The Craig Program
- Cosmological Argument
- Teleological Argument
- Moral Argument
- Resurrection Argument
- Basic Beliefs

Range of Responses

- I don’t believe that God exists.
- Nobody knows if God exists.
- I don’t need the concept of God.
- The idea of God doesn’t make sense.
- I don’t care.
  - Even atheist philosophers, e.g., Jean Paul Sartre and Albert Camus, recognized that the whether God exists makes a tremendous difference!
Quote from Norman Levitt


- Quote from back of book by Norman Levitt, Professor of Mathematics, Rutgers University, and author of *Prometheous Bedeviled: Science and the Contradictions of Contemporary Culture*.

Implications of Atheism

- If atheism is true, then ultimately life is meaningless.
- If atheism is true, then ultimately we must live without hope.
- If theism is true, then not only does life have meaning and hope, but there is also the possibility to know God and his love personally.
Life is Meaningless?

Quote from Stenger again.

For an atheist, life may have *relative* meaning, but not *ultimate* meaning.

For an atheist, life may have *subjective* purpose, but not *objective* purpose.

No Hope?

Theistic Arguments

- Pascal: all else being equal, rational to believe that God exists.
- In fact, all else are not equal!
- Craig: Five arguments for the existence of God.
- Plantinga: Two dozen or so arguments.

Arguments

- Statements leading to a conclusion.
- Deductive and inductive arguments.
- What makes a good argument?
  - Validity
  - Soundness
  - Not question-begging.
Refuting Arguments

- Plausibility: subjective.
- Failure of an argument does not imply that the conclusion is false.
- Logical fallacies.

Logical Fallacy I

- Argument:
  - Either you think for yourself or you simply accept what the Bible says.
  - You accept what the Bible says.
  - Therefore, you do not think for yourself.
- Fallacy: Affirming a disjunct.
Logical Fallacy II

- Argument:
  - Either you reject the Bible or you are irrational.
  - You don’t reject the Bible.
  - Therefore, you are irrational.

- Fallacy: False dilemma.

- Gen. 3:1

Logical Fallacy III

- Argument:
  - The Bible was written by people.
  - People are not God.
  - Therefore, the Bible is not God’s word.

- Fallacy: Equivocation.
Logical Fallacy IV

- Argument:
  - The Bible claims that God performs miracles.
  - But miracles cannot happen.
  - Therefore, the Bible is false.

- Fallacy: Begging the question.

Logical Fallacy V

- Argument:
  - The Bible speaks of God seeing.
  - Seeing entails having eyes.
  - Therefore, God has eyes.

- Fallacy: False analogy.
For More Fallacies

See my paper, “Logical Fallacies in Attacks Against the Bible: Eleven Examples,” at:
www.engr.colostate.edu/~echong/pubs/apologetics

Further Reading

