No God or KNOW God?

There is no doubt that the secular world has done and is doing a good job of convincing millions of Americans that there is NO God. Is it true? Is there no God, or is there a way that one can come to KNOW God exists?

From a young age science tells us one knows and can prove something exists in the material world because he can use the five senses to explore it. If one can see, hear, taste, touch, or smell a thing then by virtue of science that thing exists. Conversely, things that one cannot see, hear, taste, touch or smell do not exist. One of the great lies humans have bought into is "if I can't experience something with my senses, then it doesn't exist." But what about things like love and time? Do these things exist? Of course they do! Can they be studied using the five senses? No, because they are not part of the underline material world. So, how do we know they exist? We can experience the effect they have on our lives and the things around us. The same is true about God. He is not a underline material being, therefore one must examine the evidence for God's existence using logic and reason to study the effect His existence has on our universe. An intelligent design demands an intelligent designer!

Any first year science student knows that life on Earth requires a very specific set of environmental conditions to ensure its survival. In 1981 *Science Digest* reported that the earth moves in its orbit around the sun, departing from a straight line by only one-ninth of an inch every eighteen miles. If it departed from that line by one-eighth of an inch, we would come so close to the sun that we would burn up. If it departed from its course by one-tenth of an inch we would move far enough away from the sun that the earth would freeze over. (Harrub, p. 34) Does it seem logical that Earth was randomly slung into space, at exactly the right distance from the sun, in exactly the right orbit, at exactly the right inclination, possessing enough water, and having the right atmospheric conditions to foster life or is it more reasonable to believe that God created it and placed it where He knew it needed to be? This is just one example of the "random chance" idea of evolution that we are being asked to accept. The Bible tells us, "The heavens tell of the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork." (Psalms 19:1) Indeed, the mere place of the Earth in our universe declares this truth.

If you have read this far, I am going to assume you understand that the words on this page did not happen by chance. There is no reasonable person who would believe that some random act of chance took the 26 letters of the English alphabet and randomly arranged them to create the roughly 500 words I have currently written, into a logical and organized thought or group of thoughts. In the same way it is illogical to believe that the four bases of DNA (A-adenine, T-thymine, G-guanine, and C-cytosine) just randomly got arranged into some formation that would give rise to life on Earth. Scientists and researchers spend millions (maybe billions) of dollars every year searching the heavens for some kind of code or signal. They maintain that an intelligent code or signal from outer space would prove that there is intelligent life out there. Yet, many of the same scientists would argue that our DNA, and therefore life itself, was the result of some big random act of fate.

I am not a statistician. In fact, my least favorite college class must have been Probability and Statistics, so I am going to argue in as simplistic terms as I know how that it is statistically improbable for our DNA code to have happened by chance and therefore must have had a "designer." First, let's consider a coin toss. If you toss a coin twice, there is a pretty good chance (or probability) that you may get "heads" both times (or every time you toss it). If you toss the coin ten times the chances that you get "heads" on every toss decreases. It's still "possible" but not "probable." The more times you toss the coin the less likely it is you will get "heads" for each toss. In fact, if you toss the coin 100 times, the odds become so low as to be

almost impossible that you will get the desired outcome of "heads" for each toss. If we were to take four quarters and toss them all together the chances that we would get all "heads" on that first toss are low. What if we tossed those same 4 quarters 100 times? What is the probability that we would get the desired outcome (all heads) for all 100 tosses? Impossible? Maybe not, but nearly so. Now, consider there are an estimated 10^{130} particles that exist in the universe. What is the probability of them randomly assembling themselves into a code that can produce even the simplest life form? Using many mathematical and statistical concepts which he discusses in his book The Scientific Case for Creation , Bert Thompson (using 3,000 billion years as the Earth's age; more than 100 times the current scientific estimate) calculates the total number of possible times that the components necessary for life could have "bumped into each other" (think coin tosses) as 10^{170}. He further quotes other leading statisticians as calculating "the probability of the simplest conceivable replicating system arising by chance just once in the Universe, in all of time" as 10^{-280}. (Thompson, pp.133-134) This means that for DNA (the simplest conceivable replicating system) to have been created randomly there must be only one favorable "coin toss" out of an estimated 1 x 10^{280} "coin tosses." But as just stated, there could have been only 1x 10^{170} "coin tosses" in all of given time (even though we generously calculated the age of the universe as 100-200 times older than evolutionists claim). If the probability of an outcome occurring is less than the number of possible opportunities for the outcome to occur (which is what I've just described) the event is considered statistically impossible.

Thompson goes on to say, "it is astonishing to read Carl Sagan's section on "The Origin of Life" in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. In discussing the bacterium *Escherichia coli,* Dr. Sagan noted that this one "simple" organism contains 1 x 10^{12} (a trillion) bits of data stored in its genes and chromosomes, and then observed that if we were to count every letter on every line on every page of every book in the world's largest library (10 million volumes), we would have approximately a trillion letters. In other words, the amount of data (information) contained in approximately 10 million books is contained in the genetic code of the "simple" E. coli bacterium. Yet, we are asked to believe that this marvelous organism, with its obvious complexity occurred purely through chance processes." (Thompson, p. 136) The late Carl Sagan (one of the world's most renowned astronomers who was also an agnostic) himself estimated that the chance of life evolving on any given planet, is one chance in 1 x $10^{2,000,000,000}$ (that is one chance out of 1 followed by 2 billion zeros!) (Sagan, 1973, p. 46) It makes no more sense to believe life giving DNA arose merely by chance than to believe that this article wrote itself! Logic demands that there must have been an intelligent author of the code that gives rise to all living things.

References:

Harrub, Brad Ph.D. (2010), **Convicted: A Scientist Examines the Evidence for Christianity** (Focus Press, Inc.)

Sagan, Carl, ed. (1973), *Communications with Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence* (Boston, MA: MIT Press)

Thompson, Bert Ph.D. (2002,) **The Scientific Case for Creation** (Apologetics Press, Inc.)

On January 28th we had a corresponding lesson on this topic. Check our website for sermon titled "Thomas Paine (Genesis 8:13-22)". Also, you can find our worship services on our Facebook page.