

WORLD VIEW: CHRISTIANITY –VS- ATHEISM

Worldview. Often determined early in life, it's the lens through which we view ourselves and the world. More than any other factor, our worldview determines how we look at life, how we view ourselves and others, and how we choose to live our lives. It determines our priorities, our focus, our values, and our actions. There are many worldviews, but there is only one Christian worldview. Today we want to contrast two worldviews: Christianity and Atheism. Let's look at how they answer the most important questions that we could ever ask.

1. How did we get here?

Christian: The universe was created by an all powerful God, who also created man in his image.

- *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* (Genesis 1:1)
- *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”* (Genesis 1:26-27)

Atheist: We are just a cosmic accident, the fortunate product of time and chance.

2. Why are we here?

Christian: God gave man authority over His created world. God loves us and sent his son, Jesus Christ, to allow us the opportunity to spend eternity with Him.

- *“God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”* (Genesis 1:28)
- *“For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* (John 3:16)

Atheist: Since we are the product of blind chance and luck, there is no higher purpose for us. Someday you will die and your body will rot. There is no afterlife. Every person will cease to exist with no final justice. Ultimately, life is meaningless. “The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference” – Richard Dawkins

3. How are we to live?

Christian: Since God created us, he has a purpose for us. We are made to love God, glorify God and obey his commands, in order to make an eternal difference in our lives and the lives of others. We are not perfect, but we are to grow to be more like Christ each day.

- *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”* (Matthew 22:37-40)
- *“For I (God) have created him (man) for my glory”* (Isaiah 43:7)
- *“Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13)
- *“If you love me, keep my commandments.”* (John 15:14)
- *“Till we all come... to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:13)

Atheist: Man is left to his own devices to determine how to live his life. “There is no higher purpose. It's left to us. We must create our purpose. That's the only meaning we have in this universe.” – Michael Shermer

4. Where are we going?

Christian: Every person has been created to live forever – either eternal life with the Creator or eternal separation from Him in the lake of fire.

- *“Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”* (John 5:24)
- *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”* (Mark 16:16)

- *“And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”* (Revelation 20:15)

Atheist: There is no afterlife. All will eventually die and simply cease to exist. “I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail.

- “There is no heaven or afterlife for broken down computers; that is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark.” – Stephen Hawking
- “There are no gods, no purposes, and no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after death. When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead.” – William Provine

Two opposing worldviews.

Christianity provides a reason for our existence, a loving creator that wants what is best for us and has given us his word, the Bible, to guide us to the best possible life we can have. Christianity gives us a meaningful purpose in life and the promise of an eternal life in heaven when this short life is over.

Atheism proposes that we are a cosmic accident, here simply by chance, the product of thousands of lucky coincidences. Atheism provides no real purpose for our lives other than what we ourselves derive, provides no answer for suffering or injustice, and provides no hope for any existence beyond this short life.

What a contrast with how we view life, how we choose to live, and how we view death!

We want you to know that **only God’s word contains the answers to the most important questions in life** and we would love to share more of God’s message of hope with you and your family.

On September 25th we had corresponding lessons on this topic. Check our website for sermons titled “Worldview - It is a Choice (Genesis 1)” from the AM service and “Worldview - It is a Choice (Romans 1)” from the PM service. Also, you can find our worship services on our Facebook page.