

## "How Do You Know God Does Not Exist?"

There were two people, a Christian and an atheist, who began discussing the existence of God. The atheist argued, "I know beyond any shadow of doubt that God does not exist." The Christian responded, "Well let me shake your hand for you must be God." The atheist, quite startled by this statement, asked, "What do you mean, I must be God?" The Christian asked, "Do you claim to know everything?" "No!" said the atheist. "To make a claim that you know beyond doubt that God does not exist is to claim that you know everything, for if you do not have all knowledge it could be that the one thing you do not know is that God does exist," said the Christian. The atheist went away confused.

Today there are many people who make similar claims concerning God's existence. They are adamant in their convictions that God does not exist. What is not realized by these people is the foolishness in making such a statement. One who affirms God's non-existence is in essence putting themselves in the place of God. They are saying, "I know all there is to know, and part of that knowledge is that God does not exist." If "all knowledge" is denied then the very thing which is not in their knowledge could be the truth that God does exist. The psalmist said, "The fool has said in his heart there is no God" (Psa. 14:1).

One who uses this line of argumentation, such as the Christian in the above story, may experience an attempt by the atheist to turn the table and use this same line of reasoning against them. Could it be that the Christian, in claiming the existence of God, is also claiming all knowledge? NO! The proofs of God's existence are firm, logical, and undeniable to the rational mind. Evidences that force a conclusion for the existence of God abound. The burden of proof is not on the Christian to prove God does exist, but on the atheist to prove otherwise. "The heavens declare God's glory . . ." (Psa. 19:1). The design in the world proves that there must be a Designer. The universal laws on Motion make the resounding claim for a First Cause. The Second Law of Thermodynamics, which establishes that everything is in a constant state of decay, dispels the folly of Evolution. The burden of proof rests upon the presumptuous shoulders of the atheist. God's proofs are in full array and have been so from the very beginning, so man is without any excuse (cf. Rom. 1:20). The next time someone says, "I know God does not exist," perhaps it will be an opportune time to query the extent of their knowledge.

What motive could anyone possibly have for not wanting to accept that God exists? The ONLY reason someone would **not** want to accept God's existence is that to do so would place them in subjection to Him. To accept God, is to accept His direction in their lives. Beside all the blessings that come from acknowledging God, the meaning and happiness added to one's life can not begin to be expressed.

*"For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God!"* Hebrews 3:4  
—Scott