

## Let Us Have A Debate

A debate is a formal discussion on a particular topic normally in a public setting. On Tuesday night September 29, 2020 the first of three Presidential Debates was held.

In religion, debates were fairly common in earlier generations. In bookstores you can find debates held in the 1800's and 1900's. They still occur today but on a limited basis. The usefulness of debates can be seen when all involved have the proper attitude and stay on the agreed subject for the debate.

This made me think of conducting a debate of sorts in this article and this morning's sermon. To have a debate one must have a formal proposition, therefore, here is the proposition: The Scriptures Teach It is Proper and Essential for man to serve the one true God in heaven. There would be those who would agree and affirm the proposition, while others would deny it.

Who would deny the above stated proposition and what arguments would those who affirm it submit to prove their cause?

Deniers would include the atheist/humanist/evolutionist thought. The problem they would have with our proposition is the belief that there is a God and the Scriptures are the word of God. They would argue the material universe is all there. Spiritual beings such as God, angels, and man having a soul do not exist. Therefore, they would have a problem with the first part of our proposition.

Those affirming would use the Bible and its teaching on the origin of the universe and all it contains. Genesis 1 plainly teaches God created the heavens and earth. This is restated in many places in the Bible. Some would argue Genesis is not literal but figurative. However, throughout the Bible the creation account is used to prove the existence of God. **“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20).** The most fundamental argument proving there is a God is the existence of the Universe.

Building on those scriptures one would also argue man is a spiritual being. **"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 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)

If the atheist/humanist/evolutionist should respond the universe just happened then they are contradicting what another passage and common sense says. **"For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God."** (Hebrews 3:4). Who believes a car made itself, or a clock, or any other mechanical device created itself? Science itself teaches against the fundamentals of evolution. The Laws of Science state living being comes from other living beings, everything produces after its own kind, and the material universe is finite. However, the theory of evolution breaks all of those laws.

Another group who would deny our proposition would be idolaters and those who believe we can worship the god of our choice. We read of those worshipping gods such as Molech, Asherah, and Dinah, to name a few. They built altars, created images, made sacrifices, and worship those gods. We might not have such altars around us today but idolatry can take many different forms. It can take the form of materialism as man worships the dollar. Or popularity as everyone follows a celebrate, or sports and entertainment. While many do not bow down to these idols, they fashion their own God based on their beliefs. To them God has their values and attitudes. They would have a problem with our proposition because it speaks of one true God. They would say God is who we want Him to be and reflects our society.

Those who affirm our proposition would point out the Scriptures teaches there is no other God but Jehovah. **"Therefore, know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other."** (Deuteronomy 4:39). Space in this bulletin does not permit me to list all the passages which say what the above

passage teaches but look to Isaiah for many such passages. The Bible plainly condemns idolatry and teaches there is one God and we can only approach Him on His terms. **"Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.'"** (Leviticus 19:2). Only those who have been sanctified can be in fellowship with Him.

Finally, the Hedonist/Calvinist/Universalist would deny our proposition. Their logic differs but they wind up at the same place. Sin does not matter. The hedonist says to party it up and don't worry about tomorrow. The Calvinist says the save cannot sin so as to be lost. The Universalist says God will save everyone.

Those affirming the proposition would point out the terrible nature of sin and its consequences. The soul who sins shall die, see Ezekiel 18.20. Jesus spoke of the resurrection and judgement to come in John 5.28-29. In this passage there is the "resurrection of life" and "resurrection of condemnation". One's destiny is based on their obedience to God's word, John 12.48-50. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

I have tried to fairly state the fundamental arguments made by those who would oppose the stated proposition. Which side would you take in this debate? Would you be able to sign your name affirming the proposition: The Scriptures teach it is proper and necessary for man to serve the one true God in heaven. – Dennis Tucker