

Learning to Believe (Even With Some Doubts)

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Event Webpage: www.RichKnopp.com/gcc26/

Dr. Richard Knopp
Executive Director, Room For Doubt

www.RichKnopp.com
www.RoomForDoubt.com

Introduction

- A. All the early followers of Jesus had _____.
 - 1. They were not _____.
 - 2. They became _____.
- B. A cry to Jesus: “I do believe; help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24).
- C. Why I believe (even with some doubts).
- D. _____ the options.

I. MEANING.

- A. _____ meaning.
 - 1. Meaning constructed BY us.
 - 2. Important, but ultimately pointless!
 - 3. Thomas Nagel (atheist): “There seems to be no point to it all.”
 - 4. Alex Rosenberg (atheist): “Individual human life is meaningless, without a purpose and without ultimate moral value.”
- B. _____ meaning.
 - 1. Meaning that comes TO us.
 - 2. What Christianity provides.

II. MORALITY.

- A. Must we believe in God to be good? _____
- B. But without God, why *should* we be good?
- C. Dostoevsky: “Without God in the future life ... everything is permitted.” (Ivan in *The Brothers Karamazov*)
- D. Everyone WANTS justice and morality.
- E. But without God, the foundation for justice and morality _____.

III. MORTALITY.

- A. Death is inescapable.
- B. Atheist Will Provine: “We live. We die. And we’re gone.”
- C. Without God, there is NO _____.
- D. Apostle Paul: “We do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope” (1 Thess. 4:13 NIV).

IV. MATTER.

- A. The universe _____.
- B. Different explanations for the universe.
 - 1. It is eternal.
 - 2. It caused itself (Atheist Stephen Hawking: “The universe can and will create itself from nothing.”)
 - 3. It was caused by something outside of time/space (God).
- C. Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
- D. Psalm 19:1 “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

V. LIVING MATTER (Life).

- A. The universe began JUST _____ (Goldilocks).
- B. Physical facts of fine-tuning (e.g., strength of gravity; ratio of electrons to protons).
- C. Atheist Fred Hoyle: The mere chance of life starting on earth: 1 in 10 to the _____ power.
- D. The wonders of _____.
 - 1. DNA in one human body would stretch end-to-end _____ billion miles!
 - 2. DNA’s information capacity.
 - 3. Bill Gates (Microsoft founder): “DNA is like a computer program but far, far more advanced than any software ever created.”
- E. Romans 1:20 “Since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen.”

VI. THE MESSIAH.

- A. Matt. 16:16 “You are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God.”
- B. But WHY believe in this Messiah? Because of the ...

REFLECTIONS:

- A. When we compare the Christian worldview with the alternatives, it seems far _____.
- B. If I had just two minutes ...
 - 1. *WITHOUT* God ...
 - 2. But *WITH* God ...

Resources

- “Why Do You Still Believe?” Animated video. <https://vimeo.com/327406232>.
- Richard Knopp. *Truth About God: What Can We Know and How Can We Know It?* See <https://roomfordoubt.com/truth-about-god>.
- Richard Knopp. “Doubt and Knowing Truth About God.” <https://vimeo.com/602593270>.
- Richard Knopp. “Truth about God in Nature.” <https://vimeo.com/604835946>.
- Richard Knopp. “Truth about God in Special Revelation.” <https://vimeo.com/618548737>.