

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

August 5, 2007

If you do not believe in God

by David King

"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psa. 14:1).

Listen to the God-deniers, however, and that label is turned around. Those who believe in God are considered ignorant dupes who rely on superstition and myth rather than reason and logic. Science, we are told, has so utterly discredited the idea of an all-powerful deity that only a fool would continue to cling to that belief. So believers today are on the defensive.

But we shouldn't be. Consider the logical consequences of believing there is no God, and it becomes clear that believers are not the ones with an intellectual problem.

First, if you do not believe God exists, you must come up with some acceptable alternative explanation as to where everything came from. In scientific language, this is known as "cosmogony," the study of the origin of the universe. The usual explanation is that determining the "first cause" of the universe lies outside the scope of natural science, so the question must remain unanswered.

That's a cop-out. The overwhelming evidence points to the universe having a beginning. (Some argue for a steady-state model, in which the universe has always existed. But that only further complicates the puzzle.) The skeptic is forced to take the position that this vast universe in which we live just popped into being out of absolute nothing. One moment, nothing existed — no matter, no thought, no design, no God; and the next moment, POOF! — there was a rapidly expanding universe, fully operational with a complete set of physical

laws to guide it. Somehow, the skeptic has to explain how that transition took place.

Second, if you do not believe God exists, you must explain the virtue of morality. I'm not talking about **how** morality came to be; I'm asking **why** it should exist at all. Flowery language about behaving "for the greater good of humanity" sounds appealing, but it does not answer the question of why "the greater good" should matter at all. If there is no God, no judgment, no afterlife, no standard of right or wrong, then it doesn't matter how I behave, or who gets hurt by my behavior. How I live my life is my business, nobody else's. And there are no consequences to my behavior that matter one way or the other. So "morality" is merely a human construct that I can choose to honor or ignore at my whim. The only thing that really matters in the end, is whether or not I can achieve some state of happiness before I die. Everyone else is on their own. The end result, of course, is the law of jungle, a mad rush to grab and hold while I can.

Let's sum up the evidence. Is it more reasonable to believe that an infinite Mind has always existed and created everything, or that Nothing gave birth to everything? Does it make more sense to believe that morality is merely an invention of man, or that morality is in our social DNA, a fundamental element of our humanity that we neglect to our peril?

If you do not believe God exists, that's your business. But please don't ridicule believers as being stooges of blind faith. They aren't the ones with an irrational belief system.