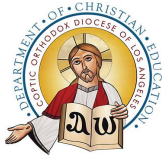


# Absurdity of Life Without God Pt. 2

Department of Christian Education



# Recap of Part 1

**The following consequences of life without God were discussed:**

- No ultimate meaning
  - Man needs God. If God does not exist, immortality is meaningless.
- No ultimate value
  - If there were no God, then there is no objective standard of right or wrong.
- No ultimate purpose
  - Without God, there is no purpose for the existence of the Universe.
  - Consequently, Man would have no purpose for existence.

# Problem with Atheism

## The fundamental problem with this solution:

- Impossible for man to live consistently and happily.
- If man lives consistently, he will not live happily.
- If man lives happily, he will not be able to live consistently.

## Francis Schaeffer, Modern man lives in two-story universe:

- **Lower story:** life is without God
- **Upper story:** there is the concept of universal meaning and value.

# Problem with Atheism

## **The atheistic man lives in the lower story:**

- Man cannot live there happily and consistently
- Man leaps into the second story to affirm that life has value and purpose.

## **Man leaps into second story:**

- Man should not do that because he does not believe in God.
  - Cannot live without having a meaning for life.
- These values/meanings for purpose cannot exist without God.

# Arguments Against Atheism

Without God life has no Meaning:

**Sartre:**

- **Meaning for his life:** freely choosing to follow a certain course of action (Marxism).
- *Inconsistent that life is objectively meaningless*
  - *Ends to nothing*
  - *one can create a meaning for it.*
- *Life really is absurd?*
  - *One is trapped in the lower story*
  - *To create a meaning is a self-delusion.*
- *Universe doesn't have a meaning just because you try to give it one.*

# Arguments Against Atheism

## Without God life has no Meaning:

- **Going to the second floor from the first one:**
  - pick a value that makes life with the tenets of the first floor more livable.
- **Sartre:** let us just “*pretend*” that life has a meaning
  - Just because he decided to

# Problem of Value

Can goodness exist where God does not exist? Here are the most blatant inconsistencies:

- Love and human brotherhood.
- **Logically:**
  - Incompatible to hold to atheistic humanism on one hand
  - Ethics of love and brotherhood on the other.
- **Camus** (criticized):
  - Holding one hand to the absurdity of life
  - Brotherly love on the other.

# Problem of Value

These are logically irreconcilable!!

- **Bertrand Russel:**
  - calling for denouncing war
  - removing restrictions on sexual freedom.
- Admitted that he could not live
  - confessed that he does not find his personal views credible: *"I do not know the solution."*



# Problem of Value

**Absence of God, means the absence of objective right and wrong:**

- **Dostoevsky:** Man cannot live with the fact that dictatorial regimes are ok.
- World devoid of value is a horrific world.
  - BBC called the “gathering,” reunion of Jerusalem.
  - Among the horrors: killing of pregnant women in prisons.
- Dr. Megalo experiments on killing a baby.
  - His mother was offered to run away from prison with the baby who eventually died
  - The Dr. was devastated that he could not finish his experiments on the baby.

*Compare to the women who offered their kids to martyrdom)*

# Problem of Value

- **Nietzsche:**
  - Proclaimed the necessity of living beyond good and evil
  - Broke with his advisor Richard Wagner over the strident German imperialism.
- **Sartre: condemned anti-Semitism**
  - Existentialism is humanism:
    - Sartre struggled to affirm the value of the human person.
  - Russel could not live with the ramifications of no absolute value system.

# Problem of Value

**Without God, all evil will go unpunished and all sacrifices will go unrewarded:**

Who can live with such a view??

- Go to the conclusion of living in sin (as defined by the bible)
  - it is easier and more fun
  - no growth in knowing the love of his creator and there is no punishment

# Problem of Value

- **Richard Wumbrant who was tortured for his faith in Communists prisons said:** *“The cruelty of atheism is hard to believe when man has no faith in the reward of good and punishment of evil. The torturers did inhumane things to the Russians who had faith, here is an excerpt of what one of the torturers said: “I thank the God that I do not believe in, THAT I can express all the evil in my heart”*
  - Acceptable in a world that does not have a supreme moral upholder.
- This brings to mind what one of the cardinals said: *“I would go mad if God did not condemn unrighteousness.”*

# Problem of Value

Here is a story on the other side of the spectrum, ...

- *There was a Midwinter Airplane crash, which occurred in D.C. Potomac River after taking off from Dulles airport, In the rescue effort of the victims, a man pushed the dangling ladder of the rescue helicopter to six people, and the helicopter came back to rescue him, but they could not find him. In one's opinion, this man did the most stupid thing possible, he should have pushed everyone out of the way.*
  - Why should he give his own life for people that he does not even know??
  - And lose the remainder of his own??

# Problem of Value

- The Atheist would still instinctively react positively to the bravery of this man.
  - This is the inconsistency.
    - **The Atheistic man admires the virtues of the spiritual man**
    - **Chooses to live the vices of the carnal man**

A universe that is void of value is terrible!!

# Problems of Purpose in Life

*The end of our very short life is death, and nothing bigger, then our life has no meaning.*

**To alleviate the conscience from this bleak view, the two ways that an atheist lives is:**

- Makes up some purpose outside of the divine to give his existence meaning
  - Amounts to self-delusion
- By not carrying out their views all the way through to their logical conclusions/ramifications.

# Problems of Purpose in Life

## Problem of death, Arens Blogh:

- Borrowing the conclusion that man borrows the belief of immortality of his forefathers.
- Shallow courage living off the credit card of another person.

Modern man makes a leap of faith to affirm the purpose for living.



# Problems of Purpose in Life

- Unable to live with a universe that has no ultimate value/purpose since there is no God  
→ “personalities” ascribed to the things around him:
  - Mother nature, the universe, the cosmos ...**almost creating idols to take the place of God:**
- **Brilliant Russian Physicist Zelodovich in Novicov:**
  - Why did not nature choose this universe and not another ?
  - Nature becomes the God-substitute

# Problems of Purpose in Life

- **Francis Crick:** “origin of the genetic code”:
  - Spells “nature” with a capital “N”
  - Speaks of natural selection of being clever and thinking of what it will do.
- **Fred Hoyle** the English astronomer:
  - attributes to the universe itself the properties of God.
- **Carl Sagan:**
  - Spells cosmos with a capital C (God substitute)
  -

# Problems of Purpose in Life

*Many atheists betray their thoughts when they are pushed to think about the consequences of their line of thinking.*

- Sociological behaviorism advocated by B. F. Skinner:
  - Society envisioned by George Orwell novel 1984
    - The government controls and programs the behavior of all people.
  - If God does not exist
    - There is no moral objection to treat humans like animals in experiments.
    - Man is not qualitatively different from an animal.

# Problems of Purpose in Life

- Nazis used humans as experiments objects
- In the US after the war:
  - Some people were injected unknowingly with a sterilization drug
    - “population control” to deem who was the fittest.

## **Protest this consistently:**

- God exists and hence there is a value of human life
- An Atheistic world is insufficient to sustain a consistent/happy life.

# Dilemma of Modern Man

**Post Modern man denies manhood when he denies the existence of God.**

- Lives with the awareness that modernity issues a despair that constitutes anguish of life.
- Awareness of bankruptcy of human meaning, value, and purpose.
- If that man lives consistently according to the atheistic view, he shall be profoundly unhappy.
- Tries to live happily, he shall be utterly inconsistent with the logical conclusion of what atheistic life leads to.
- Man is always finding some means of escape.
  - He is incomplete when he attempts to live between two worlds
    - earthly and temporally.

# The Noble Lie

**Dr. L. D. Rue, 1991, to American academy for the advancement of science:**

- We deceive ourselves by some noble lie (value of us and the universe)
- One's quest for personal wholeness/self-fulfillment and social unity becomes independent of one another.
- No absolute truth: self interest that perverts each person's truth.
- Each person chooses his own sets of values/meaning
  - There is no final objective reality regarding the world or the self
  - No universal way for integrating the creation of reality and morality.

# The Noble Lie

*If we are to avoid the mad-house where self-fulfillment is pursued regardless of social consequences. If we are to avoid the crippling environment where social unity is imposed at the expense of personal gain then we have no choice but to embrace some noble LIE.*

- a. It is a lie because it tells us that the universe has values of its own
  - i. Great fiction, because it makes a claim to universal truth without a universal Designer
  - ii. it tells me not to live for self-interest which is evidently false.
- b. Without such lies we cannot live, this is the dreadful verdict pronounced over the modern man.

# The Noble Lie

## The noble lie is like a placebo:

- Works only on those who believe in it
- Cannot solve the human predicament for anyone who has come to see that predicament.

## Dr. Rue's dilemma:

- He obviously deeply values BOTH
  - Objective values
    - Do not exist, he has already leapt to the other story of the home.
  - The noble lie option thus affirms what it denies
    - Refutes itself.



# Christanty: God Exists, Man is Eternal, the Resurrection is Real

**Christianity provides the two conditions necessary for a meaning, and value, for a purposeful life:**

- God and immortality, we can live consistently and happily.

**Life is ultimately significant because we have eternal life, which is the knowledge of God.**

- Moral value are rooted in the nature of God Himself
- Moral choices: we are held accountable for them
- Glorify God and enjoy Him forever

# Christanty: God Exists, Man is Eternal, the Resurrection is Real

## The Bible succeeds where atheism breaks down:

- Offer a consistent: joyful/meaningful/purposeful/valuable life.
  - It does not prove Christianity is right
    - Gives the OTHER OPTION where Atheism fails.
  - IF God does not exist then life is futile, if God exists then life is meaningful
    - it does not end
    - its beginning is not just the result of a “wild” chance

# Final Thoughts

**If these two options were absolutely equal; If one is offered with these two choices:**

- A rational person should choose:
- life/meaning/purpose/eternity > death/chance/despair
  - Ultimate meanings of every transient thing in this world
    - includes one's life itself

***As Pascal said: "Nothing to lose and Infinity to gain."***

The cosmic orphan can come home – to His Creator!!