Is there only one true living God?

Zanesville, OH | December 2, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** 1 Cor. 8:4-6

**Intro**:

* Before we can even begin to talk about religion and Christianity, Heaven, Hell etc. we must address the question of whether or not there is a god and whether there is one or many and if he/she/they are alive or dead.

**The Overwhelming Evidence:**

1. **The Creation Narrative**
   1. **The Big Bang, Evolution, Cosmos, Mankind: Is there a God?**
      1. Those who argue against the existence of God, a god (s) or a divine being of some sorts often resort to the *“Big Bang”* or the evolutionary argument to explain the existence of all life and matter. According to an article on Space.Com, *“The Big Bang Theory is the leading explanation about how the universe began”* (Howell).
      2. The argument goes like this: *“Fifteen billion years ago, the universe began with an unimaginable bright flash of energy from an infinitesimally small point”* (Collins, *The Language of God)*.
      3. Hawking says (1996), *“Almost everyone now believes that the universe, and time itself, had a beginning at the Big Bang”* (Hawking, *The Nature of Time and Space*).
      4. No one can deny that there is a beginning to that which we see and interact with. The question then is *“why is there something rather than nothing”* (Keller, *The Reason for God*). Something indicates purpose, power and control. Everything we know in this world has a cause (contingency).
      5. Collins adds*, “I can’t imagine how nature, in this case the universe, could have created itself. And the very fact that the universe had a beginning implies that someone was able to begin it. And it seems to me that had to be outside of nature”* (Collins, *The Language of God*).
      6. The bible asserts in Genesis 1 and 2 that God purposefully and intelligently created and framed the cosmos and everything that lives in it including man. Elsewhere, the bible argues that God’s fingerprints is seen all over creation (cf. Psa. 8:1-3; 19:1; Heb. 11:3).
      7. There are various constants of physics that exist having precise values. In an interview Collins says, *“If any of these constants was off by even one part in a million, or in some cases, by one part in a million million, the universe could not have actually come to the point where we see it. Matter would not have been able to coalesce, there would have been no galaxy, stars, planets or people.”*
      8. Later in his life Hawking conceded, *“The odds against a universe like ours emerging out of something like the Big Bang are enormous. I think there are clearly religious implications* (*Stephen Hawking’s Universe*).
      9. Elsewhere he says*, “It would be very difficult to explain why the universe would have begun in just this way except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us”* (*The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*).
   2. **God’s assertive role in His creation: YHWH is God!**
      1. The argument for a divine creator would be somewhat weak and it could be easily dismissed if it were not for the overwhelming evidence that there is and that He is active in His creation (God is alive and well)!
      2. The example of **Ten Plagues in Egypt** (cf. Ex. 7-12)is a particularly strong argument for this point. God didn’t just simply create everything, but He continues to intervene, act and sustain in His creation (actively involved).
         1. River of Nile turned to blood (Ex. 7:14-25)
         2. Frogs come upon the land (Ex. 8:1-15)
         3. Gnats (Ex. 8:16-19)
         4. Insects/flies (Ex. 8:17-32)
         5. Livestock of Egyptians die (Ex. 9:1-7)
         6. Boils (Ex. 9:8-12)
         7. Hail (Ex. 9:13-35)
         8. Locusts (Ex. 10:1-20)
         9. Darkness (Ex. 10:21-29)
         10. Death of Egyptian firstborn (Ex. 11-12)
      3. Each of these plagues served not only as an act of judgment against Pharaoh and the Egyptians but also against their so-called gods (cf. Ex. 12:12). This shows that God (YHWH) is the **ONE TRUE LIVING GOD!**
2. **The Innate desires of Man**
   1. If there is no God, if there is nothing after death and I have neither to hope for good nor to fear for evil and I am just a byproduct of an accident and a tragic misstep in the evolutionary process, then my life is worth nothing and life itself is meaningless!
   2. Yet, we don’t accept that. We don’t swallow anything like that because it’s appalling to even think such a thing. There is something in man that moves us to seek and long for satisfaction and we don’t stop until we find it.
   3. Someone might say, *“I’m destined for greatness!”* Destined implies meaning. Meaning implies purpose and purpose points us to intelligence (cf. Ecc. 3:11). Our innate desires illustrate the purpose for which we were created (to seek for something beyond ourselves).
   4. Keller says*, “We have a longing for joy, love and beauty that no amount or quality of food, sex, friendship, success, money or wisdom can satisfy. We not only feel the reality but also the absence of what we long for”* (cf. Ecc. 1:12-18; 2:1-11; 5:10-15).
   5. The unfillable desires we all seek serve to show that God exists but also that there is only one true, living God! The fact that we all seek for satisfaction points us to a single creator with a single purpose (cf. Acts 17:26-28).
3. **Moral Obligation**
   1. If it were true that human beings were an accident, and all morals are relative then why do we hold a high standard for certain acts such as murder, adultery, stealing, racial discrimination etc. Why can’t we do whatever we want with impunity since life has no meaning and we are just a mistake after all?
   2. All human beings have moral feelings whether we like to admit it or not (there are some exceptions). Where do these feelings and standards come from? We have already seen that we are created beings made with a purpose. We were made in God’s likeness (cf. Gen. 1:26-27).
   3. If there is no God, then there cannot be a standard to which we hold one another accountable and to which we hold ourselves accountable. Morals would have to be self-made and naturally there would be chaos, confusion and anarchy and we don’t accept that. Our judicial system is modeled off of God’s divine system.
   4. Yet even though we hold to a higher standard of morality beyond ourselves, we don’t accept those gods who require child sacrifices. We don’t accept those gods who call for the open and blatant disregard for human life. Why? Because we are all made in the image of the one true living God! We all think like Him and reason like Him.

**The Evidence Shows:**

1. God is the creator and sustainer of all matter and life!
2. YHWH is the one true and living God who is actively involved in His creation!
3. Man’s innate desires point to a single and purposeful God who can satisfy our deepest needs!
4. Man’s obligation to morality is directly associated with being made in God’s image!