

F.A.C.S. REPORT

FOUNDATION for the ADVANCEMENT of CHRISTIAN STUDIES
P.O. Box 241 Engadine NSW 2233

"Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5)

Vol. 13, No. 2,

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February, 1994

Atheism and Fools

by Rev Dr P. George Logan¹

THE FOOL SAYS IN HIS HEART, "THERE IS NO GOD".
Psalm 14:1

God in His wonderful providence has, in the past two years, placed many an atheist across my path. The discussions which took place have been most interesting and also encouraging. Never once however, has any so-called atheist asked me to leave their home never to come back. In fact, many have invited me to come again for further talks.

Fools have always said there is no God. What is described in these verses, is more of a practical atheism rather than a theoretical atheism. Nevertheless, both are included. When men deny God's existence or live as though He were not there, then wickedness prevails. Atheism bears its proper fruit in rotten conduct. Such degeneracy of conduct always has its beginning in severing the connection with God.

To deny the existence of God is to belie the plainest evidence, which is arrogance. To deny the existence of God is to oppose the common consent of man, which is stupidity; To deny the existence of God stifles conscience, which is madness. Just as denying the existence of fire, does not stop its burning a person who is in it; so denying the existence of God does not stop the Judge of all the earth from destroying the rebel who breaks His laws.

The Hebrew word for fool (*nabhal*) signifies fading, dying, withering away. This is the title given to the foolish person as having lost the juice and sap of wisdom, reason, honesty and godliness. He is withering away. He is a sapless fellow, a carcase, a walking sepulchre in himself in whom all religion and right reason is withered and wasted, dried up and decayed.

How foolish then is the rage which raves and foams against Him in whom we live and move and have our being. How great the insanity which leads a man who owes his all to God to cry out in his heart "THERE IS NO GOD". This is plain impotent malice. Every person who runs to his own destruction in losing his soul and eternal life, is called a fool.

In today's society the pro abortion lobby tells us that we — ie. men — do not really have any say about the abor-

***"Atheism demands too much
... I wonder if the atheist has
been asleep in his study."***

tion issue. They say that men cannot tell women what to do with their bodies because we have never experienced motherhood. Now that is quite an illogical argument.

You see God says that the atheist is a fool, but He has never experienced being an atheist. He never was nor will He ever be an atheist. God has never been drunk, but that does not preclude Him from speaking about drunkenness and about the alcoholic.

Let me give you another example. A male doctor can speak about motherhood simply because he may have studied it, read about it, though I suppose he will never be able to have a baby. So I don't have to be an atheist, to be able to speak about the subject.

Atheism is not the solution to man's problems. Man's problems will not go away when he attempts to throw God out of his life. When a man

determines to live his life, conduct his business, run his family without God, that does not solve the problems in his home, in his business, in his life or morals. It is *no answer* to try to get rid of God.

Just last week a Judge in the supreme court in the USA, declined the application of a 13 year old boy to have the word "GOD" eliminated and taken out of the boy scout oath. He did this on the grounds that it would be discriminating against a certain sector of the American society.

We have just experienced the devastating fires in NSW, and one lady over the radio commented, "If there is a God, why doesn't He put out the fires?" Here you have someone trying to manipulate God, God as far as this woman is concerned, is to be at her beck and call. God being blamed for the acts of man.

Pres Bill Clinton and vice Pres Al Gore have what is called "surrogate debaters". These surrogate debaters publically debate on behalf of the President. Now one of these debaters is a Jewish lawyer called Edward Tabash, and in one of his public speeches declared that if the God of the Bible really existed, then he as a lawyer wanted to sue Him for negligence for being asleep at the wheel of the universe when his grandfather and uncle were gassed to death in Auschwitz.

But this atheist lawyer is quite illogical, for if the God of the Bible did not exist, then logically the lawyer loses all principled moral complaint about what Hitler did to the Jews. In a godless universe, what one "animal" does to other "animals" is ethically irrelevant. There is no basis for indignation or outrage for whatever happens, happens. This lawyer, a staunch supporter of personal freedom, of the gay rights movement, of pro abortion, of the legalizing of prostitution etc, should, in terms of his atheistic worldview, defend Hitler's freedom to do as he desired.

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F.A.C.S. REPORT is published monthly by the FOUNDATION for the ADVANCEMENT of CHRISTIAN STUDIES, a non-denominational educational organization. A free six month subscription is available upon request. Donations are invited, and those who send a donation of \$15 or more will receive a full year's subscription. Foreign subscriptions: a minimum donation of \$30, payable in Australian currency, is required for a year's subscription. Cheques should be made payable to F.A.C.S.

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Editor: Ian Hodge

The *position* of the atheist is really one in which he should be pitied because one cannot see how a genuine atheist can maintain his integrity or his sanity. He has problems. You see the *demands* of the atheist's position are so enormous that I for one don't see how he can face them. He has a creed, a faith, a religion, and his religion is "there is NO GOD". But, that makes absolute demands on the atheist if he is honest with himself. It means that there cannot be a shadow of a doubt in absolute terms of the possibility of there being a God and that that God is knowable by man. How does the atheist's faith make absolute demands upon him?

I remember being in the home of one particular atheistic couple. I called there in regard to making funeral arrangements for a relative of theirs who had passed away. Now whenever I am engaged in this type of ministry, I sometimes have a Bible reading and

"If there is no God, how does the fool explain Jesus Christ?"

most of the times, have a prayer with the surviving relatives. I say most of the times because I tell the people that I am in their home and therefore they are under no obligation to have prayer.

Going back to this one particular couple whom I had visited, when I suggested that a prayer be said, they replied in a most gracious way that they did not believe in that stuff, they were atheists, and that prayer therefore should not be said. I consented to their request. However, the challenge was just staring me in the face, and I said to the couple that I was overwhelmed to have met them for I had now met

the most remarkable and notable persons who had ever lived.

"What do you mean?" they asked.

"Well" I replied, "you being atheists are the most fantastic, wonderful and outstanding people that I have met".

"Please explain yourself," they requested.

"I would be glad to do so and what I have just said was for the following three reasons:-

"1. To claim to be an atheist in the absolute sense, with no doubt at all that God does not exist, means that you have been alive ever since time began. You see, if the atheist has *not* been alive ever since time began, (and I take it that you have not been around since time began), it is just conceivable that there is a God and that He revealed Himself during that period of time when you as atheists were not around.

2. If a man claims to be an atheist and states categorically that there is no God, then, what the atheist is saying is that he has been everywhere in the universe and beyond. And if the atheist has not been everywhere in the universe and beyond (and I am sure that you will concede that you have not been), it is just possible that there is a God and that He is lurking around in that bit of the universe where you have never been.

3. If a man claims to be an atheist, he is in effect saying that he knows everything that is possible for a human being to know, — every atom that can be crammed into the human brain is in the brain of the atheist. But if the atheist does NOT know everything that is possible for a human being to know, (and I am sure that you will agree that you do not know everything), it is just conceivable that outside of the boundaries of your atheistic knowledge, there is a God of which at the moment, you know nothing.

Very often after hearing the above, people then say:- "Oh well, you have studied it, we have not". But then it makes the case even more incredible. If the atheist has never studied theology, then how can he make such a profound statement and say in absolute terms "there is no God?"

Atheism demands too much — because it demands these three things at the very least of the man who would say — I am an atheist and my belief is correct.

"But," says the atheist, "If Christianity is the one and only true religion and if there is a God, why does He not reveal Himself. Let Him show Himself to the world directly for all to see,

Customer Service

TAXI!

So many people have hailed taxis and received an odd assortment of cars, drivers, and service. The cabs so often are unclean, the drivers dishevelled, and their ability to take you the shortest route questionable.

Thus it is a welcome sign to see a revolution underway in the taxi industry. The revolution is not being led by the huge taxi co-operatives, to which each taxi owner must have membership. Instead, the revolution is being led by drivers who have taken the mobile telephone and given cab passengers a substantial improvement in service and quality. Here's how it works.

A cab driver carries a mobile phone in his car. It is no longer necessary to call the cab company to get a car, but if you have the number of one of the drivers with a mobile phone, you can call him directly and order your taxi. Usually, the cabs with the mobile phones are clean, the drivers courteous, and, naturally, represent the more professionally-minded of the drivers. They want to provide a service and the mobile phone has become the means whereby service can be individualised.

Drivers usually form small work groups, although some of these can be as large as 50 or 60 cabs. When you phone a driver and he already has a booking, he passes it to another driver in the group and, on some occasions, he may even pass it to another group (or network) of phone cabs.

In Melbourne, for example, a very small group of just three cabs provide some of the best service in the taxi industry. Always neatly dressed (with ties and, on occasion, jackets), they provide a reliable and convenient service to the travelling public. Some drivers in mobile groups in Melbourne have begun to purchase higher quality cars, such as Fairlanes, and it's possible to be picked up and transported in a taxi with service that at one time cost the fees of a hire car. Now for the price on the taxi metre, you can have a cab waiting for you at the airport ready to take you to your destination.

The taxi co-operatives have fought back with computers, and an upgraded executive fleet service. While the computer booking services have certainly made getting a cab easier, the co-ops cannot compete with the mobile phones. Personalised service, with immediate contact between the passenger and the driver is hard to beat, even with the best computerised electronics.

There are clearly two winners in this arrangement. On the one hand the travelling public is able to get a better service and arrange to have a higher

rather than relying on ancient human made writings. Let Him tell us face to face how to worship and what to believe."

In answer to this, I wonder if the atheist has been asleep in his study. For it is precisely the definitive and glad proclamation of Christianity that God *has indeed* appeared to the world *directly* — in the Person of His Incarnate Son, Jesus the Messiah.

The God-Man Jesus Christ, confirmed the ancient writings (the Scriptures) as well as telling us *face to face* what we are to believe and how we are to approach God. Jesus said: "I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life; no man comes to the Father except by Me" (John.14:6). Jesus' utterly amazing claim was that He IS the centre of the one and only true religion — and He made that claim *in person* in the midst of human history for all mankind to see and hear. It is obvious that atheists are insincere and ingenuine in laying down prerequisites for belief in God. Their problem with God is *not* intellectual, but moral. They are rebels against heaven, rebels who have axes

"To acknowledge there is a God and then to go about our daily lives as if God did not exist — that is high treason against one's Maker."

to grind against God, in defense of their personal rebellion. They do not want to submit to God, they do not want to be under His authority, but are committing the same sin as Adam and Eve - to determine for themselves what is right and wrong, to be a law unto themselves and not under the law of God, etc.

The fool says in his heart, there is no God. We live in a permissive society in which it is considered almost wrong to make laws for the people, to lay down moral standards and principles. When we talk of the erosion of moral standards, of the absolute standards of love, purity, unselfishness, honesty, - have you ever thought of the question: *Who put those standards there in the first place?*

You see, absolutes are *not* evolutionary simply because they are absolutes, they *cannot* be improved upon. When we look around today we come to the conclusion that it is getting worse, it is not as safe as before, we cannot leave our homes without lock-

ing windows, doors etc., there are robberies etc.

Now I ask, why are those absolute standards everywhere? Despite the diversity of human culture, there is remarkable agreement on the essential values to which conscience points

In the heart of man, there is an iradicable moral monitor, a universal basic sense of difference between right and wrong. Who put it there if there is no God? How does the fool-atheist define the difference between right and wrong, how does he *explain* the *existence* of right and wrong without God? If there is no God, then what one person does to another is ethically irrelevant. There is *no* basis for indignation and outrage without God. Man's conscience is there. It may be seared, smothered and clogged by sin, but the fact is that man *does have* a *Conscience*.

If there is no God, how does the fool explain JESUS CHRIST? Jesus took the whole of the O.T. Scriptures and said: "All of this speaks about Me". He said to the Jews of His day - I know you read the Scriptures (meaning the O.T.), they actually testify of Me.

Jesus Christ was a Man who was *unique*. Here was a Man who never had any stain upon His life. He had and committed *no* fault or error of any kind. His enemies admitted that they found no fault in Him, Pilate's wife said: Have nothing to do with that just Man. The man who betrayed Jesus said: I have betrayed innocent blood. The Roman centurion who organised His execution said: Truly this was a righteous Man. One of the thieves hanging beside Jesus stated: This Man has done nothing amiss.

His closest friends, those who knew Him in public and in private life, who saw Him, lived with Him, saw Him under pressure stated the same. When you read the biographies of men, you still see them as sinners. But with Jesus you find that He *always* does that which pleases the Father. There is never a word which comes from His lips, never a thought in his mind, never an action that occupies His body that is not in perfect accord with the will and law of God. He said to His enemies: "which of you convinces Me of sin?" He said in effect: Come on, you've seen Me, heard Me, is there any among you that can say "that is sin"? Even in the camp of His enemies, not one could come forward.

He said: the prince of this world, the devil, has no effect on Me ever — none. He said in effect: No allurements has drawn Me off God's pathway; no

quality cab pick them up. The drivers, on the other hand, no longer find it necessary to take just any passenger off the street. The mobile phones can account for up to 80% of a driver's work, and he no longer needs to chase work on the ranks or look for people hailing cabs on the street.

The losers in the deal are the taxi co-ops. Thus they have sought, so far unsuccessfully, to have the mobile phones removed from the cabs. Competition, it seems, can become too much. The other losers in the deal are drivers who have poor quality cabs and no mobile phone. These cars are left to work the pick-up points and take the calls through the co-op phone system.

It is the free enterprise system in action. It has revolutionised the way people will organise taxi travel in future, and the clear beneficiaries are both the driver and the passenger. This idea needs your support, especially as we can expect more attempted litigation as the co-ops fight to save their legislated privileges. The mobile phone groups will almost make the co-ops obsolete, and will certainly force them into providing value-added services back to the drivers in order to keep drivers in the co-operative. So, next time you need a cab in Sydney try calling Terry on 018-442-043, and in Melbourne ring Scott on 018-179-530. You might find cabbage a better experience.

* * * *

Fool

Afamous preacher entered his church one Sunday and found several letters awaiting him in the pulpit. He opened one and found it contained the single word, "Fool." Quietly, and with becoming seriousness, he announced to the congregation these words:

"I have known many an instance of a man writing a letter and forgetting to sign his name. But this is the only instance I have ever known of a man signing his name and forgetting to write the letter."

* * * *

Harmonius Litigation

In America, it seems you can sue for almost anything. Carla Vindicaro, a professional violinist, practised for 12 hours a day. It was her choice to do this in order to support her family. But Carla became unable to straighten her arms. Nor could she raise her left cheek from her shoulder.

temptation has ever penetrated Me; no enticement to sin has ever left a stain on My character. I AM PERFECT.

He never apologized — there was no need for it, He never changed His mind, never asked for anybody's advice, never once said — I think so or I hope so, or this is My opinion, or it may be. No. He said I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE; I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD; HE WHO follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

He said I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE, I AM THE LIVING WATER, if a man drinks of Me he shall never thirst. What kind of Man could say these things and not lie except He be God?

Jesus claimed with crystal clarity that He was God Incarnate - God in human flesh. Now THAT is a problem for the atheist because for him there is no God. Was Jesus telling a lie? Let me put to you the *only alternative*. He was telling the truth when He said: He that has seen Me has seen the Father. If this is so, then there must be a God — He was and is God.

Perhaps you say to me, but I believe in God, I'm no atheist. Let me

ask: are you a practising atheist, living as though God did not exist and that He does not matter to you? To acknowledge there is a God and then to go about our daily lives as if God did not exist — that is high treason against one's Maker.

To live as though God does not exist in the work force, or at school, or at home or at parliament is being a fool, an atheist. What does God think about that? The Bible speaks about such people in the book of Romans. Though they knew God, — ie. they knew that He existed, they neither glorified Him as God nor did they give thanks to Him. Result? God gave them up to vile passions.

If we deny Him, He will deny us; and the corollary is also true, if we confess Him, He will confess us, if we accept Him, He will accept us. I have said enough even though I have enough material for another sermon, but I'll leave it there.

Let me conclude in asking, do you and I so live at home, at work, at school or university as to believe that God does exist *there*? I hope that our response is not one of carelessness, but, "I need to get right with God".

On the advice of a lawyer, she sued her teacher, the Julliard School of Music, the violin maker and the seller of the instrument. She was awarded \$3 million from her teacher and the Julliard School. The violin dealer was ruled negligent for not placing a warning on the instrument. He too was found liable for \$3 million.

But the most scandalous ruling was against the violin manufacturer. Even though he died before the year 1800, the court ruled that his heirs were liable for \$40 million. (If you have any relatives making violins, divorce them now and save your grandkids millions.)

This case is as bad as the one where a large Wal-Mart store in Houston, Texas, is being sued for selling a gun that was later used in the murder of two people. The family of the victims is suing, hoping, no doubt, for a huge financial settlement from a large retail chain.

This is not justice, but a legal system run amok. Let's pray and work that the law courts in Australia do not achieve a similar notoriety.