

# THE EXAMINER



Published by the Winter Park church of Christ  
Meeting at: 2122 Market Street; Wilmington NC 28403  
[www.winterparkcocnc.com](http://www.winterparkcocnc.com)

Vol. 2, No. 15

Edited by John Cripps

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## Why I Believe That God Is ---- by Bobby K. Thompson

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." (**I Peter 3:15**). According to this verse, Christians may be called upon to give an answer for the reason of their hope. Involved in giving a true answer, one is called upon to acknowledge faith in God. He is to be ready to give a reason for the hope that he has, and why he believes God exists. Christians need to think about the reason for their hope, and that their hope depends upon the existence of God. We should be ready and willing to tell people of the hope we have and the reason for it. When you are asked, why do you believe in God, what is your explanation? What answer do you offer when faced with this question? As Christians, we have sacred responsibility in giving plausible and reasonable answers to the question. God expects Christians to honor Him by being ready always to give an answer for the reason of our hope. This is always to be done always, with respect and reverence for God. It is to come from those who sanctify the Lord God in their hearts, and are

not ashamed of acknowledging God in their lives.

**I Believe That God Is**, Because: I was taught to believe. As a child, I was reared in a home where God was honored and revered. I thank God for a mother and father who never questioned the existence of God. This respect and honor, they passed on to their children. The scriptures direct such teaching to be a part of a child's righteous education which comes from a godly home. "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (**Deuteronomy 6:6-7**). "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (**Proverbs 22:6**). "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the

Lord." (**Ephesians 6:1-4**). These and other scriptures teach the value of children being taught of the existence of God. I am thankful that I had parents who believed that God is and taught their children to believe that He exists. I regret that some children have not been so fortunate, and have not had godly parents to teach them to "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;" (**Ecclesiastes 12:1**). It is also regrettable that some children, having been taught the truth of the existence of God, have departed from the faithful by no longer recognizing God's existence in their lives. The parental teaching has apparently been to no profit in the lives of so many! Those of us, who have had teaching in their younger lives to believe in the existence of God, have perhaps been accused by unbelievers that we were "brainwashed" or believed under duress. This has prompted many to reaffirm their faith in God, and be ready to give an answer for the reason of our hope. Other than parental teaching,

**I Believe That God Is**, Because: Of mind over matter. The world is composed of mind and matter. It is obvious that matter does not create matter. There is mind behind every creation of matter. One group of thinkers suppose that matter is eternal and has created mind, intellect and life. The other group suppose that mind-Almighty God-has

existed from all eternity and has created the material universe. Which position is the more reasonable? "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." (**Genesis 1:1-3**) A reasonable explanation for the existence of this earth is found in Genesis. There is no explanation for concluding matter creates matter. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" (**Romans 1:18-20**). All the works of man are examples of causation. We see a house and we know it has a builder. Every house is built by some man, and though we never find the builder, yet we well know he exists. I look at this computer. It did not build itself. This computer had an intelligent maker. He possessed power. These things are self-evident. Though I may never see that computer maker, yet I know he existed and I know something about him from the product he made. In the same way, we may know that God exists and we may know

something about Him by seeing the things which He has made. "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psalms 8:3-4).

I Also Believe That God Is Because: Of the universe's design. The fact that the universe exhibits design is evidence that there must be a great designer. "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" (Psalms 8:3-9). "Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." (Psalms 33:8-9).

An atheist is reputed to have said, "Show me your God. Let me hear, feel, smell or taste him and I will believe that he exists." To which the Christian replied, "Show me your brains-let me see, hear, feel, smell or taste them, and I will believe that

they exist." We cannot see life. A man waves his hand and we see the effect of life. We do not hear life. As we speak we hear only the effect of life. We do not feel life. We may feel the pulse of man but that is only the effect of life. Life cannot be demonstrated to the senses. Yet we know men live by the way they behave-and perhaps misbehave. There is life back of the action and though it cannot be demonstrated to the senses, yet we believe it exists. In the same way, we believe God exists because of the way the universe behaves. There is power back of the orderly arrangement, the evident design and precise operation of the universe. If the universe gives us important chemical combinations, there must be a great Chemist. Thomas A. Edison said that the universe is such an engineering feat, "There must be a Great Engineer". From these conclusions there is no escape. God exists.

History reveals that Benjamin Franklin, while in Paris, made a model planetary system showing the earth and the planets nearest it. Many astronomers copied it to use in their studies. One day an atheist friend saw the model and asked, "Who made it?" "No one made it," answered Franklin. "It made itself, it just happened." "What," cried the man, "you're joking." "And so is the man who says the universe just happened," replied Franklin.

The universe's design has been proven to be scientifically true. "He stretcheth out the north over the

empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." (Job 26:7). Astronomers have discovered that there is a great empty space in the North. They did not know until recent times that such an empty space existed in the North. Job wrote of it and he did not write by guess. It must be that he wrote by the inspiration of the true and living God. When men sailed around the earth, they discovered that the earth touches nothing, that nothing visible holds it in place. "and hangeth the earth upon nothing," (Job 26:7), was understood. The ancient book of Job is absolutely scientific. Indeed so, the existing God told Job what to write. If not, how did he find out these things, and know of the universe's design? Furthermore, Magellan and his men sailed around the earth and thus proved it to be spherical in shape. But of the shape of the earth, the author of the Bible was not in ignorance. "It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:" (Isaiah 40:22). That the writers of the Bible wrote of the rotundity of the earth cannot be questioned. They could have learned of this only from the true and living God. The design of the universe reveals evidence that God is and will forever exist.

**SETTLED IN HEAVEN**

**GOD SAID IT - I BELIEVE IT THAT SETTLES IT!**

**PSM. 119:89**

**JESUS SAID - MT. 16:19:18:18: JO. 14:26:16:13**

**WELCOME DELEGATES**

**THE ISSUES BEFORE THIS CONVENTION ARE...**

**WHAT TO PREACH**  
 MK. 16:15: 1 COR. 15:1-4: GAL. 1:6-9:  
 2 TIM. 4:1,2: ACTS 2:36-38: MT. 15:8,9

**WHO IS TO PREACH**  
 MK. 16:14,15: 2 TIM. 2:1,2:  
 1 TIM. 2:11-14

**WHAT CONSTITUTES SIN**  
 1 JO. 5:17: 1 COR. 6:9,10: 1 JO. 3:4:  
 JS. 4:17: ROM. 14:23

**THEY HAVE ALL BEEN SETTLED!**

**THE REMEDY FOR SIN**  
 MT. 26:28: ROM. 5:8,9:  
 1 PET. 1:18,19: HEB. 5:8,9: 1 JO. 1:7

**CONDUCT**  
 PHIL. 1:27: TIT. 2:11,12:  
 1 THESS. 5:22: 1 PET. 1:15,16

**MARRIAGE**  
 MT. 5:32: 19:3-9:  
 ROM. 7:1-3: 1 COR. 7:10,11

**WORSHIP**  
 JO. 4:23,24: ACTS 2:42:  
 EPH. 5:19: ACTS 20:7:  
 1 COR. 16:1,2

**WORK**  
 2 TIM. 3:16,17: 1 TIM. 3:15:  
 EPH. 4:15,16: ACTS 11:27-30:  
 2 COR. 8:1-8