

# THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD

## SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

### I. INTRODUCTION

**Acts 17:16** While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols.

**Acts 17:17-18** So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.

**Acts 17:19-21** Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

**Acts 17:22-23** Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

### II. THREE QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD

#### 1. *Is God just another idea?*

**Acts 17:18-21** A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, “What is this babbler trying to say?” Others remarked, “He seems to be advocating foreign gods.” They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.” (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

**A. God is either the God of your life or just another god in your life.**

**B. How do we know that there is a God?**

- Cosmological Argument — Everything that has a beginning has a cause.

- Design Argument — Evidence of design shows evidence of a designer.
- Morality Argument — Only a moral lawgiver can offer us true right and wrong.
- Wager Argument — It makes more sense to bet on the reality of God's existence than to not.

## *2. Is God just an insurance policy?*

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**A. How you see the world filters how you see God.**

**B. How you see God filters how you see the world.**

**C. Your world view all depends on what you look at first.**

## *3. Is God living in you?*

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**A. There is a longing in every heart to know the one, true God.**

**Isaiah 2:8** Their land is full of idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their fingers have made.

**Jeremiah 10:5** Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good.”

**Habakkuk 2:18-19** “Of what value is an idol carved by a craftsman? Or an image that teaches lies? For the one who makes it trusts in his own creation; he makes idols that cannot speak. Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Come to life!’ Or to lifeless stone, ‘Wake up!’ Can it give guidance? It is covered with gold and silver; there is no breath in it.”

- Anything we give our worship to other than God is just an empty substitute.

**Romans 8:10-11** But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

- Life is found in Jesus Christ.

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**B. When was the last time you were greatly distressed for someone far from God?**

- What breaks your heart moves you to action.
- God, break our hearts for those without you.

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

**Romans 10:9-10** If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.