

**FEATURE: *Faith to Be an Atheist*  
(Second in SERIES)**

VOICE: Professor, on our previous program I learned something I had never realized before. Believers in God aren't the only people who have faith. Atheists also have large amounts of it.

PROF.: Yes. In fact, a more accurate way to describe an "atheist," is "a believer in atheism."

FORMAT: THEME AND ANNOUNCEMENT

VOICE: Professor, what did you mean when you said a moment ago, "A more accurate way to describe an 'atheist,' is 'a believer in atheism' "? You sound as if atheism is a doctrine or creed.

PROF.: Well, it really is. Atheism is a worldview – a way of looking at the world through a lens.

VOICE: What kind of lens?

PROF.: Atheism is like the kind of glasses<sup>1</sup> that a person uses for reading. These lenses focus on a printed page or a computer screen a few centimeters away. If a person wearing those close-focus lenses looks out the window, he doesn't see trees clearly. If he tries to see stars and galaxies, he sees them as a big blur.<sup>2</sup>

VOICE: Are you implying atheism sees only part of reality?

PROF.: Yes. An atheist sees part of the facts. But he often says very confidently, that the little bit he sees, is all there is!

VOICE: In other words, if he doesn't see something, he assumes it doesn't exist?

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1 Lenses that many people wear in front of their eyes to correct myopia, astigmatism or other eye problems.  
French: *lunettes*.

2 Very unclearly.

PROF.: Yes. Another way of saying it is, atheism is like looking at the world through Venetian blinds.<sup>3</sup> When someone looks at the world through atheistic lenses, he sees nothing except what is on the horizontal plane.<sup>4</sup> He sees the material world – things that are on the human [level] or animal level.

Atheistic lenses screen out<sup>5</sup> what is vertical – the part of reality that includes God.

VOICE: But some scientists say that the material world is the only thing that exists. For example, the late American astronomer Carl Sagan said, quote, “The Cosmos<sup>6</sup> is all that is or ever was or ever will be.”

PROF.: Yes, Dr. Sagan said that. But what evidence did he have for that statement?

VOICE: Well, I guess he didn't *see* anything except the material universe.

PROF.: But we all believe in things we can't see with our physical eyes. We don't doubt gravity, and we don't disbelieve love.

VOICE: But we see the **results** of gravity – pulling things downward. And we see the results of love – inspiring people to live for a purpose higher than themselves.

PROF.: We Christian believers reason that we see the results of God. We see amazingly intricate structures in nature, and we reason that the most logical way to explain wise design, is a wise Designer. One of my friends often says, “Nature is an effect, whose cause is God.”

VOICE: If logic points to God, then why doesn't everyone believe in Him?

PROF.: In his book, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, Dr. Norman Geisler and Frank Turek answer, “God has provided enough evidence...to convince anyone willing to believe, yet he has left some ambiguity<sup>7</sup> so as not to compel the unwilling.”

VOICE: Are they saying that God doesn't provide evidence that shows with 100 percent certainty that He exists?

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3 A series of horizontal strips of metal or plastic, spaced a few centimeters apart and held in place by cloth strips. They are usually installed in front of windows, and can be adjusted to let light enter a room or close it out.

4 In horizontal directions.

5 They do not allow a person to see these other things, by not allowing vertically-polarized light rays to pass through the lens.

6 The universe.

7 Having uncertain meaning; capable of being interpreted in various ways. In this case, the data can be interpreted to imply God's existence or to imply that He doesn't exist.

- PROF.: Yes. God provides enough evidence to make it more logical for our intellects to infer His *existence* than to infer His *non-existence*. But God leaves enough uncertainty, that a person who wants to disbelieve will not be forced to believe in God.
- VOICE: Drs. Geisler and Turek spoke of people who are “willing” or “unwilling” to believe. Are they saying a person’s will<sup>8</sup> can keep him from evaluating evidence accurately? Does the will influence people to accept or reject facts?
- PROF.: Yes, several atheistic philosophers have admitted this. For example, on a previous program I mentioned that the late German philosopher and poet Friedrich Nietzsche [FREE-drik NEET-shee] had written, quote, “It is *our preference* that decides against Christianity, not arguments.” End quote. And recently I discovered that he also said, “If one were to prove this God of the Christians to us, we should be even less able to believe in him.”
- VOICE: (SURPRISED) Does he mean that the more evidence someone would provide *for God*, the more strongly he would *resist that evidence*?
- PROF.: Yes. Geisler and Turek summarize, quote, “Obviously, Nietzsche’s disbelief was based on his will, not his intellect.” End quote.  
That agrees very well with what the Bible says in the first chapter of Romans. (TURNS PAGES) Here, read verses 18 through 20.
- VOICE: “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”
- PROF.: That’s what we were talking about a moment ago, God’s invisible qualities of power and intelligence being seen or at least implied as we examine the universe that He has made.
- VOICE: But the part that says many people “suppress the truth by their wickedness” doesn’t make sense to me. Why would a person refuse to follow the facts, whether they lead to God or away from Him?
- PROF.: The authors answer, quote, “...many believe that accepting the truth of Christianity would require them to change their thinking, friends, priorities, lifestyle or morals – and they are not...willing to give up control of their lives in order to make those changes. They believe that life would be easier and more fun without such changes.”

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8 His ability to choose, to accept or reject.

- VOICE: I have noticed that. Some people get more money by breaking God's commandment, "You shall not steal" (Exodus [II Moses] 20:15) or by using some unethical business practices.  
Others think they can have more fun by disobeying "You shall not commit adultery." (20:14). So naturally they prefer to believe that God does not exist, and that no one will punish them for breaking God's laws.
- PROF.: Atheists apply a lot of faith in their efforts to "suppress" or "hold down" the obvious truth that nature did not create itself. They "suppress the truth" and reject the personal God that the Bible reveals.
- VOICE: But doesn't the Bible "suppress" much of the fun in life? For example, it teaches that we should limit our sexual activity – not "doing it"<sup>9</sup> until we're married, and then not cheating on our spouse.<sup>10</sup>  
Doesn't that needlessly limit our fun?
- PROF.: No. It limits our heartaches and regrets.
- VOICE: (SURPRISED) What do you mean?
- PROF.: One marriage expert says, quote, "Meaningful sexual activity involves the physical union of a man and a woman in a relationship of mutual caring and intimacy. Every normal person has the physical desire for sexual activity, accompanied with a desire to know and be known, to love and be loved. Both desires make up the real quest for intimacy in a relationship; sexual intercourse represents only one ingredient that allows us to experience true intimacy."
- VOICE: Are you saying that when two people see each other as just bodies, they fail to develop a deep friendship and appreciation for each other?
- PROF.: Yes. When they hurry into physical contact, they miss the opportunity of learning more about each other's minds and hearts – their ambitions and aspirations.  
Understanding, affection and trust take time to develop. When two people rush to touch the "outer person," the body, they skip the long walks and conversation – the opportunity to know and admire the "inner person."
- VOICE: That's probably true of a man and a woman who have sex and then marry each other. What happens when a person is sexually active with *several* people before he or she finally marries one of them?

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9 An idiom meaning having sex.

10 Not having sexual activity with anyone except one's husband or wife.

PROF.: That creates serious emotional complications. A man who has counseled many couples who have had difficulty explains that he has learned, quote, “A maximum sexual relationship exists where mutual communication, understanding, affection, and trust have formed, and two people have lastingly committed themselves to each other in a permanent relationship. The more of these qualities that are present, the deeper the intimacy and the more meaningful the relationship. It becomes more valuable as time passes because it is one of a kind – unique.”

He continues, “To spread the intimacy around through a variety of sexual liaisons destroys the accumulated value of the previous relationships and dilutes and scatters – in little doses to a number of people – what one has to give.”

VOICE: That reminds me of a song that was popular several years ago, “I’m Saving All My Love for You.”

PROF.: Yes. Human experience shows that saving yourself for one person is much more satisfying, in the long term.

VOICE: So all of us “suppress” something. Atheists suppress their knowledge that God exists, so they can indulge in behavior that they know would displease God if they admitted He exists.

PROF.: And people who follow God’s instructions in the Bible temporarily suppress their sexual impulses, holding them until marriage. The choice is like having spam at five o’clock [1700 hours], or waiting and having *filet mignon* at 7:30 [1930].<sup>11</sup>

Experience shows that people are more satisfied over a lifetime, when they accept the fact that God exists – and when they understand that God has given us standards for behavior that gives us the best benefits and the greatest long-term satisfaction.

VOICE: Well, Professor, now I understand why you say believers in God aren’t the only people who have faith. Atheists also have large amounts of it.

PROF.: In fact, a more accurate way to describe an “atheist,” is “a believer in atheism.”

FORMAT: THEME AND ANNOUNCEMENT

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<sup>11</sup> Translate “spam” as some kind of cheap, low-quality meat, and *filet mignon* as a delicious delicacy.