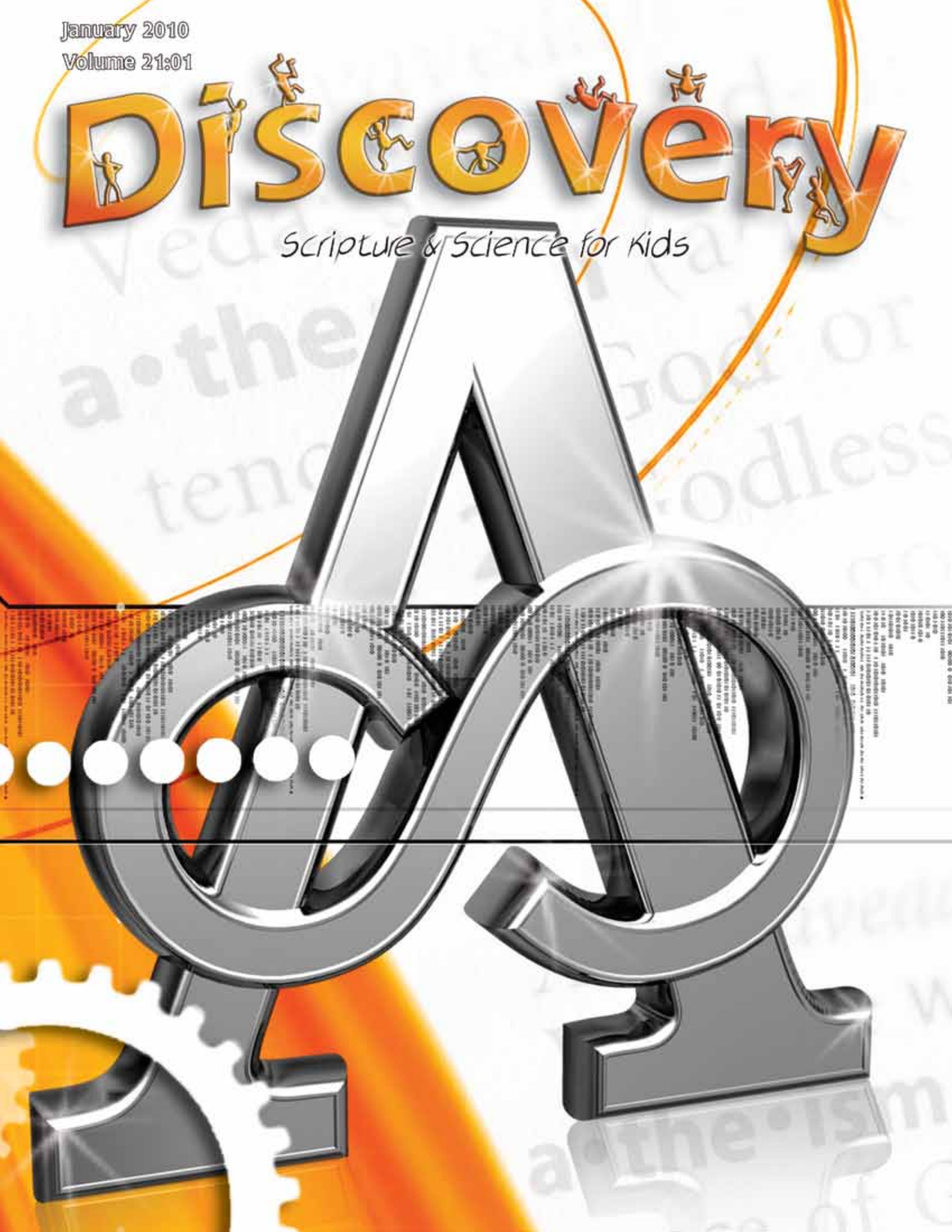


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# Discovery

*Scripture & Science for Kids*





# Why Are Some People ATHEISTS?

ERIC LYONS

*Theos* is the Greek word for God. It is from this word that we get our English word theism. Theism is belief in God. A person who believes in God is called a theist. On the other hand, **atheism** is disbelief in God. (In Greek, “*a*” means “not” or “without.”) **Atheists** are those who do **not** believe in God.

You may wonder how anyone could ever be an atheist. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handwork” (Psalm 19:1). God’s “invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made” (Romans 1:20). The design of the Universe and everything in it (including humans, animals, and plants) bear witness to an intelligent Designer. How could anyone ever say that God, the grand Designer, does not exist?

In truth, no one can logically defend the statement, “I know that there is no God.” Why? Because humans do not know everything. We do not know every fact that there is to know. For a person to “know” there is no God, he would have to know everything; otherwise

the one thing he does not know could be the fact that God exists. So, in reality, though people may say, “There is no God,” they could never **prove** such a statement.

Still, why is it that millions of people on Earth disbelieve in their Creator? Why do they doubt His existence? There are many reasons for disbelief. In fact, if you polled 100 atheists and asked them why they do not believe in God, you would get a variety of answers.



Some people do not believe in God because their parents don’t believe in God. Many children simply believe what their parents say without really thinking for themselves. But believing something only because your parents believe it is not reasonable. Some parents may teach their children that two plus two is five, or that Abraham Lincoln was the first President of the United States (rather than the 16<sup>th</sup>), or that murder is a good thing. But such teachings are wrong. Likewise, atheism is wrong. God exists even if parents say otherwise.

Some people disbelieve in God, not because their parents and mentors have taught them that God does not exist. Rather, they do not believe in God because they have never heard the positive, powerful proofs of God’s existence. Young people who never wonder how everything in the Universe got here, or how human intelligence demands that a greater Intelligence (God) must exist, may grow up to become atheists. For this reason, Christians need to be ready and willing to give people sound arguments for God’s existence—arguments such as design demands a Designer.

Many people are atheists because they believe “all smart people are atheists.” If intelligent teachers say that God does not exist, then God must not exist, right? Wrong! First, not all “smart” teachers or scientists are atheists. Many thousands, perhaps millions, of brilliant scientists around the world are theists, not atheists. Second, a person should never accept something as true just because others do.

Even if everyone on Earth were atheists, that still is no excuse to be an atheist.

Truth is truth regardless of who or how many disbelieve it. Third, the Bible says, “The **fool** has said in his heart, ‘There is no God’” (Psalm 14:1; 53:1). Some atheists may be highly trained and educated, but if they do not believe in the Creator of the Universe, they are foolish, not smart.

A number of people choose to be atheists because they want to be their own boss. That is, they do not want to accept the idea that they may be accountable to a higher Being. Whereas Christians live life on Earth in view of the fact that they must act according to God’s will, many atheists like the idea of **not** having to answer to a higher power. They do as they please. If there is no God, then there is nothing really wrong with any actions such as cursing, lying, and cheating. The fact is, however, everyone is subject to the Creator, whether they want to believe it or not.

These are only a few of the reasons why people become atheists. Others choose to reject God because of pride, or because of the suffering they see in the world, or because they know insincere Christians who **act** as if there is no God (though they profess to believe in Him). Yet, when all is said and done, there has never been and never will be a good reason to reject God. No one can reasonably be an atheist, but anyone can sensibly choose to believe in God and become a Christian (Revelation 22:17; John 3:16; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).



# Atheism Has Terrible CONSEQUENCES

Kyle Butt

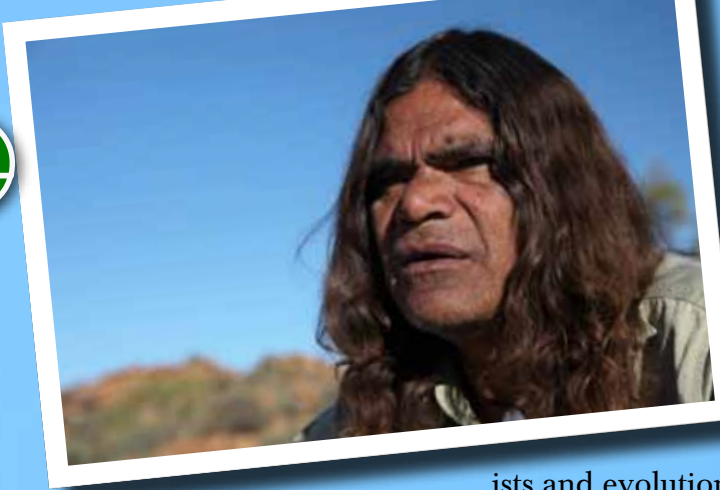
When the Founding Fathers of the United States of America decided to break away from Britain, they wrote a famous document called the *Declaration of Independence*. In that document, they said: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are **created** equal, that they are endowed

**by their Creator** with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” These words are very famous. They show us that the men who founded our country understood that human rights come from the Creator. If God made each person in His image, then all people are equal and deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

But what if a person believes the false idea of atheism? According to atheism, people were not created in God’s image.

In fact, according to atheism, humans are just another kind of animal that arose

by accident over millions of years. Since atheists cannot say that God created humans with certain rights, the idea of atheism has led to some very bad things. For instance, some



people in the past believed that certain groups of humans were not as highly evolved as other groups.

Some atheists and evolutionists believed that the Aborigines in Australia were not “totally” human. They believed the Aborigines could be treated like animals and killed. This never would have happened if these people had understood the truth that all humans—Aborigines, Caucasians, Asians, Africans, and all others—are created by God and deserve equal treatment.

The idea of atheism also leads to an incorrect view about unborn babies. According to many atheists, unborn babies are not really people, and they should not be guaranteed the right to life. In fact, one atheist named Sam Harris said that he views unborn babies like he views rabbits. Because of his atheistic views, he believes and teaches that it is fine to kill unborn babies, just like people kill some types of animals. Another atheist named Peter Singer believes that if a child is born with certain physical or mental handicaps, it would be all right to kill that child, even after the baby is born. These men believe it is right to kill babies because they do not believe that all humans are created in God’s image. Yet knowing that God did create humans, we can see that men like Sam Harris and Peter Singer are wrong. All humans, even unborn babies and those with handicaps, deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

Also, since atheists believe that people are just complex animals, many atheists believe we can watch animals and learn how to behave. They believe that since we see animals killing their babies, fighting each other, or stealing food from other animals, then it would be right for humans to do the same things. But this idea is wrong. Humans are not merely complex animals. People are

special creations designed by God. Humans cannot say that stealing is right just because some animals steal food from other animals. Humans are different from animals. We do not learn what is right or wrong from watching animals. We learn what is right and wrong from listening to our Creator’s teaching found in the Bible.

In the year 1880, a man named George Walser started a town that he named Liberal, Missouri. This town was going to be different from other towns. Liberal was different because it was founded on the idea of atheism. Walser did not want anyone who believed in God or the Bible or heaven or hell to be a part of his town. He wanted to show the world that a group of atheists could live together in peace and could be productive citizens. Walser’s town failed miserably. A believer in God named Clark Braden visited Liberal and wrote about all the disgusting things that were happening there. He reported that many of the people got drunk often. He mentioned that many of the men, women, and children of Liberal used bad language and curse words, and the children did not obey their parents. Braden wrote about other terrible things that were going on in Liberal. Soon after Braden’s report, people began to learn the truth about Liberal, Missouri. The town was a complete failure. No society based on atheism can be productive or good.

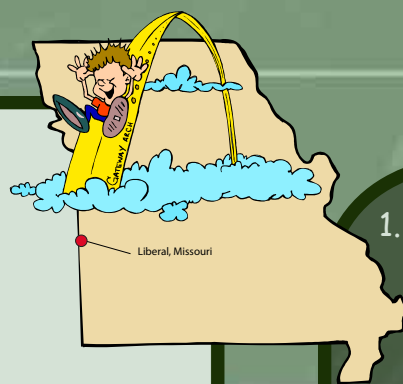
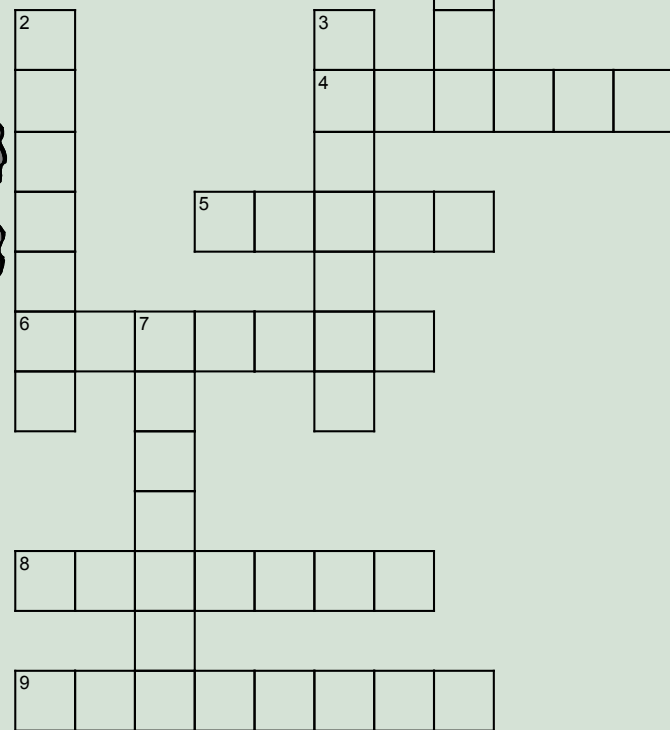
In Psalm 14:1, the Bible says: “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.” God has always known that if people reject Him, they become corrupt and live sinful lives. Only a belief in God can help people understand what actions are truly right and truly wrong.



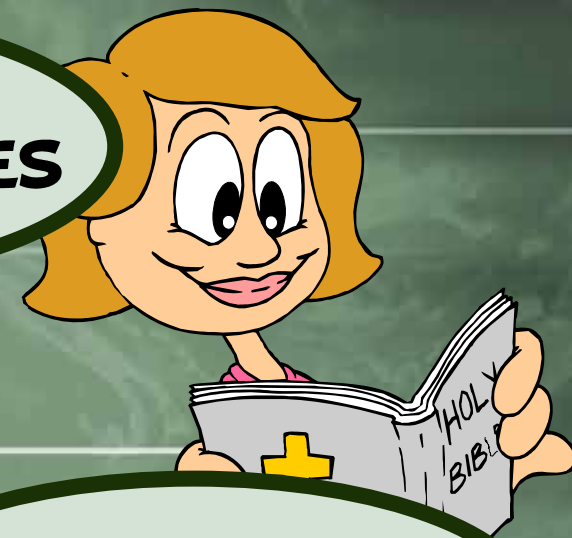


# ACTIVITY PAGES

## CROSSWORD CHALLENGE



## COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES (NKJV)



1. "The \_\_\_\_\_ declare the glory of \_\_\_\_\_; and the firmament shows His \_\_\_\_\_" (Psalm 19:1).
2. "The \_\_\_\_\_ has said in his heart, 'There is no \_\_\_\_\_.' They are \_\_\_\_\_, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good" (Psalm 14:1).
3. "For since the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world His invisible attributes are clearly \_\_\_\_\_, being \_\_\_\_\_ by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

## ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER

1. Give at least four reasons why some people are atheists.
2. Explain what is wrong with the statement, "I know that God does not exist."

"GOD, I'm too smart to believe in you."

Psalm 14:1

## TRUE OR FALSE

1.  There is little proof for the existence of God.
2.  The idea of atheism has led to some very bad things.
3.  All smart people are atheists.
4.  It is impossible to know the truth.
5.  Liberal, Missouri was begun by Christians.
6.  There are no good reasons to be an atheist.
7.  Design demands a designer.
8.  Only a belief in God can help people understand what actions are truly right and truly wrong.

### Across

4. Belief in God
5. Greek word for God
6. Disbelief in God
8. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their \_\_\_\_\_ with certain unalienable Rights...."
9. The Cause of design

### Down

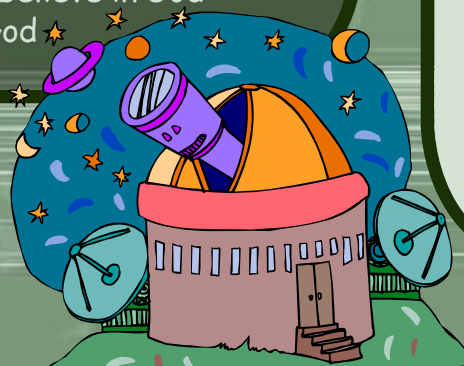
1. Book inspired by God
2. Town in Missouri founded by atheists
3. A person who does not believe in God
7. Declares the glory of God

Dear Digger Doug,

Why do scientists exist?  
—Ashley, Northridge, CA

Dear Ashley,

Thanks for your great question. First, we must understand that scientists are simply people like everyone else. All people exist for one primary reason—to obey God and bring glory to His name. Solomon said that the whole purpose for all humans is to fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Since scientists study God's creation, they should be great at seeing His handiwork and giving glory to Him. Unfortunately, many scientists have forgotten their purpose. They have tried to explain things in nature without including God. In order to do this, they have made a mess of both science and their own lives. Only when a scientist, or any person, gives God glory can that person truly be fulfilling the real purpose for his or her life.







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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## Dave Miller

Have you noticed that some people act as if you cannot know truth? For instance, a person may say that he is not sure that an immoral action is really wrong. Or he may claim that everyone is entitled to his own opinion. Many feel that one viewpoint is as good as another. They believe that we cannot be certain as to what is ultimately right or wrong, so no one should say who is right and who is wrong.

But this idea is false. It's a convenient way for people to excuse themselves from responsibility for their actions. When Jesus said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32), He showed that we must be right about certain matters. True, we do not know **everything**. But we can know **some** things—those things that God **expects** us to know. **We can know truth!** And we can know that God exists and that He created the Universe.

But if we can know the truth about God's existence, why are there so many atheists? Why do so

many people not embrace God's truth about Christ and Christianity? Answer: Because most people want to live the way they choose—without God's restrictions upon them (read Jeremiah 6:16-17). But there is no excuse for anyone to be an atheist, an evolutionist, or to reject God and live life as if He does not exist. Why? "[B]ecause what may be known of God is manifest in them [plain to them], for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:19-20).

God has given everyone on Earth plenty of evidence to know that He exists and that He created the World. That evidence is seen in the marvelous creation all around us. And it is seen in the only book on Earth that shows itself to have been written by God—the Bible. On the Day of Judgment, no human will be able to claim that God did not give us enough evidence to know He exists.

## ANSWERS

COMPLETE THE BIBLE VERSES: 1. heavens, God, handiwork; 2. fool, God, corrupt; 3. creation, seen, understood.  
 TRUE OR FALSE: 1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. F; 5. F; 6. T; 7. T; 8. T.  
 CROSSWORD CHALLENGE: Across: 4. theism; 5. theos; 6. atheist; 7. heaven; 8. atheist; 9. heaven.  
 Down: 1. Bible; 2. Liberal; 3. atheist; 7. heaven.  
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