

Introduction to Apologetics

SESSION 5: DOES GOD EXIST?

5B: Answering Atheism (Part 1)

1. The Biblical ABCs for God's Existence
 - a. A: Physical and human reveal AWARENESS of God. (Psalm 19:1-4; Ecclesiastes 3:11)
 - b. B: The universal standard of BEHAVIOR reveals God. (Romans 2:14-16)
 - c. C: Atheists CONTRADICT themselves by denying God's existence. (Romans 1:18-21)
2. The God of Classical Theism
 - a. Geisler explains that the God of classical theism "is the foundation of Christian theology. If the God of traditional Christian theism does not exist, then logically evangelical theology crumbles. Attempting to construct an evangelical theology without the superstructure of traditional theism is like trying to put together a house without a frame. Theism is the metaphysical precondition for evangelical theology."
 - b. The God of classical Christian theism is the God of the omnis: omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscipia, omnibenevolence.
 - c. Here are the names of the five major philosophical arguments for the God of classical Christian theism.
 - i. One is based on objective and subjective evidence: the Ontological Argument.
 - ii. Two are based on objective evidence.
 1. The Cosmological Argument
 2. The Teleological Argument
 - iii. Two are based on subjective evidence.
 1. The Moral Argument
 2. The Desire Argument
3. The Ontological Argument (Anselm) – Objective and Subjective Evidence
 - a. God is understood or defined as a being than which nothing greater can be conceived.
 - b. A thing exists either in (a) the understanding only...or (b) in both the understanding and reality.
 - c. It is greater to exist in reality than to exist merely in the understanding.
 - d. If God exists merely in the understanding...then God is not the greatest possible being, since a being that existed in reality would be greater than a being that existed only in the understanding.
 - e. But God is by definition the greatest possible being.
 - f. Therefore, it seems to make the most sense of the evidence that God exists not merely in the understanding...but in reality, as well.

