

## 15. The Book of Romans 1:19-20-Part 2

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*Paul's Epistle to the Romans*  
A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier  
(5-10-23)

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In our study of the Book of Romans, we find ourselves in a section where Paul (acting as a prosecuting attorney) wants to show that the whole world apart from Christ stands condemned before God.

He does this because he knows that before a person will see their need for a Savior—they must first be made to see themselves as sinners. So, he starts in verse 18 to prove that the pagan is condemned before God—before moving to the moralist and then finally to the religionist.

This will lead to Paul's final charge in his 'closing argument'—the whole world apart from Christ is guilty before God—*'for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (sinless perfection).'*

Now to many this seems blatantly unfair that God would judge and send people to hell who have never heard the gospel. Well, in verse 19-20 of Romans 1—Paul answers that accusation for us:

### **Romans 1:19–20 (NKJV)**

**<sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> 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.**

In other words, even people who have never had the gospel preached to them, have had the knowledge of God revealed to them—thru the creation! This is called "*natural*" or "*general*" revelation—which is God's revelation of Himself in creation. (Psalm 19:1-3)

He is telling us that although natural revelation is incomplete in its revelation of God (it doesn't give us any specifics about Him, it doesn't tell us His name, what He loves and hates etc.)—It nevertheless is such a clear revelation of His *existence* that anyone who looks at the creation and rejects the existence of God is without excuse and will be held accountable by Him on the Day of Judgment.

We used this truth to 'springboard' into a parallel study on how we can know *exactly* how the creation testifies to the existence of God.

So, last time we started looking at 3 reasons or proofs or arguments from creation that proves the existence of God.

These are taken from Norm Geisler's series "*12 Points that Prove Christianity is True*"—

### **I. The Cosmological Reason**

### **II. The Teleological Reason**

### III. The Moral Reason

Last week, the looked at the **cosmological** reason for the existence of God and then started looking at the **teleological** reason—but just by way of quick review:

#### I. The Cosmological Reason

The word *cosmological* comes from the word ‘cosmos’—which is the study of the universe. The Cosmological Reason or argument for the existence of God has 2 parts to it:

##### A. Everything that had a beginning had a cause.

Last week we proved that the physical universe had a beginning (it’s not eternal as scientists used to believe)—which then led to the second part of the argument:

##### B. The universe had a beginning—therefore, the universe had a cause.

Look, either the first verse in the Bible is true—“**In the beginning God** (the divine Cause) **created everything**” or else we are left with the absurd premise which evolution is built upon that in the beginning: “*Everything came from nothing all by itself.*”

Now when scientists realized the universe was going to have an end (which again meant it had to have a beginning)—they had to come up with another explanation for the existence of the universe since they couldn’t any longer claim it was eternal (that it has always existed and never had a beginning).

And since they now had evidence that the universe had a beginning—that meant it had to have a beginning cause!

Of course, they rejected God as the Cause, which meant they had to invent another *cause*—so they came up with—the Big Bang Theory! (Comment)

So, for the atheist, “*Nobody times nothing equals everything.*”

#### II. The Teleological Reason

This is basically the argument from design. The teleological reason argues that everything in the natural realm that demonstrates design had to have a *designer* (and therefore a *Maker* or a *Creator*).

The only thing we need to determine is—does the universe in general and life in particular demonstrate design?

##### A. Life demonstrates complex design

The more science looks at life—the more complex they realize it is.

Back in Charles Darwin’s day, scientists believed the human cell was no more complex than a ping-pong ball. But since the development of the electron microscope, which allows them to see deeply into the cell and study its DNA—scientists now realize the human cell is incredibly complex.

As we said last time, the human body is made up of trillions of cells—in just one of those cells (one out of trillions), the amount of digitally coded genetic information has been estimated to fill at least one thousand books of 500 pages each.

➤ *Where did all this digitally coded genetic information come from?*

The evolutionist says it *evolved*—but that information is the ‘*software*’, the ‘*operating system*’ of the cell.

The operating system of a computer has to be written and installed first before that computer can function. You can build a computer and leave it sit for a billion years and it will never ‘evolve’ the software necessary to run it—the same is true with the cells of all living things—especially human beings.

Cells are made up of atoms—the eminent atheistic, theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and astrobiologist of Arizona State University, Paul Davies, said, “*How did stupid atoms spontaneously write their own software...?*”

In his book, *The Blind Watchmaker*, Oxford University professor Richard Dawkins, a leading evolutionist, calls biology, “*...the study of complicated things that gives the ‘appearance’ of having been designed for a purpose.*”

**Romans 1:18 (NKJV)**

<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Yet, even Richard Dawkins admits that every cell contains in its nucleus “*a digitally coded database larger than all 30 volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica put together.*”

Now would anyone in their right mind believe that the 30 volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica resulted from an explosion in a printing shop. (Give illustration)

But that’s how ridiculous it is to believe that there is no Intelligence behind the complexity we see in even simple life on the earth.

According to Carl Sagan, the human brain has enough genetic information that if spelled out in English would fill the library of congress—which in his day that would have been 20 million volumes! Yet Sagan before he died, and other biological evolutionists continue to tell us that all of this happened through random forces, genetic accidents (mutations), and natural processes without any intelligent intervention and design.

Years ago, Carl Sagan was receiving a lot of money from the government for his S.E.T.I. (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) project, which used radio telescopes to listen for radio waves coming from outer space to try and determine if there was intelligent life out there trying to communicate with us.

The main criterion was that the radio waves had to have order or a *pattern* to them to prove intelligent life was trying to communicate to us—they searched for years and found nothing.

One day Dr. A.E. Wilder-Smith, a Christian and brilliant man with several earned Ph.D.’s said to Sagan, “*Carl, get rid of your radio telescope and come with me into the laboratory and look through the electron microscope and I’ll show you a digital code on the helix of DNA that is ordered and proves that there is outside intelligence that created life on the earth.*”

He said Carl Sagan refused to look into the microscope.

Peter talks about those people who are ‘willingly ignorant.’

In a book published near the end of his life, Sagan wrote,

*“Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping dark cosmos. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.”*

How tragic, Sagan looked into the creation and refused to see the hand of the Creator—and as such life became meaningless to him and he died in utter despair without hope of anything more.

If only he had looked into that microscope at the incredible complexity in the human cell—maybe his eyes would have been opened at last to the design that unmistakably points to the Creator.

Michael Behe in his book, *Darwin’s Black Box*, destroys Darwinian evolution by documenting the incomprehensible complexity of life at its most basic chemical, cellular level. He said,

*“Evolution cannot explain the origin of the complex biochemical structures that under gird life—it doesn’t even try. The conclusion of intelligent design flows naturally from the data itself—not from sacred books or sectarian beliefs.”*

Behe said, that a single cell from a human being could have 100,000 molecules and 10,000 intricately interrelated chemical reactions going on at one time (all necessary and dependent upon each other to make life possible)—his conclusion—cells couldn’t arise by chance.

Michael Behe has shown that there is such a thing as “irreducible complexity” in a cell using a mouse trap as an illustration.

Which simply put means that you have to have the basic parts of a cell all there *simultaneously* or the cell, not only won’t work—it can’t even exist!

These basic components of the cell can’t evolve separately, they have to all be present together at the same time.

Back in 1996, I was at a Bible conference where Dr. John MacArthur was speaking. He told this story—

*“I received a call one day from a man named Dr. Richard Lumsden. Dr. Lumsden was the chairman of the Science Department at Tulane University. He was a renowned microbiologist who does electron microscopy and looks in there and sees DNA strips and studies chromosomes. His premier work had been on cell membranes.*

*Every cell has a membrane, and he was struggling professionally with that issue as a staunch evolutionist because there was no way the membrane could evolve to keep the cell contained. They would have had to come into existence simultaneously and there was no way that that could have happened scientifically by using evolution as an explanation—and so he was struggling.*

*As a completely secular humanist he was teaching his classes in the graduate school of Tulane and a Christian girl came up after class and he said she asked me, ‘Dr. Lumsden, may I talk to you and ask you some questions? He said, ‘Of course’ and he said, ‘she asked me all the standard questions that Christians ask evolutionists.*

(I found Lumsden’s testimony and the questions she asked him—“How did life arise? . . . Isn’t DNA too complex to form by chance? . . . Why are there gaps in the fossil record between major kinds? . . . What are the missing links between apes and man?” She didn’t act judgmental or provocative; she just wanted to know.)

*I'd heard them on other occasions, and I gave her the standard answers and she gave me a brief comment after each one and then thanked me and left.'*

*And when she walked away, he said, all I heard was the echo of my own stupidity. And I said to myself, 'If you believe what you just told that girl—you're an idiot!'*

*I went home that day, and I got a Bible and in a matter of a few weeks I committed my life to Jesus Christ, and I became a creationist, and not only a creationist—I became a 6-day creationist—it was the only thing that made sense scientifically to me.*

*I was immediately terminated at the university. I lost my job and my career (this was a Harvard educated man); I had to reconstruct my world view. I started a business and for the next five years made my living from this business while I went back through everything I had ever studied scientifically in the light of what I knew about the Creator.*

MacArthur said,

*'At the end of the five years he offered himself to the Institute of Creation Research in San Diego and became the most formidable debater against evolutionists across America on university campuses until they wouldn't debate him anymore.*

*Then he came to teach at the Master's Seminary until he retired."*

So, the first part of the Teleological Argument (which proves the existence of God) says that: Life demonstrates complex design which means it had to have a Designer and Creator.

Okay, but what about the universe?—our second point in this argument.

#### **B. The universe demonstrates complex design**

So just as with our first point—the universe demonstrates complex design which proves it also had to have a Designer and Creator.

No principle in modern science has given more impetus to the belief that there must be an Intelligent Creator than the Anthropic Principle.

Back in 1997 a movie came out starring Jodie Foster and Matthew McConaughey called. "*Contact*."

The novel, from which the movie was taken, was written by none other than Carl Sagan.

The main thought or theme of the movie was repeated 3 times in the movie—"*If there isn't intelligent life out there then there is a lot of wasted space in the universe.*"

Now, that sounds logical given the incredible size of the universe—but the Anthropic Principle proves that that statement is not true.

The Anthropic Principle demonstrates that, for life on earth to be possible, the universe needed to be exactly the size that it is.

Robert Jastrow—

*"The Anthropic Principle is the most interesting development next to the proof of the creation, and it's even more interesting because it seems to say that science itself has proven, as a hard fact, that this universe was made, was designed for man to live in, it is a very theistic result."*

#### ➤ **What is the Anthropic Principle?**

The Anthropic Principle says that the universe has been finely tuned—precisely “tweaked” to support life here on earth.

Jeff Miller PhD—

*“The Anthropic Principles in cosmology states that the Universe as a whole appears to have been designed for humans to inhabit it. The existence of a Universe Designer still stands as the most logical explanation for its origin, and the naturalistic community cannot help but concede it.”*

In the words of Princeton professor emeritus and theoretical physicist Freeman Dyson,

*“As we look into the universe and identify the many accidents of physics and astronomy that have worked together to our benefit, it almost seems as if the universe must in some sense have known that we were coming.”<sup>3</sup> Bottom line: the Universe appears to be **designed** for us to live in it.”*

According to Tim Folger, writing in *Discover* magazine,

*“The idea that the universe was made just for us—known as the **anthropic principle**—debuted in 1973.”<sup>9</sup> Since then, the mountain of evidence supporting the principle has drastically grown...”*

For example—

1. *Oxygen comprises 21% of the atmosphere. If it were 25% spontaneous fires would break out. If it were 15% we'd suffocate—in other words, 21% is exactly what we need and it's exactly what we have.*
2. *The gravitational force, if it were altered by 1 part in 10 to the 40<sup>th</sup> power, our Sun would not exist. The moon would crash into the earth or fly off into space. (That is an incredibly minute change in the gravitational force which would prohibit life on this planet)*
3. *If the centrifugal force did not precisely balance the gravitational force nothing would be held in orbit and the planets could crash into each other.*
4. *The universe is expanding. If it were expanding at a rate 1/millionth slower than it is now the temperature on earth would be 10,000 degrees.*
5. *The average distance between stars in our galaxy, which contains roughly 300 to 400 billion stars, is 30 trillion miles (the space shuttle travels at 17,000 miles per hour or 5 miles a second—at that speed it would take over 1.7 billion years to travel from one star to another in our galaxy). If the distance between those stars were altered slightly, the orbits would become erratic and extreme temperature variations would occur here on earth making life impossible.*
6. *Anyone of the laws of physics can be described as a function of the velocity of light; therefore, even the slightest variations in the speed of light would alter all the other constants and negate the possibility of life here on earth.*
7. *If Jupiter wasn't the size, it is or in its current orbit, life on earth probably wouldn't be possible. You see because Jupiter is so big it acts like a cosmic vacuum cleaner. Its gravitational field is so strong that all the asteroids and other space junk that could slam into the earth get sucked into Jupiter.*
8. *The thickness of the earth's crust is just right to support life.*

9. *The rotation of the earth is just right—24 hours. If it were faster, say 15 hours the wind velocities along the surface of the earth would be too great, if it were slower, say 36 hours the temperature of the earth would be too hot during the day and too cold at night for us to survive.*
10. *The axial tilt of the earth is exactly what it needs to be for life to be possible on this planet—23.5%.*
11. *God has even designed lightening for a purpose and precisely regulates it. If the atmospheric discharge rate was greater there would be too much fire destruction, if it were less there would be too little nitrogen fixing in the soil.*

And we could go on and on, but I think you get the picture.

Professor Jeff Miller concludes:

*“Truly, the Universe is replete with decisive evidences of design. So much so, that even atheists cannot help but concede that truth...the Universe seems to have resulted in it being “custom tailored” (‘fine-tuned’) for humans. But how can there be “fine-tuning” if no One exists to tune in the first place? How can the Universe be “custom tailored,” and yet there be no Tailor? The Anthropic Principle—defined by cosmologists—is a blatant admission by the naturalistic community that theists have been right all along: the Universe is replete with evidences of design. If one is to be rational—drawing appropriate conclusions from the evidence—he must recognize that there are implications to realizing that the Universe is finely tuned and tailor made. The design in the Universe demands the existence of a Universal Designer and, further, the Universe was designed, specifically, with humans in mind.”*

In light of the Anthropic Principle—I haven’t got enough faith to be an atheist!

The universe demonstrates such precision and intricate design—it has been so finely tweaked to support life here on earth—that there is absolutely no other explanation than what the Bible says—

**Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**Psalms 19:1**

The heavens declare the glory of God and the expanse of the universe shows His craftsmanship.

Next time we’ll look at The Moral Argument for the existence of God.

If we’re just the result of chemical processes and chemicals are amoral—then where did morality come from?

Evolution can’t explain it but the Bible can—and it becomes another powerful evidence for the existence of God!

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