**Systematic Biblical Truth
God the Father: The Existence of God—The Knowability of God**

I. The New Atheist.

 A. *Mission*—“Religion should not simply be tolerated but should be countered, criticized,
 and exposed by rational argument wherever its influence arises.”

 B. Arguments against the existence of God.

 1. The onus for proof rests on the theist, the one making the claim.

 2. There are NO reasons for the existence of God.

 3. The universe is apparently “designed” but that is a fallacy. Darwin and Natural
 Selection made it appear designed.

 4. Experiences confirming the existence of God are subjective. People can easily be
 fooled.

 5. The 1st Cause argument—“there had to be a first cause and God was the first
 cause”. Falls apart because “who caused God?”.

 6. Pascal’s Wager “you are better off if there is a God” is a fallacy because which
 God are we talking about? Yahweh? Zeus? Allah?

II. The futility of the argument.

 A. Arguing for or against God cannot stand the test of argument. Neither qualify for
 empirical science.

 B. Both atheist and theist are faith based.

 C. The Bible does not begin with trying to prove God, it simply assumes He exists (Gen.
 1:1 “**In the beginning, God…**”

 D. The Christian bases the argument for God from the Bible. The Christian presupposes
 the Bible to be true. Scripture asserts the existence of God (John 17:3-- **This is eternal
 life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You
 have sent.**

III. How do we know God exists?

 A. **Humanity’s inner sense of God.**

 1. All people everywhere have a deep sense that God exists (Romans 1:21—Even
 gentile unbelievers “**knew God…**” Romans 1:25—wicked unbelievers have
 “**exchanged the truth about God for a lie**”. For the believer—Romans 1:19—
 “**What can be known about God is plain to them…because God has shown
 it to them**”.

 2. Scripture tells us that some people deny the inner sense of the existence of God.
 Psalm 14:1 It is the “**fool who says in his heart there is no God.**” Psalm 10:3-
 4—It is the wicked person who first “**curses and renounces the Lord**” and then
 in pride repeatedly thinks “**there is no God**”.

 3. Sin will cause people to *deny* their knowledge of God. Romans 1:18—"**by their
 wickedness they suppress the truth**”.

 4. Romans 8:16—It is the Holy Spirit that bears witness with our spirits that we are
 children of God. We come to know Jesus living within our hearts (Eph. 3:17;
 Phil. 3:8; Col. 1:27; Jn 14:23).

 B. **Evidence in Scripture and nature.**

1. Psalm 19:1-2— **The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the
 work of his hands. 2Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night
 they reveal knowledge.**

2. Just look in nature! Everything is screaming “***God made me***!”
 (share experiences in nature).

 3. Arguments from nature are valid as evidence.

###  a. Evidence definition—*noun: that which tends to prove or disprove something; ground for belief; proof. something that makes plain or clear; an indication or sign.*

 C. Traditional “proofs” for the existence of God.

 1. The *cosmological argument—*The fact that every known thing in the universe
 has a cause. God is the cause of the universe.

 2. The *teleological argument—*Evidence of the order of things, the evidence of
 harmony, the design of the universe. Telos = end, goal; the universe was
 designed with an end goal.

 3. The *ontological argument—*The idea that God, who is defined as a being
 ‘greater than which nothing can be imagined’. It then argues that the
 characteristic of existence must belong to such a being, since it is greater to
 exists than not exist. The idea that the thought of God would not exist in man if
 God did not in fact exist: *How come every culture has an inherent concept of
 God?*

4. The *moral argument—*Man has an innate sense of right and wrong. Man has the
 sense that justice should be done.

 D. Only God can overcome our sin and enable us to be persuaded of His existence.

 1. God must ENABLE us to be persuaded or we would NEVER believe in Him. 2nd  Cor. 4:4—"**the God of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers to
 keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ**.”

 a. In this world human wisdom is inadequate to reveal one to the reality of
 God.