

The God Question

Are you intellectually sceptical about the existence of God? How about life after death? Are you an atheist (you deny that God exists), or an agnostic (you deny that there is any persuasive evidence that God exists, but not the possibility that he could exist). Or maybe you believe in some sort of Supreme Being and in life after death, but you reject the Judeo/Christian concept of a personal God and the Christian belief in Jesus' divinity.

Why should sceptical people attach any importance to questions about God's existence, about life after death, about the claim that a relationship with God must come through Jesus? Simply this:

If the sceptic is correct and the Christian is wrong, then they will both experience 'nothing' after death. Mr. Christian will have been deluded while he lived. But his mistaken belief will not have lost him anything, because his consciousness will cease forever at death. But for Mr. Sceptic, if he is wrong, and the Christian is right, he will consciously experience eternal separation from God. His erroneous belief will have caused him to lose everything, forever.

So it is just plain common sense to recognize the eternal importance of some reasonable questions, and to undertake a serious, diligent search for answers. This doesn't mean that common sense demands the adoption of religious faith. It simply means that common sense demands the *investigation* of religious faith. Procrastination and apathy are dangerous. Anyone can die at anytime, and then suddenly, all their plans to search for relevance become irrelevant.

Every person owes it to himself/herself to pursue three vital issues:

- Does God exist?
- If so, is there life with God after death?
- If there is, how do I get to there from here?

These are issues common to the entire human race, and must not be avoided. Each person should take them seriously and deal honestly with them, setting aside personal pride and prejudice. This search deserves complete openness to any possible outcome- even one that contradicts deeply held presuppositions.

There is up coming, in our community, the opportunity to have these questions publicly examined. **Dr. Richard Ganz will speak on the topic "Is God Real?" at St. Patrick's high school auditorium on Dec 8. An open forum, and a discussion will follow. For more information see www.thunderbayurc.org** Sponsored by the United Reformed Church of Thunder Bay.