



September 10th, 2017 Discussion Guide:

"Who Needs God? I Think I Do" Colossians 1:13-17

Introduction

Americans are migrating away from religion at an unprecedented rate; Christianity in particular. But not because atheism is more appealing. People are leaving because religion has lost its appeal. Once upon a time Americans believed religion offered solutions. Today, religion is viewed by many as the source of our problems in the world.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever found yourself asking the question, "Who needs God?" Are you asking that question now? If so, what prompted you to ask that question? What did you do or are you doing to seek an answer?
2. Have you read books that challenge Christian thought, books like *The God Delusion* or *God is Not Great*? Do you think this could be a help or a danger to believers in Christ? How could it help? What is the risk, if any?
3. Could it be that sometimes people embrace either Atheism or Christianity before they fully understand the implications and what they are getting into as far as beliefs and values? How could this be true for either one?

4. In the New Testament [in the back ½ of the Bible] there is a letter known as Colossians. A follow of Jesus named Paul penned these words, “¹⁵The Son [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” This statement warms the heart of Christ-followers, and rightly so. Are you able to read this through the eyes of an unbeliever and understand how it might look and sound to him/her?

5. Psalm 19 states that the heavens declare the glories of God. Were you able to get the special glasses and view the recent total eclipse? If you did, how did that experience affect you spiritually, if at all? If you are not a believer in God, how did the experience affect you, if at all?

6. You heard the statement during the Sunday presentation that *“People who were nothing like Jesus, liked Jesus. If Christianity isn’t compelling to unbelievers, could one reason be that they are hearing a version of the Gospel other than what Jesus presented?”* In what ways could this statement be true? Has the modern church added anything to what it means to follow Jesus that Jesus never spoke about?

Moving Forward

If you don’t believe in God or are on the verge of giving up on God, it may not be a problem with logic or science that defies your ability to believe in the supernatural. Doubt may be growing for a more personal reason than that. It could be that your version of theism has simply lost its appeal or doesn’t seem real. Stick around in the weeks to come as we continue to explore the question, Who Needs God?