

Dear www.bbcinternational.org,

My name is Luke. I'm not really sure who I am writing to, other than "believers." I went to (a cafe) tonight and found a 'Someday You Will Stand before God' pamphlet on top of the toilet paper dispenser in the bathroom.

I noticed that it came from Ontario, CA. It seems that it would end up in Texarkana, TX. That's a very long journey for such a small pamphlet. It sounded interesting, so I took it home with me to read later. Now having read it, I find it very confusing. It uses terms that I have heard before but am not really familiar with. It says that it is quoting the Bible, and all of these terms probably make sense to someone who has read the Bible. But you'll have to forgive me for my ignorance. What does it mean to "be saved"? What am I being saved from? My life isn't the best, but I think that it's going fairly well. My second question is what is "sin" exactly? I've heard of it before, but I'd like to hear what you call it. And why am I a "sinner"? I don't think I'm such a bad person. But apparently, from what you say, I am going to Hell. And I'm afraid your solution to going to Hell doesn't make much sense to me either. What do you mean by being "born again"? and how does a man die "in my place"? I am not really opposed to this idea of a god, but I don't really see a reason to believe in it. And this god you claim to know seems kind of scary. Why does he want to send everyone to Hell in the first place, and how is killing his son an action of love? I hope you can clear some of this up for me.

Sincerely,
Luke

Then I e-mailed back:

Dear Luke,

Let me say, "Thank you," for responding to our tract. It is a blessing to hear that someone from Texas would respond to us. It is good for you to have questions about our tract. That could mean you are a person who is searching for truth. I will do everything that I can to answer your questions. I am answering your questions in different orders, because I want to clearly answer the issues. So, forgive me if this seems to be inconvenient. Also, forgive me if this e-mail is long, because I want your questions to be answered satisfactorily as possible.

(I.) You wrote, "I am not really opposed to this idea of a god, but I don't really see a reason to believe in it."

Perhaps you do believe in a God, but maybe you have a few doubts. Just in case, I will explain to you why there has to be a God. Why should I really believe in the existence of God? Let me prove why God has to be real.

The reason is because of what created us. How were we created? There are ONLY four ways on how we were created. No person in history can explain more than four ways on how we were created. The four ways on how we were created are:

- 1) We were created by a thing that existed for eternity.
- 2) We were created by chance.
- 3) Our existence is an illusion.
- 4) We were created by a Supremely Intelligent Designer.

These are the ONLY four ways on how we were created. Which one is the right one?

The first way, "We were created by a thing that existed for eternity," is not the right one. Evolutionists may say that we were created from a rock, but where did that rock come from? They may say the rock came from some type of matter, but where did that type of matter come from? They may say that type of matter came from some energy, but where did that energy come from? If you keep asking the question, it would end up with a thing that existed for eternity. That's how we were created. We were created by a thing that existed for eternity. That's impossible to be true! This contradicts the second law of thermodynamics, which reveals that all things always deteriorate over time. A thing cannot exist forever! It is also dumb to believe that a thing never had a beginning. That's just common sense.

The second way, "We were created by chance," is also not the right one. If a person believes we were created by a thing which happened by chance, that is impossible! If a person truly believes in the Big Bang Theory, then where did that Big Bang come from? Evolutionists may say the Big Bang happened by some swirl which kept circling until it exploded. But where did that swirl come from? They may say the swirl came from some meteor that crashed into another meteor, but where did those meteors come from? Again, if you keep asking the question, it would end up with a thing that existed for eternity. From the above paragraph, you already know that is impossible, because it contradicts the second law of thermodynamics. Common sense also proves the Big Bang theory to be wrong. Did you ever

see an explosion create a watch before? Does an explosion creates something? Of course, not! That is absurd! Likewise, how can a person truly believe that an explosion like the Big Bang can create a complicated creation of the sun, stars, moon, planets, Milky Way, etc. all perfectly designed and rightly arranged? When you see a watch, do you think it was created by an explosion or by an intelligent designer?

The third way, "Our existence is an illusion," is obviously wrong too. Whenever a person gets hurt, or gets burned by fire, or gets stabbed by a knife, is that really an illusion? If a person wants to believe it, then go ahead. I do not want to believe in an illusion in which I can feel pain and torture!

The fourth way, "We were created by a Supremely Intelligent Designer," is the only point to believe in. People may ask, "How can you believe in a god whom you cannot even see?" But people believe that a designer created the building that they live, the watch that they wear, and the chair that they can sit. And they never saw those designers before! So, why can't a person also believe that a designer created us? If it wasn't a Supremely Intelligent Designer that created us, then what did? From the above paragraphs, you already know that there is no other possible way! The only right way on how we were created is by a Supremely Intelligent Designer!

Furthermore, intelligent scientists, who were responsible for giving us chemistry, physics, law of gravity, electricity, magnetism, etc., also believe in the existence of God. From studying all the scientific creations of the universe, they knew it was impossible to doubt the existence of God.

Isaac Newton (1642-1727)

In optics, mechanics, and mathematics, Newton was a figure of undisputed genius and innovation. In all his science (including chemistry) he saw mathematics and numbers as central. What is less well known is that he was devoutly religious and saw numbers as involved in understanding God's plan for history from the Bible. He did a considerable work on biblical numerology, and, though aspects of his beliefs were not orthodox, he thought theology was very important. In his system of physics, God is essential to the nature and absoluteness of space. In Principia he stated, "The most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion on an intelligent and powerful Being."

Robert Boyle (1627-1691)

One of the founders and key early members of the Royal Society, Boyle gave his name to "Boyle's Law" for gases, and also wrote an important work on chemistry. Encyclopedia Britannica says of him: "By his will he endowed a series of Boyle lectures, or sermons, which still continue, 'for proving the Christian religion against notorious infidels...' As a devout Protestant, Boyle took a special interest in promoting the Christian religion abroad, giving money to translate and publish the New Testament into Irish and Turkish. In 1690 he

developed his theological views in *The Christian Virtuoso*, which he wrote to show that the study of nature was a central religious duty." Boyle wrote against atheists in his day (the notion that atheism is a modern invention is a myth), and was clearly much more devoutly Christian than the average in his era.

Michael Faraday (1791-1867)

Michael Faraday was the son of a blacksmith who became one of the greatest scientists of the 19th century. His work on electricity and magnetism not only revolutionized physics, but led to much of our lifestyles today, which depends on them (including computers and telephone lines and, so, web sites). Faraday was a devoutly Christian member of the Sandemanians, which significantly influenced him and strongly affected the way in which he approached and interpreted nature. Originating from Presbyterians, the Sandemanians rejected the idea of state churches, and tried to go back to a New Testament type of Christianity.

William Thomson Kelvin (1824-1907)

Kelvin was foremost among the small group of British scientists who helped to lay the foundations of modern physics. His work covered many areas of physics, and he was said to have more letters after his name than anyone else in the Commonwealth, since he received numerous honorary degrees from European Universities, which recognized the value of his work. He was a very committed Christian, who was certainly more religious than the average for his era. Interestingly, his fellow physicists George Gabriel Stokes (1819-1903) and James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879) were also men of deep Christian commitment, in an era when many were nominal, apathetic, or anti-Christian. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* says "Maxwell is regarded by most modern physicists as the scientist of the 19th century who had the greatest influence on 20th century physics; he is ranked with Sir Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein for the fundamental nature of his contributions." Lord Kelvin was an Old Earth creationist, who estimated the Earth's age to be somewhere between 20 million and 100 million years, with an upper limit at 500 million years based on cooling rates (a low estimate due to his lack of knowledge about radiogenic heating).

Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Einstein is probably the best known and most highly revered scientist of the twentieth century, and is associated with major revolutions in our thinking about time, gravity, and the conversion of matter to energy ($E=mc^2$). Although never coming to belief in a personal God, he recognized the impossibility of a non-created universe. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* says of him: "Firmly denying atheism, Einstein expressed a belief in "Spinoza's God who reveals himself in the harmony of what exists." This actually motivated his interest in science, as he once remarked to a young physicist: "I want to know how God created this world, I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know His thoughts, the rest are details." Einstein's famous epithet on the "uncertainty

principle" was "God does not play dice" - and to him this was a real statement about a God in whom he believed. A famous saying of his was "Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind."

Do you now see how foolish it is to believe there is no God? There had to be a God! Studying the complexity of creation proves it!

That is why God said in the Bible, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork (Psalms 19:1)," and that, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God (Psalms 14:1)."

I hope all of these explanations fully convince you that there has to be a God.

(II.) You wrote, "What is sin exactly?" and "... why am I a sinner. I don't think I'm such a bad person."

That is a good question. What is "sin" and why should a good-living person be called "a sinner." Let me explain from the Bible. 1 John 5:17 says, "All unrighteousness is sin." Have you ever done something that was not purely righteous? Skipping church when you should have gone is not righteous. Skipping prayer when you should have prayed is not righteous. Doing something dishonest in any way is not righteous. Those are sins, because 1 John 5:17 said, "All unrighteousness is sin." Everyone in this world has failed to do something that was purely righteous. That is why God said in His Bible that, "...ALL have sinned" (Romans 3:23). So, everyone in this world is a sinner. There are no exceptions, because the Bible said, "ALL have sinned." I hope this makes you understand why you are a sinner.

(III.) You wrote, "But apparently, from what you say, I am going to Hell," and "...this god you claim to know seems kind of scary. Why does he want to send everyone to Hell in the first place and how is killing his son an action of love?"

That is understandable. How can an all-loving God send everyone in Hell in the first place? God actually did not create Hell for us. In the Bible, Matthew 25:41 shows that Hell was "prepared for the devil and his angels." God does not want us to burn in Hell. The Bible says the Lord is "not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9).

So, why do we have to go to Hell? The answer is because of our sins. The Bible says those who had feared something they shouldn't have feared, or distrusted others they should have trusted, or lied about something they should have told truthfully, would burn in hell (Revelation 21:8). There must be a punishment for sin. Sin cannot be simply overlooked. Pretend a prisoner did something wrong against the U.S. government, and he was found guilty. Should the prisoner's wrong be simply overlooked? No, there has to be a punishment for his wrong. Likewise, there has to be a punishment for our wrongdoings against God. God does not want us to burn in Hell, but there has to be a punishment for wrongdoings.

(IV.) You wrote, "What does it mean to "be saved?" "What am I being saved from?" "...how does a man die in my place?" and "...how is killing his son an action of love?"

God allowed His Son (Jesus Christ) to be brutally tortured and to die on a cross. Why would God allow that to happen to His Son? Romans 5:9 answers we can be saved from the punishment of sin by the blood of Christ. 1 John 1:7 also answers that "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from ALL SIN." That is why God allowed Christ to be tortured and to die on the cross, so that Christ's blood can cleanse our sins and save us from the punishment of sin. That is how a man died in our place. Our place was Hell, but Christ died to save us from that. Because God allowed His Son to be brutally tortured and die on the cross, we can call this an action of love or God's love for us.

(V.) You wrote, "What do you mean by being "born again?"

John 3:3-7 would answer that question. In John 3:3, Jesus said a person had to be born again to enter Heaven. In John 3:4, Nicodemus did not understand what "born again" meant? Could it refer to being born from a mother's womb twice? In John 3:5-6, Jesus answered that the first birth is the physical birth from being "born of water" and "born of the flesh." And Jesus answered that the second birth is the spiritual birth from being born "of the Spirit." Right now, everyone has the first birth, but most people do not have the second birth. How do we get that second birth? It is by the Spirit (John 3:5-6). So, how do we get the Spirit? Ephesians 1:13 answers that by believing on Christ, we can receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 16:31 shows that we are saved by believing on Christ. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

I hope these explanations answered your questions. I will pray for your salvation. It is important that you get saved right now before you die. I don't want anyone to end up In Hell. Take care!

In Christ,

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