

Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church
BETHLEHEM TOOWOOMBA, OUR SAVIOUR LOWOOD, ST JOHN'S AUBIGNY,
ST PAUL'S GREENWOOD, TRINITY MARBURG, TRINITY OAKEY

20 March 2022

The Third Sunday in Lent

HYMNS: 84 317 358 754

INTROIT: LORD, You have been favourable to Your land. You have brought Jacob back from captivity.

You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people. You have covered all their sin. You have taken back all Your fury. You have turned away from Your fierce anger.

Restore us, O God, You who save us! Withhold Your indignation toward us! Will You be angry with us for ever? Will You prolong Your anger through all generations?

Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?

Show us Your mercy, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation!

Let me hear what God, the LORD, will speak! For He will promise peace to His people, to His devout people. However, let them not become foolish again!

Surely His salvation is near those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth have met together. Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth will sprout up from the earth, and righteousness will look down from heaven.

The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its produce. Righteousness will go before Him, to prepare a way for His footsteps.

Psalm 85

COLLECT: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

READINGS: Ezekiel 33:7-20 Renewal of Ezekiel's call as watchman.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 These things happened as lessons for us.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9 Unless you repent, you will all perish.

SERMON: Luke 13:1-5 REPENT OR PERISH

Atheism - Linguistically Impossible

By definition, it is impossible to be an atheist. The functional, working definition of God is “the one who makes the final, ultimate decisions.” An atheist is one who has decided that there is no God. That is the ultimate, final decision; therefore, an atheist has not determined that there is no God, rather the atheist has determined himself to be God, the final, ultimate decision-maker.

A) Definition/delineation.

What does it mean to be an atheist? Wikipedia tells us that atheism is the “rejection of belief in the existence of deities. In a narrow sense, atheism is specifically the position that there are no deities.” On the other hand, to be a deist, one who believes there is a god, is to believe there is a someone other than I (self) who makes the ultimate, final decisions.

The struggle, mental, emotional, and spiritual, is, therefore, a struggle not to determine if there is a god, but who he is, and how, on what basis, and who makes that ultimate decision.

B) Examining the claims of atheism.

The atheist’s personal ‘rejection’ of the existence of God is not logical, nor is it demonstrable. Whether in the realm of religion or any other pursuit, it is impossible to prove a negative, logically. For logic to prove anything, there has to be the existence of something as a basis or contact point. So logically, if A equals B and B equals C, thus A equals C, there has to be an A, a B, and a C, existing points of contact. For the atheist, no such contact point is possible, much less two or three. The only point of reference for the atheist is what he or she thinks and has concluded. An illustration of that nonsensical approach may be the many times I have asked someone who was having a knee jerk reaction to being called a name, “If someone says you are ten feet tall, does that make you ten feet tall?” An unfounded claim is just that, an unfounded claim, and atheism, because it has no contact point or basis in reality, is just that, an unfounded claim. A fool can believe any claim he or she wishes. “*The fool has been saying in his heart, “There is no God”*” (Psalm 14:1).

For the claim of atheism to be demonstrable, that which they wish to demonstrate has to exist. It has to be empirically experienced, touched, felt, seen, and heard. As there is nothing in existence when you claim that something does not exist, what you have claimed is logically impossible. No evidence equals no decision. James approached that bit of nonsense by writing/challenging, “*Show me your faith without works, and I shall show you my faith by my works*” (James

2:18). It is entirely natural for human being to want to have empirical evidence where they are asked to believe or accept something. Atheism does not stand the test of demonstrability.

C) The Hypothesis Stands. Atheism is NOT possible.

Since the atheist has determined that there is no God without any available evidence from logic, and since the claim is not able to be supported by anything demonstrable, atheism is not possible. You cannot prove the non-existence of something, neither by logic or empirical evidence.

One is left, then, to determine what has really taken place in the thinking/imagination of one who claims to be an atheist. Since the atheist has no evidence on which to base this decision, it rests only on the determination/decision of the person making that decision. If the ultimate decisions are the property of God, and that there is no God is the final ultimate decision, and the atheist has made that decision by him/herself, he or she, then, becomes God insofar as they are the ultimate decision-maker.

Thus the atheist has not determined that there is no God. He/she has pushed God aside as the ultimate decision-maker in favour of self. They have taken the place of God. They have made themselves God.

D) Conclusion

Atheists have struggled, apparently since Old Testament times (Ps. 14:1), to find legitimacy for their claim. This they cannot do on the basis of logic or empirical evidence. Upon examination of their claim, after putting their claim to the test as it were, one would conclude that the atheist is either a fool, or that his claim is presented deceitfully, lying to others and self, or that under the surface, the atheist knows he/she has determined themselves to be God, and just doesn't want others to know, and hopes they won't find out.

Briefly put, in order to claim to be an atheist, you must lie to me, to others, and most importantly, to yourself.

Welcome to all worshipping with us today! Pastor Peter Ziebell, Phone 0407583922.
 Email him at paziebell@gmail.com or to the church office at ddaalc@gmail.com.
Please notify pastor of anyone who is unwell or in need of a visit.

COMING SERVICES

23 March Mid-week LENTEN SERVICE	27 March 4 Lent	30 March Mid-week LENTEN SERVICE
7.30pm TMBA Vespers	9.00am TMBA LR 9.30am O/G/A combined HC at Greenwood followed by Bible Study 9.00am LOWOOD LR	7.30pm OAK Vespers
Wednesday, 23 March		
HYMNS: 85 313 61 48v.3		
Sunday, 27 March		
READINGS: Isaiah 12:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32		
HYMNS: 60 75 305 (852 287) 408		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOWOOD: Thursday, 24 March, 10.00am. Bible Study.

Annual General Meeting dates:

Parish AGM:

Trinity Marburg: Today, after service.

Our Saviour Lowood: Today, 1.00pm.

Saturday, 26 March, 10.00am. CoC/Sem Com meeting will be held at Bethlehem, Buckland Street Toowoomba. Please note: This is the AGM and election of office bearers will take place, so all delegates are urged to attend. Any agenda items, please place through your reps.