

Can We Live Without God?
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

“The great question of our time is whether man can bear to live without God, in an age that has killed Him.”

Will Durant, Historian.

All meaningful journeys are planned with a destination in view. How do you envision the final destination of your life? In H.G.Well’s novel, “The Time Machine,” the time traveler journeys far into the future to discover the final destiny of man. All he finds is a dead and silent earth, with no future hope or ultimate meaning. But if there is no God, our lives will end that way, like it or not.

In a world without God we would have no one to thank for all the surrounding beauties of nature. With no absolute values there would be no way to make moral judgments between Mother Teresa and Adolf Hitler. Our world would be another Auschwitz, where all behaviours are permitted.

To me, some of the saddest statistics involve suicide, especially with youth in the 15 to 24 age group. In his book, “Why They Die: Curing the Death Wish in Our Kids,” Jerry Johnson writes. “This loss of faith in God undoubtedly has been a major factor in the increasing levels of hopelessness and despair among high school and college students. Tragically, this sense of no hope sometimes leads to suicide and other forms of destructive behaviour.”

Can mankind live without God? Let’s ask some respected scholars who spent much of their early lives as spiritual skeptics in an atheistic world: Lee Strobel, Malcolm Muggeridge, Ravi Zacharias and J.Warner Wallace discovered that atheism was leading them down a path of narcissism, despondency and self-destruction; without bringing satisfying answers to the hard questions about the meaning of life.

Bible scholar, Dr. Craig Evans writes, “I have no doubt that the problems we see today are the tragic result of moral and spiritual decline. Society has turned its back on God and what he teaches us, both in his creation and in his revelation found in the Bible. Our problems will not go away until we return to God and hear again his message. In today’s world, the Bible has become a mysterious un-read book. It is time to change that.”

If there is no God and humanity originated by chance or by accident, then life will end the same way and we will all fade into nothingness. But, no amount of philosophizing about a world without God brings hope. When hope is missing, despair takes over and there’s nothing left to live for.

When man lives apart from God, chaos is the norm. Outside of Christ there is no law, no hope, and no meaning. So, if you and I are only an accidental

coincidence on a minor spec of interstellar dust, only a dash between the womb and the tomb; we must conclude that *life without God leads to a hopeless end*. However, untold millions of people around the world are saying, "Our God is very much alive; we commune with him each day in prayer. And *life with Him is leading to an endless hope.*"