



AREOPAGUS PROCLAMATION

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The noted French mathematician and physicist, Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) made this point in what is known as **Pascal's Wager**:

"If there is no God and you live as if

there were, what have you lost? Likewise, if there truly is a God and you live as if there were none, what do you risk losing? And which is the safer risk? Let us weigh the gain and the loss in wagering that God is. If you gain you gain all; if you lose you lose nothing. Wager then, without hesitation, that He is. Jesus Christ is the end of all and the center to which all tends. Whoever knows Him knows the reason of everything."

But what about not wagering at all? Why not just remain neutral and **agnostic** about such matters?

In their book, *Is God Just a Human Invention?* (©2010, Kregel Publications), Sean McDowell and Jonathan Morrow write:

"Agnosticism can be a virtue for a season of exploration, because we definitely want to avoid being gullible. But as Yann Martel wrote in *Life of Pi* (San Diego: Harvest. ©2003), 28), 'Doubt is useful for a while . . . But we must move on. To choose doubt as a philosophy of life is akin to choosing immobility as a means of transportation.'"

More significantly, Jesus Himself said that to **not** believe that He is who He claimed to be is to **reject** Him, with sobering implications. "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." — Jesus Christ, John 3:18, NASB

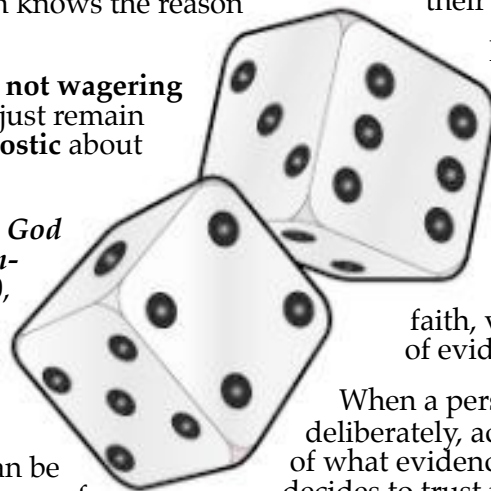
Well, what do we do when we need to take a position but are

unable to conclusively prove any and all possible positions? We can begin by asking these three questions:

1. Which belief system seems **most** consistent with the **preponderance of evidence**?
2. Can I live consistently and meaningfully with that belief system **in the real world**?
3. Do flawed presuppositions inhibit my committing to that belief system?

No one can control the *effect* that their presuppositions have on what they believe, but everyone is responsible for settling their presuppositions.

Have you settled for standing on the ground of disbelief, viewing the glass of evidence as half empty? Or will you stand on the ground of faith, viewing the glass of evidence as half full?



When a person thoughtfully, deliberately, acting on the basis of what evidence *is* available, decides to trust the Bible, turn to Christ and repent, something totally unexpected happens. Rather than seeing too little evidence for Christian belief, one sees that the available evidence **surpasses all reasonable doubt**. God becomes real and the Bible becomes its own best defense. Romans 10:17 says "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Charles H. Spurgeon once wrote: "Defend the Bible? I would as soon defend a lion! Unchain it and it will defend itself."

This aspect of faith is difficult to explain to someone on the outside looking in. (1 Corinthians 2:14-16) But if God is indeed drawing you to faith through these words, you may be on the inside soon enough!

Gambling for Eternity

by Daryl E. Witmer

Does believing in God sound to you a lot like believing in Santa? Do you doubt that Jesus was much more than just a persuasive first-century Jewish rabbi? If you try, is it easy for you to imagine that there's no heaven — or hell?

If your answer to those three questions is "yes," then read on; this article is for you.

I'm a Christian. I believe that Jesus is God. I believe that when my body dies I will remain conscious — *forever*. I think that God is infinite, but I also believe that He is personal, that He knows me intimately, and that living for His glory makes my life significant.

I believe that the Bible is a **totally unique communication** from the Creator of humanity that is, when understood correctly, 100% accurate.

But I can't prove any of this. I take it on faith. Not blind faith, though. I'm skeptical by nature and need solid reasons for what I believe. But because I can't prove that my convictions are true in the same way that I can prove that water at sea level freezes at 32 degrees F, there is some risk in my position; I might be wrong.

Of course you can't prove what you believe — or don't believe — either. So there is risk in your position as well. You might be wrong and I might be right.

More Evidence in Defense and Confirmation of the Christian Faith