



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## Foolish Disregard

- by Gary Henry

To dismiss God from our decisions is a most foolish thing to do. The reality of God is the most massive truth we'll ever encounter, and the most consequential. It is folly to omit this truth from our thinking, as if we expected it to move out of our way.

Some individuals disregard God by adopting the intellectual position that He does not exist. These have thought the matter through and come to the conclusion that there is no God. In their conduct, they may live as if there were a God and may even adhere to a certain spirituality, but their position, at least philosophically, is that a personal God does not exist.

If God does exist, such a denial is obviously unwise. But many of us disregard Him in a way that is no less foolish. We do this when we simply conduct our lives without taking God into serious account. This is a more practical kind of atheism. We pay lip service to a God who "perhaps" exists, but we believe that this God can be safely set aside in the actual conduct of our day-to-day affairs. He has no real impact on our lives. In Psalm 14:1, it is this kind of "fool" who is described. He says "There is no God" not so much by his dubious philosophy, as by his disobedient lifestyle.

There is a sense in which this kind of atheism is more arrogant than any other. In Psalm 10, for example, we are shown how PRESUMPTUOUS it is to disregard God: "The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts" (v.4).

"He has said in his heart, 'I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity'" (v.6). "He has said in his heart, 'God has forgotten; He hides His face; He will never see'" (v.11). "He has said in his heart, 'You will not require an account'" (v.13).

When we live in this manner, we trivialize God in the most blasphemous way. Unlike the atheist who believes there is no God to be dealt with, we believe that we don't really have to deal with the God who does exist. We think that, for all practical purposes, He can be ignored. But if God is our Creator, our disregard only shows us to be foolish. It does nothing to diminish Him.

## Back Page Thoughts

By Jamey Hinds

Many of us spend time every day either watching TV news or listening to the news on the radio or maybe even a podcast from someone we like to listen to—someone we like the sound of their voice. Or maybe we just sit for a while with our tablets, phones or laptops and read about what's happening all over the world.

I'm not sure why we feel that we need to know everything that's going on everywhere because, truth be told, we probably already know a lot of the things going on because we literally just watched, listened or read the news before going to bed. And maybe this is something you don't do at all—congratulations that you can live your life without knowing all the bad news happening everywhere. I mean that sincerely.

We sometimes may feel down throughout the days that become weeks and months, and maybe even years. But, we're

doing this to ourselves—we're choosing to know all the bad things that we can't do anything about to fix. And it all begins to weigh on us pretty heavily.

So why not begin the day with God's good news? Maybe dive into the Psalms? Read Philippians 2:3–11 and dwell for a spell on the glory of Jesus becoming man to save us from sin. We have choices we can easily make to improve our minds and our souls—and therefore, our lives.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me— practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:8–9)

## "The Fool Hath Said"

Luther Blackmon

Strange as it may seem, some people find it difficult to believe in an Eternal Uncreated Creator; An Uncaused Cause; An Unmoved Mover; that Being which the Bible describes as God. But if you think that believing there is a God is difficult, try believing that there is no God. Get outside some starlight night and look up. While you are looking remember that you are standing on a planet that makes an annual journey of five hundred and fifty-eight million miles around the sun traveling at the speed of sixty-three thousand miles an hour. That this little planet is one of nine that go to make up our solar system. We are so close to the sun that it only takes three hundred and sixty-five days to go around, while Neptune is so far away that it requires one hundred and sixty-four and one half years to make the trip. When you have comprehended (?) the magnitude of this solar system and the perfect timing with which it operates, then remember that this solar system is one of three hundred and fifty million such solar systems. Try to imagine the immensity of space required for such a galaxy of worlds. If you think it is hard to imagine illimitable space, try to imagine space with limits. What would you find at the end of space? Remember that the closest fixed star to this earth Alpha Centauri is so far away that the light from it, traveling at the rate of 186,000 miles per second takes nearly five years to reach us. Remember further that these innumerable planets, stars, suns and satellites move with such precision that the astronomers can predict a hundred years in advance when the sun or moon will be in eclipse. No human instrument is so perfectly made. If you can conclude, with these facts before you, that no intelligence was required to produce and arrange all this; or that no power was needed to wind up this gigantic clock and keep it running; that it is all the result of blind chance, then don't "kid" yourself that you are thinking, or that you have made anything like an honest investigation of the matter.

*The Bible Banner August 1948*

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Psalms 19:1