

## God We Can Trust

2Chronicles 14

Sang W. Sur

September 13, 2009

2 Chronicles 14

1 And Abijah rested with his fathers and was buried in the City of David. Asa his son succeeded him as king, and in his days the country was at peace for ten years. 2 Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God. 3 He removed the foreign altars and the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. 4 He commanded Judah to seek the LORD, the God of their fathers, and to obey his laws and commands. 5 He removed the high places and incense altars in every town in Judah, and the kingdom was at peace under him. 6 He built up the fortified cities of Judah, since the land was at peace. No one was at war with him during those years, for the LORD gave him rest. 7 "Let us build up these towns," he said to Judah, "and put walls around them, with towers, gates and bars. The land is still ours, because we have sought the LORD our God; we sought him and he has given us rest on every side." So they built and prospered. 8 Asa had an army of three hundred thousand men from Judah, equipped with large shields and with spears, and two hundred and eighty thousand from Benjamin, armed with small shields and with bows. All these were brave fighting men. 9 Zerah the Cushite marched out against them with a vast army and three hundred chariots, and came as far as Maresah. 10 Asa went out to meet him, and they took up battle positions in the Valley of Zephathah near Maresah. 11 Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, "LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, O LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. O LORD, you are our God; do not let man prevail against you." 12 The LORD struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah. The Cushites fled. 13 and Asa and his army pursued them as far as Gerar. Such a great number of Cushites fell that they could not recover; they were crushed before the LORD and his forces. The men of Judah carried off a large amount of plunder. 14 They destroyed all the villages around Gerar, for the terror of the LORD had fallen upon them. They plundered all these villages, since there was much booty there. 15 They also attacked the camps of the herdsmen and carried off droves of sheep and goats and camels. Then they returned to Jerusalem.

1. **God's character is solid – He doesn't change, He's firm, and He's good** (Malachi 3:6)
2. **God is able to do all things; there's nothing that's impossible for Him** (Luke 1:37)

### **Seek God in your troubles, and He will not leave you wandering in your troubles**

*Psalms 9:10 - And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.*

### **Whatever you put your mind to, do it for God and trust Him – and He'll make it work**

*Psalms 37:5 - Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.*

### **Don't trust in technology, tools, or even yourself – God can deliver you from any circumstances**

*Psalms 44:6 - For I will not trust in my bow, Nor will my sword save me.*

### **King's message to his people – do not trust in power of our army, but rather trust in God – He is our refuge**

*Psalms 62:8 - Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.*

### **If you're not sure where you're going in life (even if you're not sure whether God is real or not), trust in God, and He'll guide you (Concept of GPS4Jesus)**

*Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

### **God is able (competent to deliver us)**

#### **He Meets Our Needs**

*And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19*

#### **He Gives Us Energy (even when we feel like the whole world is against us)**

*29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:29-31*

#### **He Is Able To Give Us a Willing Spirit (to make things happen, even if we're afraid)**

*For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Philippians 2:13*

#### **He Protects Us**

*The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Psalm 34:7*

#### **He Guides Us (our GPS)**

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Psalm 32:8*

#### **He Allows Us To Sleep (even though the rest of the world may be drenched in worries)**

*I lie down and sleep; I wake again, because the LORD sustains me. Psalm 3:5*

#### **He Is Able to Forgive (from any kind of sin – there's no too big or too small; God can handle it)**

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

*18Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 19Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. 20Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. 22This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." 23The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, 24but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. 25He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Romans 4:18-25*

### The 80% Tax (Nonexistent Trust)

In the organization . . .	In personal relationships . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dysfunctional environment and toxic culture (open warfare, sabotage, grievances, lawsuits, criminal behavior)</li> <li>• Militant stakeholders</li> <li>• Intense micromanagement</li> <li>• Redundant hierarchy</li> <li>• Punishing systems and structures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dysfunctional relationships</li> <li>• Hot, angry confrontations or cold, bitter withdrawal</li> <li>• Defensive posturing and legal positioning ("I'll see you in court!")</li> <li>• Labeling of others as enemies or allies</li> <li>• Verbal, emotional, and/or physical abuse</li> </ul>

### The 20% Tax (Trust Issues)

In the organization . . .	In personal relationships . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some bureaucratic rules and procedures</li> <li>• Unnecessary hierarchy</li> <li>• Slow approvals</li> <li>• Misaligned systems and structures</li> <li>• Some dissatisfied employees and stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular misunderstandings</li> <li>• Concerns about intent and motive</li> <li>• Interactions characterized by tension</li> <li>• Communications colored by fear, uncertainty, doubt, and worry</li> <li>• Energy spent in maintaining (instead of growing) relationships</li> </ul>

### The 60% Tax (Very Low Trust)

In the organization . . .	In personal relationships . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unhealthy working environment</li> <li>• Unhappy employees and stakeholders</li> <li>• Intense political atmosphere with clear camps and parties</li> <li>• Excessive time wasted defending positions and decisions</li> <li>• Painful micromanagement and bureaucracy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hostile behaviors (yelling, blaming, accusing, name-calling) followed by periods of brief contrition</li> <li>• Guarded communication</li> <li>• Constant worrying and suspicion</li> <li>• Mistakes remembered and used as weapons</li> <li>• Real issues not surfaced or dealt with effectively</li> </ul>

### No Tax/No Dividend (Trust Is Not an Issue)

In the organization . . .	In personal relationships . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy workplace</li> <li>• Good communication</li> <li>• Aligned systems and structures</li> <li>• Few office politics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polite, cordial, healthy communications</li> <li>• A focus on working together smoothly and efficiently</li> <li>• Mutual tolerance and acceptance</li> <li>• No worries</li> </ul>

### The 40% Tax (Low Trust)

In the organization . . .	In personal relationships . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common "CYA" behavior</li> <li>• Hidden agendas</li> <li>• Militant stakeholders</li> <li>• Political camps with allies and enemies</li> <li>• Many dissatisfied employees and stakeholders</li> <li>• Bureaucracy and redundancy in systems and structures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy draining and joyless interactions</li> <li>• Evidence gathering of other party's weaknesses and mistakes</li> <li>• Doubt about others' reliability or commitment</li> <li>• Hidden agendas</li> <li>• Guarded (often grudging) dispersing of information</li> </ul>

### The 20% Dividend (Trust Is a Visible Asset)

In the organization . . .	In personal relationships . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The focus is on work</li> <li>• Effective collaboration and execution</li> <li>• Positive partnering, relationships with employees and stakeholders</li> <li>• Helpful systems and structures</li> <li>• Strong creativity and innovation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperative, close, vibrant relationships</li> <li>• A focus on looking for and leveraging one another's strengths</li> <li>• Uplifting and positive communication</li> <li>• Mistakes seen as learning opportunities and quickly forgiven</li> <li>• Positive energy and positive people</li> </ul>

### The 40% Dividend (World-class Trust)

In the organization . . .	In personal relationships . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High collaboration and partnering</li> <li>• Effortless communication</li> <li>• Positive, transparent relationships with employees and all stakeholders</li> <li>• Fully aligned systems and structures</li> <li>• Strong innovation, engagement, confidence, and loyalty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• True joy in family and friendships, characterized by caring and love</li> <li>• Free, effortless communication</li> <li>• Inspiring work done together and characterized by purpose, creativity, and excitement</li> <li>• Completely open, transparent relationships</li> <li>• Amazing energy created by relationships</li> </ul>

Low trust means things take longer and it costs more to complete

$$\downarrow \text{Trust} = \downarrow \text{Speed} \uparrow \text{Cost}$$

High Trust means the task will finish faster at lower cost

$$\uparrow \text{Trust} = \uparrow \text{Speed} \downarrow \text{Cost}$$

## [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In\\_God\\_We\\_Trust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_God_We_Trust)

The motto *In God We Trust* was placed on [United States coins](#) largely because of the increased religious sentiment existing during the [American Civil War](#). Secretary of the Treasury [Salmon P. Chase](#) received many appeals from devout [Christians](#) throughout the country, urging that the United States recognize God on United States coins. From Treasury Department records, it appears that the first such appeal came in a letter dated November 13, 1861. It was written to Secretary [Salmon P. Chase](#) by Reverend M. R. Watkinson, Minister of the [Gospel](#) from [Ridley Township, Pennsylvania](#), and read:

Dear Sir: You are about to submit your annual report to the Congress respecting the affairs of the national finances. One fact touching our currency has hitherto been seriously overlooked. I mean the recognition of the Almighty God in some form on our coins. You are probably a Christian. What if our Republic were not shattered beyond reconstruction? Would not the antiquaries of succeeding centuries rightly reason from our past that we were a heathen nation? What I propose is that instead of the [goddess of liberty](#) we shall have next inside the 13 stars a ring inscribed with the words PERPETUAL UNION; within the ring the [allseeing eye](#), crowned with a [halo](#); beneath this eye the American flag, bearing in its field stars equal to the number of the States united; in the folds of the bars the words GOD, LIBERTY, LAW. This would make a beautiful coin, to which no possible citizen could object. This would relieve us from the ignominy of heathenism. This would place us openly under the Divine protection we have personally claimed. From my heart I have felt our national shame in disowning God as not the least of our present national disasters.

To you first I address a subject that must be agitated.

As a result, Secretary Chase instructed [James Pollock](#), Director of the Mint at Philadelphia, to prepare a motto, in a letter dated November 20, 1861:

Dear Sir: No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins. You will cause a device to be prepared without unnecessary delay with a motto expressing in the fewest and tersest words possible this national recognition.

It was found that the Act of Congress dated January 18, 1837, prescribed the mottoes and devices that should be placed upon the coins of the United States.

This meant that the [mint](#) could make no changes without the enactment of additional legislation by [Congress](#). In December 1863, the Director of the Mint submitted designs for a new one-cent coin, two-cent coin, and three-cent coin to Secretary Chase for approval. He proposed that upon the designs either *OUR COUNTRY*, *OUR GOD* or *GOD, OUR TRUST* should appear as the motto on the coins. In a letter to the Mint Director on December 9, 1863, Secretary Chase stated:

I approve your mottoes, only suggesting that on that with the Washington obverse the motto should begin with the word OUR, so as to read OUR GOD AND OUR COUNTRY. And on that with the shield, it should be changed so as to read: IN GOD WE TRUST.



1864 two cent coin with motto

Congress passed the [Coinage Act \(1864\)](#) on April 22, 1864. This legislation changed the composition of the [one-cent](#) coin and authorized the minting of the [two-cent coin](#). The Mint Director was directed to develop the designs for these coins for final approval of the Secretary. *In God We Trust* first appeared on the 1864 two-cent coin.

Another Act of the [United States Congress](#) passed on March 3, 1865, which allowed the Mint Director, with the Secretary's approval, to place the motto on all [gold](#) and [silver](#) coins that "shall admit the inscription thereon." Under the Act, the motto was placed on the gold [Double Eagle](#) coin, the gold [Eagle coin](#), and the gold [Half Eagle](#) coin. It was also placed on the [silver dollar](#) coin, the [half dollar](#) coin and the [quarter dollar](#) coin, and on the [nickel](#) five-cent coin beginning in 1866. Later, Congress passed the [Fourth Coinage Act](#) of February 12, 1873. It also said that the Secretary "may cause the motto IN GOD WE TRUST to be inscribed on such coins as shall admit of such motto."

The use of *In God We Trust* has not been uninterrupted. The motto disappeared from the five-cent coin in 1883, and did not reappear until production of the Jefferson nickel began in 1938. Since 1938, all United States coins bear the inscription. Later, the motto was found missing from the new design of the gold Double Eagle coin and the gold Eagle coin shortly after they appeared in 1907. In response to a general demand, Congress ordered it restored, and the Act of May 18, 1908, made it mandatory on all coins upon

which it had previously appeared. Therefore, the motto was not mandatory on the one-cent and five-cent coins, but it could be placed on them by the [Secretary of the Treasury](#) or the Mint Director with the Secretary's approval.

American presidents such as [Theodore Roosevelt](#) strongly disapproved of the idea of evoking God within the context of a "cheap" political motto. In a letter to William Boldly on November 11, 1907, [President Roosevelt wrote](#): "My own feeling in the matter is due to my very firm conviction that to put such a motto on coins, or to use it in any kindred manner, not only does no good but does positive harm, and is in effect irreverence, which comes dangerously close to [sacrilege](#)... it seems to me eminently unwise to cheapen such a motto by use on coins, just as it would be to cheapen it by use on [postage stamps](#), or in [advertisements](#)."

Despite historical opposition, the motto has been in continuous use on the [one-cent](#) coin since 1909 and on the ten-cent [dime](#) since 1916. It also has appeared on all gold coins and silver dollar coins, half-dollar coins, and quarter-dollar coins struck since July 1, 1908.

Legislation approved July 11, 1955, made the appearance of "In God We Trust" mandatory on all coins and paper currency of the United States.<sup>[a]</sup>



A 1957-A one-dollar silver certificate (top image is the reverse of the certificate, bottom image is the obverse of the certificate).

*In God We Trust* was first used on paper money in 1957 when it appeared on the one-dollar [Silver Certificate](#). The first paper currency bearing the motto entered circulation on October 1, 1957. The [Bureau of Engraving and Printing](#) (BEP) was converting to the dry [intaglio](#) printing process. During this conversion, it gradually included *In God We Trust* in the back design of all classes and denominations of currency.

As a part of a comprehensive modernization program, the BEP successfully developed and installed new high-speed rotary [intaglio](#) printing presses in 1957. These allowed BEP to print currency by the dry intaglio process, 32 notes to the sheet. One-dollar silver certificates were the first denomination printed on the new high-speed presses. They included *In God We Trust* as part of the reverse design as BEP adopted new dies according to the law. The motto also appeared on one-dollar [silver certificates](#) of the 1957-A and 1957-B series.

One-dollar silver certificates series 1935, 1935-A, 1935-B, 1935-C, 1935-D, 1935-E, 1935-F, 1935-G, and 1935-H were all printed on the older flat-bed presses by the wet intaglio process. P.L. 84-140 recognized that an enormous expense would be associated with immediately replacing the costly printing plates. The law allowed BEP to gradually convert to the inclusion of *In God We Trust* on the currency. Accordingly, the motto is not found on series 1935-E and 1935-F one-dollar notes. By September 1961, *In God We Trust* had been added to the back design of the Series 1935-G notes. Some early printings of this series do not bear the motto. *In God We Trust* appears on all series 1935-H one-dollar silver certificates.

On March 7, 2007, the [U.S Mint](#) reported an unknown number of new [George Washington](#) dollar coins mistakenly struck without the edge inscriptions, including "In God We Trust." These coins have been in circulation since February 15, 2007, and it has been estimated by some experts that at least 50,000 of them were put in circulation. The coin rapidly became a [collector's item](#) as well as a source for [conspiracy theorists](#).<sup>[7][8]</sup>



Sang Sur <sangnjh@gmail.com>

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## Delusional Christians

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Sang Sur <sangnjh@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 10, 2009 at 1:54 PM

To: GR Gaudreau <grgaud@gmail.com>

Thank you so much for your candid response. I have a lot to think about . . . and I'm truly grateful that even though strangers, you've offered to give me some insight.

I guess one thing that I need to really think about is -- eternity.

Christians believe in going through trials and difficulties because they need to personally grow to become a person God wants them to be (of course, they can't on their own -- so they need the grace of Jesus, who died for them on the cross and is now able to forgive sins and remove any imperfections) . . . and they would do this because they believe in eternity. (Otherwise, if they will die and cease to exist anyway -- why bother trying?)

But as to your point, there is no eternity. Then yes, we should find our purposes in life on family, work, etc.

But I wonder if it's like the survival of the fittest, like in Darwin's theory, b/c as I look more and more, many people do not have a purpose in life (especially with the economy, loss of jobs, fear of losing jobs, need for more education for the younger generations due to competitiveness of the world) -- many people are depressed and upset with life. In the midst of that, how do people find their purpose? (not that I understand older generations such as a person like you or my dad, but I think the generation coming after mine is struggling more and more due to difficulty of "fitting in" or "being successful." and I'm not sure if you'd agree, but my generation seems more confused than your generation.) (I wonder if you feel the same from your view -- perhaps in experience with your grandchildren or your own children)

Many college/high school kids I talk to are simply "floaters" -- they have no clue what they want in life, and just go along with whatever media tells them to do. In the midst of that, how do most people find purpose? (I say most because obviously, some people end up "making it" in life, and they can cling to their successes as their purpose)

I guess I'm going a bit off topic -- but I can see that if people didn't believe in a greater power, a source of hope, many would maybe commit suicide or just drag their lives in regret -- as long as they can't find their purpose in life.

So, it's not about morality, or being able to fit in with the society -- just that it'll be hard for maybe 80% of the world to have a purpose if no higher being existed. Maybe that's why we have religion, and maybe that's why people choose to believe something.

Anyway -- I really want to start reading the books you recommended to me. I'll write again after getting and reading some of these books. Thank you for your candid responses that really gets me thinking. I hope you don't mind my writing to you asking for your opinions.

Thank you again for the help.

-Sang

On Thu, Sep 10, 2009 at 12:21 PM, GR Gaudreau <grgaud@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Sang,

As you may know, I am an Atheist, which basically means I have no beliefs in any god whatsoever, or even in anything supernatural. However, I think life has meaning. I'm 61 years old, have been married for 40 years and have two kids and three grandkids.

When I say life has meaning, I don't mean that in an absolute way, but in a subjective way; i.e., life has the meaning we each put into it. For some it's their family, for others their work, for others the challenges they meet in life, and so on.

We don't need a god in order to have meaning. What if you discovered one day that there really was no god, that you had absolute proof there's no god? Would you start killing, robbing, committing adultery and so on? If you're like most

people, you most probably wouldn't. You don't need a god to scare you into being good. Ethics are a product of evolution, a needed product that permist us to coexist. Even animals have rules they live by.

When I became an Atheist, I didn't start living immoraly, I just lived as I had always lived, by the principles taught me by my segment of society, my family.

GR

On Thu, Sep 10, 2009 at 11:52 AM, Sang Sur <[sangnih@gmail.com](mailto:sangnih@gmail.com)> wrote:

Yeah, I'm definitely going to check out the books you recommended to me. Thanks ~

I've been doing some thinking this morning -- and started wondering if there was no God. If that's the case, then we have no purpose for living. . . . I don't know how old you are, or where you are in your life -- but I'm 29, and have been working to make a living and have a family to take care of.

Now, if God didn't exist, then what's the point of living? Is our lives just to go to school (when we're younger) then find a job, and work all our lives and die? Basically, that's the view of life if God didn't exist. We can make all the wealth here (on earth), become famous like Bill gates, Donald Trump, etc -- then what? We die and that's it?

Christian belief is that God has a plan for each of us, and our purpose of life is so we can come to know God and trust in Him -- and for those that do, there is an eternity waiting, where our short lives here on earth to make that decision to trust in God would have meaning.

Otherwise, there is no meaning to life.

What would you say in terms of meaning of life? Perhaps that's why (whether God really exists or not), people believe in something -- b/c otherwise, they'd have no hope for the future. (this would be especially true for people who's lives aren't going the way they wanted it to -- not successful, not popular, etc) -- by believing, they can have some meaning in their life and have hope.

Let me know what you think. This topic is very interesting and I will read the books you recommended and if you don't mind, I may write back to you to ask for your opinions.

Thanks.

-Sang

On Wed, Sep 9, 2009 at 6:17 PM, GR Gaudreau <[grgaud@gmail.com](mailto:grgaud@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello Sang, (his responses to my email below)

On Wed, Sep 9, 2009 at 9:25 AM, Sang Sur <[sangnih@gmail.com](mailto:sangnih@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi,

I just stumbled across your site -- (google keywords delusional Christian)

And I was very fascinated with your link "**How Do We Know That Christians Are Delusional?**"

I've grown up in the Christian church most of my life, and I'm trying to figure it out. I want to stick to your points, but I'd like to know if you have any more meat so I can convince myself and perhaps some others.

It seems like you have good points for Mormons and Muslims, but I think my pastor would say otherwise about your facts on Christianity.

Of course your pastor would say otherwise, that's to be expected, but how good would his answers be?

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So, for the following lines, these are recorded in the New Testament in the Bible. And unless I'm mistaken, when these books were written, other people were around to agree or disagree with the facts. This Bible has been carried

on by the Catholic church for many many years -- and there must have been some word of mouth from people (people who lived longer years than others) that these are true -- or that these are false. I think it's hard to have a book carry on for centuries without any information about criticisms of the people back in those days. (for example, there's a story about the soldier who after the death of Jesus that claimed He must be God -- he must have testified, and/or his children -- also stories about people Jesus healed -- they must have believed in something -- and I'm sure that person's children must have spoken out against it if it was false -- do you see my logic?)

Yes, I see your logic, and I also see that it's faulty. You should acquaint yourself with the history of the creation and propagation of the NT, you'd be surprised at the answers you'll find. I would also recommend that you read people who are NOT devout Christians. Get another perspective, another side of the story.

I highly recommend Burton Mack's "Who Wrote The New Testament?" or Bart Ehrman's "Misquoting Jesus" or Randell Helms "The Gospel Fictions" Bart Erhman's "Lost Christianity" and "Lost Scriptures." Those would be a good place to start.

- a magical ghost that inseminates a woman named Mary
- she gives birth to a magical son named Jesus
- a magical star leads people to the baby
- Jesus performs many magical miracles which happen to leave behind no evidence whatsoever
- Jesus dies, but three days later he is magically resurrected
- he magically appears to many people to prove his resurrection
- then magically, he ascends into heaven, never to be seen again

(so these points are kind of tough -- but with the Muslims and the Mormons, they are more recent (I know Mormons are, but I'm not sure about the history of Muslims) -- in the age where everything is open, with various communication lines, I do find it hard to believe all this was done in secret.

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Just few more things that I think may be able to prove your points

- Why is it that every scientific study shows that prayer is a superstition?  
(Do you have scientific studies that show this? I think what you're saying makes sense, but really, people who pray say their prayers get answered -- isn't that some empirical evidence?)

I can't think of any offhand, but there have been some. Google is your friend, use it and find out about scientific studies on prayer, it shouldn't too hard.

- Why is it that you, as a rational human being, would believe in a completely imaginary place like heaven?  
(Ok, I suppose only Christians would believe in heaven b/c it's never been proven, except for the fact that it's written in the Bible. People would have to believe in God first before they can say they believe in heaven)

That still doesn't mean heaven is real, or that god is real for that matter. The whole problem with the faith thing is that it doesn't rely on verifiable evidence.

- Why would you believe in a being named "God" for whom there is absolutely no empirical evidence?  
(Try watching the video "Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel -- if you want, I can get you a link to the video, I have it on avi format -- it talks about how science points to the existence of God, of a creator -- and he makes a very logical, scientific approach) -- Have you seen it? What's your take on that?

No, but I've read others who took the same approach and they were lame, I expect no less from Strobel.

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I just want you to know, I want to know the truth, and I see the logic of what you're saying -- I just wish there were more answers.

Please let me know what you think.

Thanks.

-Sang

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