

A Rational Defense For The Christian Faith

By Ted Broadway

June 2000

Can you prove that God exists?

Before we can answer that question we must get a few things straight in our minds. One. There is the question of whether something 'exists' or not. Something can exist whether we know it or not. Two. There is the question of whether we 'know' that this something exists. Three. There is the question of whether we have 'reasons' for what we know. Four. Do these reasons amount to proof? And five. If there is proof, is this 'scientific' proof (by hypothesis, testing, measurement and repeatability). Philosophical proofs are good proofs, but not all of them are 'scientific' proofs. We can answer yes to the first four questions but not to the fifth when it comes to the existence of God. God exists. We can know that. We can give reasons. Those reasons amount to proof but not scientific proof.

There are many arguments for the existence of God. This month we will look at the "Argument from Design". The argument goes like this: the major premise (the general principle) is **where there is design there must be a designer**. The minor premise (the particular case that comes under the general principle) is **we observe the existence of design throughout the universe**. The conclusion is **therefore, there must be a Designer**.

Why must we believe that all design means that there is a designer? We must because everyone admits this in practice. Suppose you came upon a watch on a mountainside. You would not think that a volcano had spit out the watch but you would think that someone intelligent enough had designed the watch. Suppose you came upon a house with windows and doors and a nice fireplace on a deserted island. You would not think that a hurricane had thrown up the house by chance- but the design would imply a designer.

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Is it possible that design happens by chance **without** a designer? Someone once said if you sat a million monkeys at a million typewriters for a million years, one of them would type out all of *Hamlet* by chance. But when you pick up a copy of *Hamlet* you do not think of monkeys and chance. Why then do people use such an unbelievable improbable explanation of the creation of the universe. Because this is the only chance of keeping God out of the picture. We have a logical explanation of the universe but atheists and unbelievers do not like it. It is called God. The design we observe in the universe implies a Designer. More on this next month.

(If you want to know why a million monkeys on a million typewriters for a million years will NOT produce *Hamlet* call Pastor Ted at 509-725-1802 or send an e-mail to tedbroadway@gmail.com