



## Naturalism: No Story

**Listen!** “Everyone move along now. There is nothing to see. There is no story here.”

Remember, the process of making sense of the world: **My worldview** (the “glasses” through which I make sense of the world) colors my **interpretation** of the **data** that comes to me and thus controls the **actions** I take and finally impacts the **outcomes** I experience in life. A worldview must be internally consistent, externally satisfying, and outcome satisfying.

### The Central Tenets of Naturalism:

- The material universe, what can be experienced with the five senses, is all that exists.
- There is no God.
- The rational brain is sufficient to guide mankind. (Brain vs. the mind.)
- Religious beliefs can be held if one so desires but those beliefs are only personal conjecture and cannot be admitted as “knowledge” in the true sense of something knowable.
- Humans are the product of the process of evolution and are destined for annihilation just like all animals.

### A Basic Response to Naturalism:

- Evolution and atheism, like creation and theism, are truth claims and it takes a great deal of faith to believe in evolution and atheism. Both theism and atheism bear the burden of proof—atheism is not, and cannot be, the default position—it too must be proven.
- The existence of a cake always means there is a baker. Col 1:16
- The absence of “macro-evolution” is a huge problem for naturalism. 1 Cor 15:39
- Matter is not eternal. Hebrews 11:3
- You would have to be omniscient to know there was no God. Ps 14:1
- God is close to all of us. Acts 17:27, 28
- The creation is powerful testimony to the invisible attributes, eternal power, and divine nature of God—that is clear to everyone. Romans 1:20.
- Is it possible that rationalism and evolution are motivated more by human guilt, self-will, fear, and pride than by actual evidence? If there is a God... Heb 9:27 and Psalm 14:1
- Rulers in the ANE made statues of themselves and spread these statues to every place where their rule extended—the statues acted as reminders of their sovereignty. Gen 1:27.
- Creation. 6.6 billion people. Everywhere we look we see God.

**What should I say to a naturalist?** The goal is always to get an opportunity to tell the Story that God is inviting us in to. That conversation might begin when I, with grace, truth, and compassion, say, “I am sorry but I do not have as much faith as you. The evidence is not compelling to me and the problems are unanswered.”

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# Walking Papers

Practical helps for walking with Christ and pursuing God through obedience, reflective living, and community.

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Please take some time each day this week for "spiritual recalibration" by thinking through the following ideas and questions related to having "eternity in our hearts:"

- **Today:** List some things that you are sure exist and that cannot be tested with the five senses.
- **Monday:** In what ways does naturalism not adequately interpret the data in our world?
- **Tuesday:** What are the negative outcomes of holding fully to naturalism?
- **Wednesday:** For a naturalist what is the difference between a "religious belief" and "knowledge"? Why does a naturalist say that a religious belief can never be knowledge?
- **Thursday:** What does it mean when we say that naturalism is a truth claim and that like all truth claims it bears the burden of proof? Why can naturalism not be the default position of worldviews?
- **Friday:** Why is it self-contradictory and self-annulling to say, "I am sure there is no God."?
- **Saturday:** What is the difference between a "brain" and a "mind"?

**Bonus Question at no additional charge:** Explain how immaterial things can be just as real as material things. In what ways might immaterial things be more real than material things?