

Thoughts and Perspectives

Since we last met, Christopher Hitchens has died. If you're not aware of Mr. Hitchens, he is the famously smart, highly regarded, supremely intellectual atheist who penned the book "*God Is Not Great.*" The book title is a bit misleading, however, as Hitch was more than just an atheist (a person that doesn't believe in God, but might wish there was one) – instead he considered himself an antitheist – a person who sees no evidence of God and is glad there isn't one. The thought that he has now met God and must answer for his life should give us all a shudder, but that is not what struck me most about his passing. What hit me were the glowing eulogies from his famously atheist friends and acquaintances. All elevated the man to a status that was nearly god-like. They speak glowingly of his fiery debating skills, his sharp criticisms and his no-holds-barred defense of his positions. These things are laudable, to be sure, but the real question that I am left asking is "so what?"

If there indeed is no God and (presumably) no afterlife, as Mr. Hitchens argued, what difference does the life of a person make? In 100 years, Mr. Hitchens (along with most of us) will barely be a footnote on the bottom of a page somewhere, if that. Mr. Hitchens knew this, but still his passion for arguing against God was legendary. What drove this passion? If there is no afterlife, and most of us won't really be remembered anyway, why argue so strenuously, and to what end? I believe perhaps he was arguing with himself – the inner core inside all of us that knows there is a God.

This same issue is one that is always before us as we teach our children. What do we want them to be? More importantly, what do *they* want their lives to be? We all have a choice for our lives – invest in the things that burn or things that are eternal. Sadly, Mr. Hitchens invested fully in a pile of straw. This is a very hard concept to teach in our modern age of "me," but there is no greater thing for us to teach them but that they are worthless to the world, but of infinite worth in the eyes of God. The question we've always asked our children is "....what do you want people to say about you when you're not in the room?" If they can visualize it, then they can *be* it. It seems that this self-image thing is binary – it can either be based on things of the world or the things of God, but not both.. How we choose will determine who we are, and ultimately what we will hear when we stand before Him.

Please join us for our next meeting where we can discuss this and other relevant issues in further detail.

Your servant in Christ,
Ron

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