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DISCUSSION GUIDE – Based on the 3-minute video at OverflowToday.com titled:

New Atheism - Tactics and Flaws

Featured is Norman Geisler, Philosopher, founder of Veritas Seminary, and author of the book I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FAITH TO BE AN ATHEIST. Filmed at "The Awakening" apologetics conference at Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa, CA.

Section 1

Discuss what you applied in the past seven days from the last OverflowToday show.

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-5. Discuss together what this passage's prediction could look like in contemporary life now or in the future.

Cite any present day examples that come to mind. What would this passage call us to do in such situations?

If there is time, quickly cite instances from past history that were similar to what this passage speaks of.

Section 2

Watch the 3-minute video podcast entitled "New Atheism - Tactics and Flaws" at <http://OverflowToday.com>

Section 3

What did you think? What stood out to you as you watched this?

Geisler compares new atheism to old atheism regarding philosophical discussion approaches. Which group do you think he regarded more highly, and why?

What are some traits of new atheism philosophers that the author cited?

Bombastic attacks on religion. Arguments that are sociologically and emotionally based.

What are the traits of old atheism philosophers that the author cited?

"You could reason with them." Arguments that are philosophically and rationally based.

What is a primary charge that new atheism makes against Christianity, as cited by Geisler?

Religion is bad for mankind and society. It is responsible for much of mankind's problems and evils.

What retort to this charge did Geisler offer?

On the contrary, religion is responsible for most of the good in society and has been a force in greatly reducing the evil in our society.

Remember as many examples as you can that Geisler cited of how religious people and people motivated by their belief in God have helped society.

Christians started the Red Cross. Slavery was ended greatly in part due to the efforts of Christians like William Wilberforce. Most of America's great social movements like university educational institutions and hospitals were motivated by peoples' belief in God.

Geisler took exactly the opposite position that new atheists do, and contended that the world's greatest evils of the last 100 years were caused by those who were motivated by an atheistic or naturalistic worldview. What are examples that he cited to support his charge?

Hitler in Germany (6-10 million executions), Mao Tse Tung in China (50-70 million deaths), Stalin in the Soviet Union (30 million forced deaths).

In which of his examples did Geisler connect such tragedy to Darwinism and how did he make this connection?

Hitler was motivated by the writings of Charles Darwin. He believed that you needed to weed out the weaker races.

Cite any other aspects of Geisler's profile of the atheistic worldview and how it affects society that you heard.

Geisler quoted an adage that says, "God died in the 19th century and man died in the 20th century." He contended that when a society moves away from a belief that man is made in the image of God, you are left with a worldview that can lead to a philosophy of weeding out the "animals" that you don't want, much as a dog breeder would, and breeding in the animals that you do want, in this case in the context of human beings. Hitler is a prime example of this philosophical perversion.

For an excellent program to complement this podcast, listen to the 5-minute audio podcast entitled RELIGION CAUSES MOST VIOLENCE AND WARS! at OverflowToday.com. This is especially recommended if you choose the application step suggested in Section 4 below.

Section 4

Discuss some ways we could apply a few of these principles in the next 7 days.

One suggestion (if needed):

Go talk to two friends, co-workers, or neighbors and ask them:

a. In our weekly discussion group we are surveying the opinions of our friends regarding which worldview causes the most evil in society today: a belief-in-God-based worldview or an atheistic worldview. Which would you say causes more problems and what are some examples you can think of from the last 100 years?

Write down their responses on a pad as they share their opinions. Thank them for their opinion. Wait for them to possibly ask what you are hearing from others, or perhaps what your opinion is. If they don't ask, and if they choose the religious worldview as being worse one for society, ask them:

"Would you be interested in hearing examples that religious people cite in saying that an atheistic worldview causes much more evil in society than religion?"

If they want to hear such examples, share any that you know or the ones listed above. If they are not interested, sincerely thank them for honestly sharing their opinions.

Meet back next week to report on what happened.

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