

Assurance of Salvation
 Part 74

Glorifying God:

Can atheists glorify God??

? CAN AN ATHEIST* GLORIFY GOD?

THE ANSWER IS **"YES"!**

Even though they *dishonor* God in every way possible.

Glorify God? That's amazing! HOW can it be?

* (Though our focus will be on atheists, this applies to all who reject the God of the Bible.)

[METHOD #1 for glorifying God]

RIGHT NOW:
 (i.e., at the present time)

THEY DO GLORIFY GOD!

Right now, atheists can glorify God blindly and in ignorance.

- Atheists (like all people) have an awareness of God.
 - But they suppress what they know (Rom. 1:19-22).
- God is the foundation that defines the nature of "good."
 - When people ignore God, it distorts their perception of "good."

Remember this: Though they are like the "blind leading the blind"...



Atheists don't "fall into the ditch" 100% of the time.

(Based on Luke 6:39.)

Remember this: God is kind even to those who hate him! (Rom. 2:4)

- This is why atheists (and all people) can do at least some "good."

I just helped you out of the ditch!

Go away! You don't exist!

Many "first generation" atheists are influenced by the Bible.

- Many try to imitate God's people.
- This influence will allow them to do things that are least somewhat "good."

I've read what the Bible says about being kind to other people...

Many "first generation" atheists are influenced by the Bible.

- Even so, their "good" will be distorted with evil or self-centered motives, half-truth, etc. It will be permeated with hatred for God.

I've read what the Bible says about being kind to other people...

I can do just as good as the Christians (or better), and do it without God!

They may look good when compared to fake "Christians," or to Christians who have fallen into sin.

(They don't distinguish between these two groups.)

- It may be quite easy for the atheists to do better than the fakes!
- But genuine Christians will repent of their sin. (The atheists won't emphasize this fact.)

They're *all* hypocrites!

I can do better than *all* of them!

They may do some things better than "baby" Christians, and Christians who are inconsistent in the way they live.

(They tend to ignore Christians who do better.)

I treat the environment better than they do!

Maybe better than some...

But I treat the environment well because *I love the God who made it!*

The way YOU treat it is IDOLATRY!

Their hatred for God affects their attitude toward people.

(Since people are created in God's image – Gen. 1:16-28)

- As the Bible's influence decreases, society becomes more evil and corrupt – *as we see happening this very moment in our nation.*
 - Worldwide, more people have been killed by atheists than perhaps by any other group in history (especially in the last 100 years).

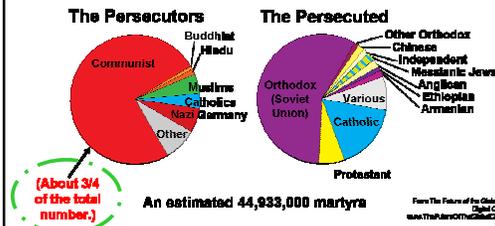
There is no god. It's "survival of the fittest."

If I kill you, then, "I win and you lose!"

"Can you document that statement about so many people being murdered by atheists?"

Of course! But we'll just focus on the CHRISTIANS who were murdered by them.

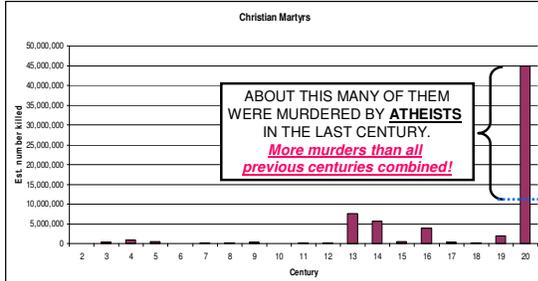
Persecution in the 20th Century



* There are plenty of sources you could use, but this source put it in an easy-to-view chart form.

Estimated number of Christians* killed per century

* (People who claimed to be Christians, whether or not we would consider them "genuine.")



Based on data found in The Future of the Global Church Digital Collection, www.TheFutureOfTheGlobalChurch.org

ATHEISTS CAN GLORIFY GOD RIGHT NOW (Summary):

- To whatever extent their "goodness" is influenced by the Bible, their conduct can glorify the God they deny.
- This is true of our conduct as well.

[METHOD #2 for glorifying God]

IN THE FUTURE:

THEY WILL GLORIFY GOD!

In the future, atheists **WILL** consciously glorify God.

... at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ...

Philip. 2:10 (NLT)

All my life, I suppressed the truth that was embedded in my conscience.

It's Judgment Day. The "game" is over. I can no longer pretend God doesn't exist.

[The "every" includes atheists.]

... and every tongue will confess* that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philip. 2:11 (NLT)

* "Confess" = admit the truth. No more pretension!

I confess that Jesus is Lord ... though now, it is too late to confess him as Savior.

I confess that Jesus is Lord ... I also confessed him as Savior, while there was opportunity to do so.

We will **ALL** glorify God at that time.

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:*

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

Rev. 5:13 (NIV)

* For "former" atheists (= the only kind of atheist that will exist at that time), it won't be a joyful song.

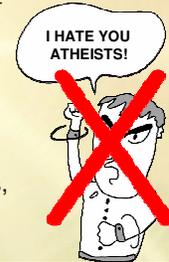
ATHEISTS WILL GLORIFY GOD IN THE FUTURE (Summary):

- They will *glorify* the God they hated, by confessing that his judgments are right.
- Everyone else will also *glorify* God, including us.

YOUR MISSION:

WHAT IT IS NOT (1):

- **Not to hate the atheists.**
 - Yes, they are enemies of the cross.
 - But if you *hate* your enemies, you are **NOT FOLLOWING JESUS!**



YOUR MISSION:

WHAT IT IS NOT (2):

- **Not to make fun of the atheists.**
 - If you *enjoy* knowing what their fate will be, then you have other issues you need to worry about. (You are NOT following Jesus.)



YOUR MISSION:

WHAT IT IS (1):

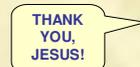
- **To pray for the atheists.**
 - Just like someone prayed for you.
 - Even if you aren't aware of anyone who prayed for you... remember that *Jesus* did. (John 17:20+)



YOUR MISSION:

WHAT IT IS (2):

- **To thank God that he restrains their sins.**
 - Just like he restrains yours.
 - Without that restraint, we all would be much worse.



Credits (1)

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