



Is Belief in God Good, Bad or Irrelevant?: A Professor and a Punk Rocker Discuss Science, Religion, Naturalism & Christianity

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Greg Graffin is frontman, singer and songwriter for the punk band *Bad Religion*. He also happens to have a Ph.D. in zoology and wrote his dissertation on evolution, atheism and naturalism. Preston Jones is a history professor at a Christian college and a fan of Bad Religion's music. One day, on a whim, Preston sent Greg an appreciative e-mail. That was the start of an extraordinary correspondence. For several months, Preston and Greg sent e-mails back and forth on big topics like God, religion, knowledge, evil, evolution, biology, destiny and the nature of reality. Preston believes in God; Greg sees insufficient evidence for God's existence. Over the course of their friendly debate, they tackle such cosmic questions as: Is religion rational or irrational? Does morality require belief in God? Do people only believe in God because they are genetically predisposed toward religion? How do you make sense of suffering in the world? Is this universe all there is? And what does it all matter? In this engaging book, Preston and Greg's actual e-mail correspondence is reproduced, along with bonus materials that provide additional background and context. Each makes his case for why he thinks his worldview is more compelling and explanatory. While they find some places to agree, neither one convinces the other. They can't both be right. So which worldview is more plausible? You decide.

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Editorial Review

Review

Jones proffers a case for Christianity that is free of biblical proof-texting, which non-believers might find refreshing. (Bradford McCall for Religious Studies Review, April 2007)

Here is an e-mail exchange like few others. I would recommend it for anyone interested in how a Christian and an anti-Christian can intelligently and peacefully interact. (Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith, June 2007)

"I've overheard numerous conversations but none as captivating as this. Greg Graffin and Preston Jones disagree agreeably while discussing the things that matter most. I learned from both, grew in appreciation for the creative music of Bad Religion and reflected on how better to flesh out my faith in a pluralistic world. I hope all my friends accept their invitation to listen in. This is a book that needs to be not just read, but discussed." (Denis D. Haack, Director, Ransom Fellowship, Editor, Critique, and visiting instructor in practical theology, Covenant Seminary)

"In books that seek to commend the Christian faith, often the conversation is one-sided, lacking 'apologetic tension.' Not so with this new work edited by Preston Jones. In a dynamic conversation (actually an e-mail exchange) between Jones, the Christian history professor, and punk rocker Greg Graffin over matters of consequence, we see elements of Christian theism and scientific naturalism going head to head. I was drawn deeply into their intellectual volleys, their spiritual perspectives and their friendship. I also learned about books and issues that were new to me. This work is a model of civility on the part of both parties, and an enlightening one at that!" (David Naugle, professor of philosophy, Dallas Baptist University, and author of Worldview: The History of a Concept)

"A good spirited conversation can be very educational. It gives people the freedom to draw their own conclusions, which is usually more powerful than forcing one down the reader's throat. Preston Jones has 'authored' a great read simply by keeping the conversation true to what was 'said' via his e-mails with Bad Religion frontman Greg Graffin. This collection of back-and-forth debate concerning the worldviews of a naturalist and a Christian is fascinating and as compelling as a suspense novel, as educational as a college course and as relational as a blog. Anyone young enough to love rock and roll and smart enough to know that the Christian faith needn't back down from any philosophy will appreciate the frankness found inside this book." (Doug Van Pelt, editor of HM Magazine, and author of Rock Stars on God)

From the Publisher

Features & Benefits

* Email discussion between a Christian history professor and a naturalist punk rocker with a Ph.D.

* Tackles cosmic questions about biology, suffering, destiny, morality and more

* Engages youth and students with "big ideas"

* Unique and compelling

- * Models effective dialogue between people with differing worldviews
- * Can be used as a text for philosophy, theology, apologetics or worldview courses
- * Includes a study/discussion guide

About the Author

Preston Jones is a hip professor of history at John Brown University in Arkansas. He loves rock music and believes that God is not irrelevant. He serves on the advisory board of ECPAT-USA, an international organization devoted to combating child prostitution. Preston is also a contributing editor to *Books and Culture*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Louise Hawkins:

Now a day those who Living in the era where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources included can be true or not require people to be aware of each information they get. How individuals to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Examining a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Is Belief in God Good, Bad or Irrelevant?: A Professor and a Punk Rocker Discuss Science, Religion, Naturalism & Christianity book because this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Desmond Goforth:

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William Delacruz:

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