## **32.4** No Longer Atheists

There is an old joke about an atheist in Florida who became incensed over all of the fuss over the religious holidays of Easter and Passover. He decided to contact his lawyer about the discrimination inflicted on atheists by the constant celebrations afforded to Christians and Jews while the atheists had no holiday to celebrate.

The case was brought before a wise judge. After listening to the long, passionate presentation of the atheist's lawyer, he promptly banged his gavel and declared, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling and said, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? Surely the Christians have Christmas, Easter and many other observances. And the Jews-why in addition to Passover they have Yom Kippur and Hanukkah...and yet my client and all other atheists have no such holiday!"

The judge leaned forward in his chair and simply said "Obviously your client is too confused to know about or to celebrate the atheists' holiday!"

The lawyer pompously said "We are aware of no such holiday for atheists, just when might that be, your honor?"

The judge said "Well it comes every year on exactly the same date---April 1st!"

## Psalm 14:1 (NKJV) reads:

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."
They are corrupt,
They have done abominable works,
There is none who does good.

We have heard that there are no atheists in foxholes. Isn't it funny how we neglect wanting God in our lives until we are in a desperate place. We all know what it is like to realize that the only One to really help us is God. Suddenly we stop our neglect and may even make vows of obedience to Him.

Throughout the years there have been stories of people who professed to be atheists and became believers in God. I found this partial list of converted atheists on line:<sup>1</sup>

- Rosaria Champagne Butterfield: In what she describes as a train wreck, Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, a former tenured professor of English and women's studies at Syracuse University, shares her incredible story of her journey to Christ, laying aside lesbianism, feminism and Atheism.
- **Jim Warner Wallace** Was a Smart Cold-Case homicide atheist detective who worked for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). J. Warner became a Christ-follower at the age of thirty-five after investigating the claims of the New Testament gospels using his skill set as a detective.
- **C. S. Lewis** Oxford professor and writer; well known for The Chronicles of Narnia series, and for his apologetic Mere Christianity. In his book, *Surprised by Joy*, Lewis tells how he became a Christian, mainly through the reading of both secular and Christian books.<sup>2</sup>
- **Lee Strobel** American Christian author and a former investigative journalist. Author of *The Case for Christ*.

These are just four names of many who lived as atheists, but through some providential events became faithful believers in the living God.

It is always an exciting to see such change in people! There are, however, a great number of people who do not make such a change. I want you to think about what the following men have in common.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> List And Profile Of Famous Atheists Who Converted To Christianity - Believers Portal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://christinprophecy.org/articles/c-s-lewis-his-conversion/

- 1. Karl Marx, Died March 12, 1883
- 2. Vladimir Lenin, Died January 21, 1924
- 3. Joseph Stalin, Died March 5, 1953
- 4. Mao Zedong, Died September 9, 1976
- 5. Ho Chi Minh, Died September 2, 1969
- 6. Kim IL-Sung, Died July 8, 1994
- 7. Fidel Castro, Died November 25, 2016

If you said that they are all dead, you would be right. If you said they were Communist leaders you would be right again. Since Communism rejects the existence of God you could also say they were atheists.

Let me emphasize that they <u>WERE</u> atheists. Once they died, they became quite aware of the God they denied throughout their lives. Because they disregarded God and believed they were an end to themselves, they had no conscience regarding the deaths of millions of innocent people they instigated.

While we live God seeks us. Jesus said to Zacchaeus in **Luke 19:10** (NKJV), "<sup>10</sup> for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." That may seem unbelievable, but God actually is interested in reaching each of us and making us part of His family.

While we live, we can seek God. He makes a profound promise in **Jeremiah 29:13** (NKJV), "<sup>13</sup> **And you will seek Me and find** *Me***, when you search for Me with all your heart.**"

Once death comes and we leave this world the seeking stops. Our eternity is set. God has gone the "second mile" so to speak in making it possible to have a saving relationship with Him. The sin offering Jesus made for us at the cross to seek and save us is beyond our comprehension. That story should move us in the very core of our souls and lead us to seek the God who seeks us.

America began with great promise. Pilgrims came to advance Christian faith and the kingdom of God. Other Founders and Framers relied on God through the War for Independence and after. We are a long way from that kind of reliance today. Many out and out reject God. Many others merely go through the motions towards God in hope of buying a "fire insurance policy" to keep them out of hell. Yet, all the while they recoil at His word and His presence.

The fool really does say "There is no God," or more literally it could read, "No, God." Conversely, the wise man will say, "Yes" to God. Don't forget Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV), "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Let's Keep The Light of Wisely Believing God Burning!