

Dear Mr. Klavan:

I am writing in response to your fine podcast interview with Stephen Meyer regarding his recent book, *Return of the God Hypothesis*. As a graduate engineer and a second career, “tent-making” protestant minister, I have a long-standing interest in discussions regarding the relationship between modern science and Christian faith.

I found all three of Dr. Meyer’s books to be thoroughly researched, carefully thought out, and clearly written. But I fear that he goes too far in his most recent book, where he claims that he can prove that God exists. In response, I quote the German theologian and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer: “A God who let us prove his existence would be an idol.”

Christians often cite Romans 1:20 justify arguments from philosophy and empirical science for the existence of God. But such arguments neglect 1 Corinthians 1:21 where Paul states that it is not possible to know God through human wisdom.

Sincere Christians who attempt to prove the existence of God seem to be unaware of or to dismiss the idea that God chooses to remain hidden, except for when He chooses to reveal himself. Because God often chooses to hide Himself, beauty and orderliness, chaos and cruelty, are woven throughout creation and history. This weaving together of beauty and cruelty makes it impossible to prove or disprove the existence of God. Christians are instead left with a dependence on the Word of God.

The idea that God hides is well established in the Hebrew Scriptures or the Old Testament. A key passage is Isaiah 45:15, which proclaims: “Truly, you are a God who hides himself” (RSV). The Anglican Priest Fleming Rutledge presented these ideas in in a September 12, 2018 essay in the Christian Century magazine, *Divine absence and the light inaccessible*.

I find your podcasts, and those of Spenser “no relation” Klavan, to be both informative and thought-provoking! In addition to my simple enjoyment of a fine presentation, these podcasts help me to expand my knowledge of culture and literature.

Yours in Christ,

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