

CHAPTER TWO THE ABSURDITY OF LIFE WITHOUT GOD

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1. What is cultural Apologetics? What is its proper place in building a case for the Christian faith? (51, 73)
2. Share some examples from contemporary music, literature, or film of the human predicament.

II. ASSESSMENT

1. What two prerequisites must be met if life is not to be absurd? (58)
2. What three broad areas illustrate the absurdity of life without God? (59) How do these differ from one another?
3. Explain why life is meaningless without immortality and without God. (59-60)
4. Explain why life is valueless without immortality and without God. (60-61)
5. Explain why life is purposeless without immortality and without God. (62-63)
6. How should you respond to someone who says, “I don’t believe in God, but my life is meaningful”? (Hint: Is belief in God a prerequisite of life’s having meaning? What is the difference between saying that life is absurd without God and saying that life is absurd without belief in God? Suppose someone believes in God, but God does not exist. Is his life absurd? Suppose, on the other hand, that God does exist; is the atheist’s life then absurd—or just tragic?)
7. What is the practical dilemma faced by the atheist? (64-65)
8. What should you say to someone who claims that moral values are just social conventions that we can adopt in order to live in harmony?
9. What should you say to someone who says, “You don’t have to believe in God in order to live a moral life”?
10. Explain L. D. Rue’s case for a “Noble Lie.” Give some examples where his various options have been adopted in different societies. (70-71)
11. How does biblical Christianity solve the human predicament?
12. What points of discussion do you have?