Sunday Evening Study

March 2nd/9th 2018

Arguments for the Existence of God

**The Cosmological Argument**

1. Everything that had a beginning had a cause.
2. The universe had a beginning.
3. Therefore, the universe had a cause.

Who made God?

**The Teleological Argument**

1. Every design had a designer.
2. The universe has a highly complex design.
3. Therefore, the universe had a designer.

The Anthropic Principle – The world is finely tuned to support human life.

Anthropic Constants.

**The Ontological Argument**

Started by Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109), a Benedictine monk, who asserted that the very idea of God is proof that God exists. He said that God is that than which no greater can be conceived.

1. God has all perfections.
2. Existence is a perfection.
3. Therefore, God exists.

More formally:

1. By definition, God is a being than which none greater can be imagined.
2. A being that *necessarily* exists in reality is greater than a being that does not *necessarily* exist.
3. Thus, by definition, if God exists as an idea in the mind but does not necessarily exist in reality, then we can imagine something that is greater than God.
4. But we cannot imagine something that is greater than God.
5. Thus, if God exists in the mind as an idea, then God necessarily exists in reality.
6. God exists in the mind as an idea.
7. Therefore, God necessarily exists in reality.

**The Moral Argument**

Argument: Without God you can’t have objective moral standards.

**The Transcendental Argument**

Argument: Without God you can’t prove anything. God exists because of the impossibility of the contrary.