

# The “Poison” of Religion

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Christopher Hitchens, renowned British atheist, titled his 2007 book, *God Is Not Great — How Religion Poisons Everything*. Both claims are solid thwacks at the billions of “believers.” He knows how to get our attention. Hitchens is one of a few “new wave” atheists who have recently begun preaching their anti “gospel” of unbelief to every creature. What shall we make of such efforts?

- **First**, the bold and sudden spurt of their rantings seems to reflect a panic mode. Has the rise of the “intelligent design” concept unnerved them? Did Anthony Flew’s 2004 defection from his almost lifelong atheism rattle their cages? Has desperation set in?
- **Second**, Hitchens and his colluders, unlike the “old guard” atheists, are not content merely to be atheists; like militant homosexuals, they must convert those Bible-thumping cretins. Hitchens and company not only do not believe in God and His Son, their evangelistic campaign is bent on destroying the faith of everyone possible (especially the younger set).
- **Third**, Hitchens’ title lays bare the arrogance and snarling defiance of his ilk regarding the very idea of God, as revealed both in His creation and in His Word. His title implies, “Even if I should concede the existence of the God of you hidebound believers, He’s not much to write home about. He ruins everything he touches.” If we are all merely complex chemical reactions (as atheistic scientists allege), why should they be so indignant at our faith? They may as well rail against a tornado or an Irish potato.
- **Fourth**, Hitchens champions logic and reason. (He will get no argument on this score from knowledgeable believers. God gave us our minds, gave us the Bible [which appeals to our reasoning abilities], and ordered us to use our minds to serve Him [Mat. 22:37].) However, before one reaches the title page, Hitchens’ subtitle **abuses** reason, asserting an unprovable universal generalization: “religion poisons everything.” Everything? If he wishes to affirm that **some** religions poison **some** things, he will hear our hearty, “Amen.” But he avers far more than any right-thinking mortal would assert — and his book falls far short of proving it.

Hitchens and his sort have a long, storied ancestry. His forebears were denying God’s existence at least a millennium before the Word became flesh. David accurately identified them as fools (Psa. 14:1; cf. Rom. 1:19–25). Contrary to Hitchens, God **is**, and He is **great**. True Christianity **improves** everything — a provable generalization, we are confident.

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