

# C H R I S T I A N I T Y and A T H E I S M

## 1: Christianity and All Religion Is “Wish-Fulfillment”

### Introduction

Many Christians are being confronted with the challenge of atheism. Young people attending college are routinely instructed in the tenets of atheism. Television documentaries and radio talk shows feature proponents of the atheistic world view. In this class we will examine many of the arguments proposed by atheists. Our purpose is to: 1. Try to understand the concerns with which they struggle; 2. Expose the errors of their thinking; and 3. Offer Biblical explanations to the questions that they raise.



*We shall tell ourselves that it would be very nice if there were a God who created the world and was a benevolent Providence, and if there were a moral order in the universe and an afterlife; but it is a very striking fact that all this is exactly as we are bound to wish it to be. And it would be more remarkable still if our wretched, ignorant, and down-trodden ancestors had succeeded in solving all these difficult riddles of the universe.*

Sigmund Freud, *The Future of an Illusion* (1927)

### 1. The personalities behind the argument:

Ludwig Feuerbach –

Karl Marx –

Sigmund Freud –

2. The basic elements of the argument:

- A. Humanity invented the idea of God as a consolation and a distraction from the sorrow of the world.
- B. The idea of God grows out of the "fear / love" relationship with our fathers.

3. The logical fallacies of the argument:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

4. Biblical responses to the argument:

Psalm 14.1

Psalm 10.4

Romans 1.28