

Title: Believing God Is
Text: Hebrews 11: 6
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Hebrews 11: 6: But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must BELIEVE THAT HE IS and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Subject: Believing God Is

I want to deal with this fundamental part of faith—“*he that cometh to God must believe that he is.*” Every believer has a new man and old man; new nature and old sin-nature. Therefore, every believer struggles with unbelief. I have had more than one believer tell me that on occasion they found themselves wondering if God even exists. I want us to be concerned when we have those doubts—bury yourself in the word, in the gospel. But also I want each believer to know that it is not uncommon for a believer to have struggles with unbelief. We have to pray like the man who said, “*Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief.*”

Then there are professing atheists. An “atheist” is defined as one who disbelieves the existence of God. In the past 100 years, self-professed atheists *theorize* that we are religious because we do not have the moral courage to face a meaningless life. The atheist would rather life be meaningless than that life be, as it is in truth, according to God’s purpose to bring glory to God. God tells us in his word that no man has fully convinced himself that God does not exist. God has given man too many witnesses for him to escape the truth that God is and that we all must stand before him in judgment.

Now, the Bible never attempts to prove the existence of God. It merely begins with the stated fact, “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*”

Propose: So it is not my purpose to try to prove the existence of God. Instead, I want to show you three witnesses that God has given, which show us that all men have a sense that God is, even though they may try to deny God.

Divisions: 1) Our Heart and Conscience 2) Creation 3) The Word of God

OUR HEARTS BEAR WITNESS

Romans 2: 14: For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: 15: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;

God created man in his own image. Therefore, though we fell and are conceived with a corrupt sin-nature from Adam, though we fall short of the glory of God, yet the law remains written on our hearts. The witness that God is, is yet in our conscience. It is corrupted by sin. But it is enough to make all unregenerate sinners have a sense that *God is* and that we must stand before him in judgment.

It will not lead men to a spiritual, saving knowledge of God or even make us seek God. But all men, by nature, have a sense of moral obligation to God, as well as to man; a sense of right and wrong, which necessarily means man, by nature, knows God exists. Think about it. The very fact that some so adamantly deny God’s existence proves they have God on their conscience. You do not try to deny some one that never crosses your mind.

Even the ancient philosophers, as wrong as they were in other things, got right the fact that all men, have a consciousness of a god or gods. Plutarch said, “If you go over the earth, you may find cities without walls, letters, kings, houses, wealth, and money, devoid of theatres and schools; but a city without temples and gods, and where is no use of prayers, oaths, and oracles, nor sacrifices to obtain good or avert evil, no man ever saw.” Cicero said, “There is no nation so wild and savage, whose minds are not imbued with the opinion of the gods; many entertain wrong notions of them; but all suppose and own the divine power and nature.”

CREATION BEARS WITNESS

Psalms 19: 1: The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2: Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3: *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.* 4: Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. 4: In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which *is* as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *and* rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6: His going forth *is* from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

In creation we behold the glory of God’s power—*Jeremiah 10:12: He hath made the earth by his power,*

Isaiah 40: 25: To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. 26: Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

All around we behold the glory of God's wisdom—*Jeremiah 10: 12...he hath established the world by his wisdom.*

Creation declares the glory of God's skill/discretion—*Jeremiah 10: 12...and [God] hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion. 13: When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.*

Around five years ago, we took a few days travelling down the Pacific coast on our way to Rescue, California. One night we built a fire on the beach. It was the first time I watched the moon rise out of the sea. We could see stars from east to west. We were in awe at the beauty of it all. Even at around thirteen years old, Emma said, "How could anyone believe all this was created from a big bang? It is impossible not believe God created it!"

The rain and lightning and thunder, along with the whole witness of creation, speaks to every man on this earth every day and every night, declaring God is—*"Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."* No matter what language a man speaks, he understands the voice of God's creation and that voice is heard by all declaring God our Creator.

Not only do we see and hear the witness of creation, we feel it—*"In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof."* The glory of the sun is so bright that we cannot look upon it. How much more God our Savior who created it! He is *"the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen."* (1Ti 6:15-16)

When a believer beholds the sun rising in the morning we are reminded of the Sun of Righteousness, the Husband of his bride the church, who after redeeming us, *came forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber, arising with healing in his wings/rays.*

As we behold the sun go forth from east to west, the believer is reminded that Christ is the strong man, who *for the joy set before him, ran the race set before him, enduring the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God—so that he is the Author and Finisher of faith (Heb 12: 1-3).* By his faithfulness he manifested the righteousness of God—how God can be just and the Justifier of those who believe on Christ. By his faithfulness he justified his people freely from our sins. It is by his faithfulness that we are saved—that is what true, God given faith confesses!

As we feel the heat of the sun we are reminded nothing is hid from our all-knowing Lord before whom every sinner must one day stand, *"Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead"* (Acts 17: 31).

Since every man has creation's witness, God says men are without excuse for not seeking him and bowing to him—*"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"* (Ro 1:19-20)

In creation we see clearly: God eternal—he existed before the things he created out of nothing; God all powerful—speaking the world into existence; God as head and creator of all things—he is before all things and by him all things consist. Just consider the human body. The Psalmist said, *"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well"* (Ps 139:14).

So why does *"the fool say in his heart, No God?"* What makes men claim they do not believe God exists?—*"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness"* (Rom 1: 18). The flood in Noah's day, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the destruction of the tower of Babel at which time God confounded our languages and divided the earth all declare the wrath of God from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men.

Yet, men hold down this truth in unrighteousness. They suppress it like pressing down on a large coil. Why do men try to convince themselves there is no God? It is the only way they can live in ungodliness and unrighteousness with no dread of future judgment—*"He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see it"* (Ps 10:11).

But man cannot obliterate a consciousness of God. Therefore, he creates a god like unto himself, which results in God turning men over to a reprobate mind. Listen to this description. It sounds like our day.

Romans 1: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23: And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24: Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. 26: For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men

with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 29: Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30: Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31: Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

GOD'S WORD BEARS WITNESS

Psalm 19: 7: The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8: The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9: The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10: More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

The Bible is the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God. There are no contradictions in this book—*"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"* (2 Pet 1: 21).

Some have said that religion originated with political leaders to try to keep the population in subjection. But no one has ever been able to tell us the name of that political leader or group or even what age they lived in? Surely someone would have documented something so monumental!

Sinful man could never author this book but if men did, they would never declare man totally depraved, with a mind which is enmity against God so that man is incapable of receiving the things of God. Man would never write that Christ died for a particular people—the elect only—and accomplished their redemption. If man authored this book he would never write that we must be born again and that it is the Spirit of God only that can give us life, faith, repentance and all things that pertain to life and godliness. Man would have written that man has part in salvation instead of writing that salvation is of the Lord, by grace alone, through faith alone, apart from man's works.

Consider that this book was written in three languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek). Forty different authors wrote it. They lived on two separate continents. It was written over fifteen to sixteen hundred years. Yet, it has one message perfectly set forth throughout which is salvation by Christ and him crucified.

Consider that prophecies which God declared in minute detail came to pass exactly as God said they would, at the time he said they would, and it is backed up by secular history.

Then consider how long this book has been preserved. Moses wrote the first five books around 1400 BC. Moses' writings are about 400-500 years older than the oldest secular writings which are by Homer. The new testament was written in the first century AD. That is almost 500 years before the Quran.

Arthur Pink said, "Imagine forty persons of different nationalities, possessing various degrees of musical culture, visiting the organ of some great cathedral and at long intervals of time, and without any collusion whatever, striking sixty-six different notes, which when combined yielded the theme of the grandest oratorio ever heard; would it not show that behind these forty different men there was one presiding mind, one great Tone-Master? As we listen to some great orchestra, with its immense variety of instruments playing their different parts, but producing melody and harmony, we realize that at the back of these many musicians there is the personality and genius of the composer. And when we enter the halls of the Divine Academy and listen to the heavenly choirs singing the Song of Redemption, all in perfect accord and unison, we know that it is God himself who has written the music and put this song into their mouths."

With all of these witnesses, sinful man still attempts to deny God's existence. This why we must be born of God of the word of God and kept by God—let us thank God that *"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple....More to be desired than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."* (Ps 19:7-10)

Amen!