

**My God Is Real**

Psalm 14 :1-7

Luke 15:1-10

# INTRODUCTION

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the prince of preachers, a master theologian, one of the greatest pastors in the history of the church, once said: The proper study of the Christian is the Godhead.
- The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy which can ever engage the attention of a child of God is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father

# QUESTIONS FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL

- From time immemorial the human race has been filled with questions about life, death, purpose, meaning, love, hate, good, and evil.
- But there are two great questions that must be answered before any other question is asked.
- Otherwise, every other question is meaningless, and in the end unanswerable.

# IS THERE A GOD?

- The first question is: "Is there a God?" Or, to put it another way: "Is God created in the image of man, or is man created in the image of God?"
- That question determines whether life is an appointment or just an accident.

- But even if that question is answered affirmatively, there is one other question that must be raised, or else we are really no better off.
- That question is: "If there is a God, has that God spoken and revealed himself in a way that we can understand and know Him?"

# MY GOD IS REAL

- This sermon is entitled "My God is Real."
- For I want to deal today with the basic question of the reality of God.

- One day in a primary-school art class, a little boy was drawing a picture, and the curious teacher came by and said, "Johnny, what are you drawing?"
- Johnny looked up from his half-finished master piece and said, "I'm drawing a picture of God."
- The teacher said, "Now Johnny, no one knows what God looks like."
- Johnny smiled and said, "They will when I'm finished."

- Well, I pray that in what I am going to share with you in these next few messages will help all of us to know not only that God is real, but that God is a God we can know, we can love, and we can serve.



THE FOOL HAS SAID IN HIS HEART, 'THERE IS NO GOD.'

- I find it fascinating that of the 41,173 verses in the Bible, one-half of one verse is given to the atheist.
- Of the 774,746 words in the Bible, eleven words are given to the atheist.
- But big things do come in small packages, and in this short statement and Psalm, we learn some great truths about the reality of God.

# THE REALITY OF GOD IS DENIED BY THE FOOLISH

- "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" (v.1a) Here we have what the atheist says about God—"There is no God."
- Then we have what God says about the atheist—"fool."

# FROM AN ATHEISTIC FAMILY

- Now I find that very humorous that God is speaking about someone who doesn't even believe in him.
- I read about a child who was raised in an atheistic family.
- One day the little child said at the dinner table to his mother and daddy: "Do you think God knows we don't believe in Him?"

# THE FOOL'S CREED, AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

- Almost as if he does not waste his breath, God just simply mutters "fool."
- This world is full of brilliant fools.
- There are PhD's in leading universities who can intellectually understand  $E = MC^2$  (Energy=mass multiplied by the speed of light), but spiritually they don't know their ABCs.

- They see a car and they believe in a manufacturer,
- They see a portrait and they believe in an artist,
- They see a book and they believe in an author;
- But they see a creation and refuse to believe in a Creator.

# APRIL'S FOOL DAY

- An atheist was complaining to a fellow he worked with, and he said,  
"You know the Christians have all the holidays. They have their Easter, they have their Christmas, we don't have any holidays. I think there ought to be a holiday for the atheists."
- The other man said, "Why don't you try April 1<sup>st</sup>?"

# UNBELIEVERS VS BELIEVERS IN AUSTRALIA

- Now there are some who may think that a message like this is not very relevant either to the church or to society, for we know that only 38.9 % of Australians say they do not believe in God, and probably 61.1% of the people who come to church say they do believe in God.
- But you are going to discover there are more foolish people here, and in Australia, than you might think.

# THE FOOL SAID IN HIS HEART, NO GOD.

- You notice in v.1 the words "there is" are in italics. In the Hebrew text the words are not there.
- What the verse actually says is, "The fool has said in his heart, no God."
- This is the person who wants nothing to do with God at all.
- He has no use for God's person, God's principles, God's people, or God's purposes.



# WHAT IS ATHEISM ?

- A denial of the existence of God.
- This is the belief of fools according to the Bible
- Only the fool denies God
- How foolish it seem to God when people say there is no God.

- Foolish because the person ignores the evidence that God exists
- Wicked because the person refuses to live by God's truth.
- We become the atheist in practice when we rely more on ourselves than on God.

# THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF ATHEISTS

- In effect, there are two types of atheists.
- There is the intellectual atheist, and there is the practical atheist.
- There is the person who believes there is no God; that is the intellectual atheist.

# PRACTICAL ATHEIST

- But then there is the person who behaves as if there is no God; that is the practical atheist.
- There are far more practical atheists both in church and in Australia than you might even realize.

# WHO IS THE MOST FOOLISH PERSON?

- Obviously, God is right in calling the person who does not believe in Him foolish.
- But the most foolish person in the world is not the person who says he does not believe in God.
- The most foolish person in the world is the person who says he does believe in God, but then doesn't live like it.

- Now we understand why God called such a person foolish.
- If a person knew there were no God, and said so, he would be wise and even courageous for telling the rest of us we were wrong.

- If he did not know whether there was a God, and said so, he would at least be an honest skeptic.
- If a person is convinced there is no God, when actually there is one, he would merely be mistaken.

# WHICH CATEGORY ARE YOU? 1

- But the reason God calls this person foolish is because deep down he knows there is a God, and yet chooses to believe and act as if there is none.<sup>2</sup>
- You may not think you fall under the category of foolish, but let me give you some examples of practical atheism:
- The foolish person is the person who says he believes in God, but never prays to Him, lives for Him, or works for Him.



## WHICH CATEGORY ARE YOU? 2

- The foolish person is the person who says he believes the Bible is the Word of God, but never reads it, nor obeys it.
- The foolish person is the person who says that hell and heaven are real, but never tells others how to go heaven or how to miss hell.

## WHICH CATEGORY ARE YOU? 3

- The foolish person is the person who says they believe Sunday is the Lord's Day, and the church is the Lord's house, and then spend every Sunday at the lake, the golf course , sports ground or the swimming pool.

## WHICH CATEGORY ARE YOU? 4

- The foolish person is the person is a person who recites the Lord's prayer about God's forgiveness but is not willing to forgive others.

- Madalyn Murray O'Hair, perhaps the leading atheist of her generation, once said: "I am an atheist not because I have searched behind every star, and looked under every rock, to prove there is no God.
- I am an atheist because I live my life as if there were no God."<sup>3</sup>

# THE REALITY OF GOD IS DETESTE BY THE FILTHY

- First, the fool speaks about God, and then God speaks about the fool.
- "They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one." (v.3)
- The word corrupt in the Hebrew language literally means "soured milk."
- This is the person in whom the milk of character has curdled.

# AN ATHEIST HAS A HEART PROBLEM

- You will never understand atheism unless you realize it is not so much a mental problem as it is a moral problem.
- The atheist is not a person who cannot believe, it is a person who will not believe.
- He does not have a head problem, he has a heart problem.

# SPIRITUAL X-RAY OF THE UNBELIEVER'S HEART IS TAKEN

- "They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good." (v.1) God takes a spiritual x-ray of the heart of the unbeliever.
- Here is what he reveals: The reason why the atheist wants to deny God, is not because there is no evidence that God is a truth, the problem is God is a threat to those who want to be their own god. Atheism is not primarily an intellectual problem, it is primarily a spiritual problem.

- Think about it in this way: Where there is no God there is no good, for as Jesus said to the rich young ruler: "Only God is good."
- If there is no God, and there is no good, then there is no judgment, and there is no hell.
- If there is no judgment and there is no hell, then you can live any way you choose without any repercussions or consequences.



# WHY DO THE WICKED DENOUNCE GOD?

- Now we get to the root of the rejection of the atheist.
- Ps. 10:13 says, "Why do the wicked denounce God? He has said in his heart, 'You will not require an account.'"
- If there is no God then Stalin can kill 20,000 Russians; Hitler can annihilate six million Jews and get away with it.
- It was the Russian philosopher, Dostoevski, who once wrote: "If God does not exist, then everything is permissible."<sup>4</sup>

# WILLIAM J. MURRAY'S TESTIMONY

- William J. Murray is the son of the famous atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair.
- He was the chief plaintiff in the Supreme Court decision: *Murray vs Curlett* in which prayer and Bible reading were removed from public schools.

- Thirty years after that decision, on June 17, 1993, William Murray, who since has given his life to Jesus Christ, told a crowd of almost 6,000 people this truth: "My family's rejection of God was not intellectual.
- We did not remove God from America's schools because of Separation of Church and State, we simply did not want to hear the Word of God because it was contrary to the lives we lived."5

# FOOLS LIVE IN IGNORANCE

- The Scriptures tell us that there are three characteristics of anyone who denies the reality of God.
- First of all, the foolish are marked by ignorance.
- "The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God." (v.2)

# WITHOUT GOD-WHAT HAPPENS?

- Without God, there are two things you will never know: You will never know truly how to live, and you will never know truly how to die.
- Without God, you will never understand what is wrong with this world, nor how to make it right.

# WITHOUT GOD IN OUR SCHOOLS.

- In that same address, William Murray went on to make this observation: "Look at the schools with God gone—now we have guns, rape, drugs, condoms, police patrols, metal detectors, violence, and Aids."<sup>6</sup>
- Mark this truth down. You can get what you want without God, but you won't want what you got without God.

# ONLY UNBELIEVERS ATTACK GOD

- The foolish are marked by intolerance. "Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread?" (v.4)
- Only does the unbeliever attack the person of God, he attacks the people of God.
- Secularists, humanists, materialists, and atheists absolutely hate the Religious Right. Do you know why? Because we are both religious and right.

- The more you love God, the more this world will hate you.
- Jesus said in John 7:7, "The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil."
- He then went on to say in John 15:18, "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you".



- Finally, the foolish are marked by indifference. "And do not call on the Lord." (v.4b)
- The reason why an atheist can't find God is the same reason a thief cannot find a policeman.
- They do not want to find God, because if they do it will change the way they live.

# THE REALITY OF GOD IS DECLARED BY THE FACTS

- David never once tries to prove the existence of God.
- He merely assumes it. In v.2 he simply states, "the Lord looks down from heaven."
- In v.5 he simply says, "For God is with the generation of the righteous."
- In v.6 he says, "the Lord is his refuge." Well, is that a fair assumption?
- Does the evidence of this creation demand a Creator?

# ANSWER FROM A SCIENTIST

- Well, I am going to allow a scientist to answer that question, who is not even a professing Christian.
- As a matter of fact, this scientist was an atheist. His name is Sir Fred Hoyle.
- He is a professor at Cambridge University and one of the leading astronomers and scientists of the Twentieth Century.
- He wanted to find out the probability of just one human cell coming into existence by chance.

- Hoyle came to the conclusion that evolution cannot explain the source of life, and said that for any kind of life to exist anywhere in the universe, it must be by the hand of an eternally existent being of infinite power, and because of his study, Hoyle, the atheist, became a believer in God.<sup>9</sup>

# ATHEIST RENOUNCE THEIR RELIGION

- A lot of atheists renounce atheism in times of affliction and death.
- These are some of them: Sir Francis Newport, Voltaire, Tom Paine, David Hume, Altamont, Ethan Allen, Thomas Hobbes, and many others pleaded for mercy from God and regretted their atheism in their dying hour.

- The problem with the atheist is not with his faith, the problem is with the facts.
- He may not lack confidence, but he does lack the evidence.
- As you will see further along in our study of God, he is declared by the facts.

THIS WORD “FOOL” REFERS TO CHARACTER RATHER THAN UNDERSTANDING.

- Deny the existence of God(v.1)
- Live corrupt lives (v.1)
- Do abominable works (v.1)
- Are without understanding(v.2)
- Ignore God- do not seek Him (v.2)

# CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOLS

- Are not good , not one(v.1,3)
- Have all gone astray from God (v.3)
- Have become filthy in life(v.3)
- Live in ignorance of God(v.4)



# CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOLS

- Destroy God's people (v.4)
- Never pray (v.4)
- Oppress the poor(v.5)

# THE REALITY OF GOD IS DISCERNED BY THE FAITHFUL

- "For God is with the generation of the righteous." (v.5b)
- God is not seen primarily by the eyes in our head, but rather by the eyes in our heart.
- Verse 1 tells us the unbeliever does not see God, but verse 2 tells us why, because he does not seek God.
- You can see the power of God by the eyes on your face, but you can only see the person of God by the eyes in your heart. The reality of God is only truly known by faith.

# FOOLS ATTACK GOD'S PEOPLE

- If God is, “in the company of the righteous” then those who attack God ‘s followers may be attacking God.
- To attack God s utterly futile( Psalms 2:4,5, 10-12)
- Thus, while we may feel we are losing the battle, there can be absolutely no doubt that our ultimate victory is in God.

# GOD PROTECTS YOU

- Now that should not bother you.
- Don't let these pseudo intellectuals and some scientists ridicule you because you live by faith.
- That's why we read in verse 1 "the fool has said in his heart (not his head), there is no God."

- It is true that when it comes to God in His reality, we walk by faith and not by sight.
- But that's all right, because "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1) I can say, without shame, I would rather live by faith than to die in doubt.

- Do you have good friends who are unbelievers? You are the volunteers we need for this mission. Jesus had a search and rescue mission. He went to hunt for the one that was lost/fool.

## THE WAY OF FOOLS IS LIKE:

- A lost sheep. A misplaced coin. A boy runs away from home.
- All are lost.
- To be lost is to be misplaced, mislaid, or missing.
- To be lost is to be where you are not supposed to be.

- Whenever we turn from the foolishness of our sins and return to the ways of God, we too are restored and can rejoice and be glad.(v.7)
- I believe in God. But more than that, I know God through Jesus Christ His Son, and I can say today, beyond any shadow of any doubt, my God is real.