

BELIEVING “GOD IS...”

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Heb.11:6

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The road to salvation begins with the proposition, “God is...” Heb.11:6.
2. There is ample proof for the existence of God, exemplified in:
 - a. The Argument from Creation, Rom.1:18-20; Heb.3:4; Psa.19:1.
 - b. The Argument from Life, Intelligence and Will, Gen.1:26,27; Psa.94:9-11.
 - c. The Argument from Morality, Gen.20:9.
 - d. The Argument from Man’s Spiritual Nature, Ac.17:23,27-29.
3. Our conviction determines our conduct.
 - a. The unbeliever does not order his conduct to please God, Psa.14:1; 10:3-11, emp.V.4.
 - b. It is possible for the believer to become an unbeliever, Psa.106:12,24; 1Tim.4:1,2; Heb.3:12,19; 10:28,29.
 - c. The child of God, even the Christian, the one once saved, may so live or so sink so far in sin and degradation that he may deny that “God is” by his conduct, Ezek.9:9; Cf. Jude 3,4,12, “without fear,” see also 2Tim.3:1-8; 2Pet.2:1,17-22.
4. Let us consider how we are affected by a strong conviction that “God is” –

II. DISCUSSION

A. BELIEVNG “GOD IS” GIVES ONE AN ELEVATED VIEW OF MANKIND.

1. Believing “God is” means we recognize that unlike the lower creatures of God’s creation, man is “in the image” and “after the likeness” of God, Gen.1:26,27; Cf. Ac.17:26-29.
2. We are not dumb animals driven by instinct and appetite. No, we are a rational, reasoning, moral and spiritual being, “a little lower” than the angels and not “far from God,” Psa.8:5; Ac.17:27,28; Psa.139:14; Heb.2:9-14.
3. This knowledge causes us to stand in awe of God who created us making us wonder why He has loved us so. Cf. Psa.8:1-9.
4. Furthermore, this knowledge causes us to treat our fellowman differently than we might otherwise do. Why? Because: --

- a. Our fellowman's life and soul are equally precious, Gen.9:6; Such faith that "God is" cause us to recognize the sanctity of human life.
- b. Not only are we, our fellowmen, all of one blood, but we are "his offspring," Ac.17:29; Heb.12:9.
- c. Our fellowman is worthy of what we desire and deserve, Phil.2:3; Mt.7:12.

B. BELIEVING "GOD IS" GIVES A SENSE OF PURPOSE TO OUR EXISTENCE.

- 1. The great question men ask is: "What is the meaning of life, why am I here?" Faith that "God is" and accepting his written Word, the inspired Scriptures, we have the answer to that question!
- 2. Knowing by faith that God is makes us understand that we are accountable and beholden to One far greater than ourselves, Eccl.12:13,14.
- 3. Believing God is we recognize that life is not a finite journey to be filled with plenty and with as much pleasure and as little pain as possible, Lk.12:19; 1Cor.15:32; 1Pet.4:17,18; Ac.14:21,22.
- 4. Believing God is we look upon and live life as a pilgrimage toward an eternal reunion with Our Creator, Tit.1:2; Rom.8:24,25; 8:16-18; 1Jno.2:24,25; 5:13. Cf. Abraham in Heb.11:24-27.
- 5. Believing God is we move on to a higher plane. Desiring to be with God, we recognize the imperative of walking with God in the here and now as did Enoch of old, Gen.5:24.
 - a. Faith that "God is" naturally leads to conviction that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek him as Heb.11:6 requires.
 - b. The diligent search results in the obedient life, Heb.11:8; Cf. Gal.2:20; 1Cor.15:10.
 - c. Believing God is we truly fear or reverence God and keep His commandments, Eccl.12:13,14; 1Jno.5:3. And in this we achieve the sum of that for which God brought us into existence, Jno.15:8; Mt.5:16; 1Cor.10:31.

C. BELIEVING "GOD IS" PUTS JOY INTO LIVING.

- 1. Life on this earth is filled with many unpleasant tasks and dreaded experiences; there are hardships of every kind and description, all of

which the Lord either implied or explicitly mentioned would be our lot in our service to him, as well in life in general.

2. As a result, without the hope of heaven and its incomparable glory and eternal fellowship with God and Christ therein, life would be dismal, utterly meaningless and frankly not worth living.
3. However, in Christ, believing God is, joy is ours in the midst of , and in spite of these earthly trials and tribulations. Cf. Jas.1:12; 2Tim.1:12; 4:6-8; Phil.4:6.
 - a. We rejoice because through trials we are perfected for heaven , Jas.1:2,3; Rom.5:1-4.
 - b. We rejoice because our efforts in redeeming souls are not wasted, Phil.2:14-18; Heb.6:10; 1Cor.15:58.
 - c. We rejoice because we are able to share somewhat in Christ's sufferings for us of which Peter speaks in 1Pet.4:13.
 - d. We rejoice because we have a great reward in heaven, Mt.5:12.
 - e. Paul, in Phil.4:6, says: "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

D. BELIEVING "GOD IS" TAKES THE FEAR OUT OF DYING, Heb.2:11-18.

1. If there is no God, death is the senseless end to a senseless life. We are like the animals in the end, but more miserable because:
 - a. The animals have no desires, yearnings or aspirations beyond their present existence; but we, as human beings, do!
 - b. The animals do not dream, neither do they purpose beyond the here and now; but we do. With them, there is no tomorrow; with us, there is!
 - c. Their lives are fully what they ought to be in sleeping, eating, breeding and even in dying; such does not explain, nor fully comprehend our lives as human beings created in God's image and in His likeness!
2. Believing "God is" we have confidence in the revealed fact that death is the door through which we must pass to attain all of that for which we hope. Therefore, believing "God is", death is no longer a miserable end to fear, but the first step on the last leg of a wonderful journey to God and eternal bliss.
3. The man in Christ is prepared for death and his 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ, 2Cor.5:1-10; Phil.3:20,21; 1Jno.3:1-3; 2Tim.4:6-8; Jas.1:12.

4. Believing “God is” there is no “sting” in death; its pangs cannot hold us just as they could not hold Jesus Christ our Lord. When the Lord returns in his 2nd Coming his saints will rise incorruptible, glorious, powerful, spiritual, immortal, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for them, 1Cor.15:42-44, 51-54; Rom.2:6,7,10; 1Pet.1:3,4.

III. CONCLUSION

1. I repeat: Salvation begins with the proposition: “God is” –
 - a. Do you believe the “God is”?
 - b. Does your conduct indicate that you really believe “God is”?
 - (1) Are you diligently seeking God and his will?
 - (2) Are you by faith obeying his commandments?
 - (3) Have you by faith obeyed the gospel?
 - (4) Is your life in rebellion? (Either as an alien sinner, or as an erring child of God?)
 - (5) Are you, like the fool described in Psa.10 and Psa.14, living without fear of God, or with no place for God in your thoughts or life?
2. Remember this: Belief that “God is” will ...
 - a. Elevate your view of mankind.
 - b. Give purpose to your own existence.
 - c. Put joy into living while here on the earth.
 - d. Take the fear out of dying.
 - d. Guarantee than inheritance laid up in heaven for the faithful.