

Session 2

December 8, 2019

IS THERE A GOD?

Psalm 19:1-6; 111:7-10

I have often said that atheists are actually liars. There is a God...and He has given abundant evidence that He exists. Even atheists understand this. As Adrian Rogers used to say, the so-called atheist can't find God for the same reason a thief can't find a cop! Because to *acknowledge* God means one must then be *accountable* to Him. Nevertheless, believers need to be willing (and able) to point both skeptics as well as seekers to God.

God's general revelation (Ps. 19:1-6). The term *general revelation* refers to the revelation of God that is available to every person...and always has been. The biggest, most dramatic example of general revelation is creation itself. The apostle Paul makes it clear:

“What can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what He has made” (Rom. 1:19-20).

In other words, God has shown the whole world not only *who* He is, but *what kind* of God He is, by the very act of creation and the providential care that keeps it alive. Because God has so powerfully revealed Himself to every human being, *no one* can say there is no God! As a result, *no one* has an excuse to ignore Him (Rom. 1:20).

But long before Paul wrote Romans, David the shepherd stood out in the fields, gazed up at the night sky, and moved by the Holy Spirit, penned Psalm 19. Three characteristics of the stars are highlighted. First, there is their *creation*. The heavenly bodies are the “work of His hands” (v. 1). Second, is their *continuation*. Day after day, night after night, they carve their paths through the sky without wavering (v. 2). Third, is their *communication*. Without uttering a word, the fact that they exist, travel their orbits, and shine their light all display the same message to all people throughout the earth: the God who created them and sustains them is a glorious God! (vv. 1, 4). Verses 4b through 6 then reference the sun. Interestingly, the psalmist likens the sun to a person; a guest, a groom. In the New Testament, Jesus is the light of the world. In the Old, He is the Sun of Righteousness (see Mal. 4:2). The sun is bursting in brilliance like a groom bursting through the door for his bride. The sun rises with great confidence and unfailingly carves its course through the sky like a strong athlete circling the track (v. 5). In Malachi 4, the sun brings healing. Here, it provides heat. All are touched by it; all are enriched by it; all are exposed by it (v. 6).

God's special revelation (Ps. 111:7-10). Whereas general revelation directs people to acknowledge God, only *special revelation* directs people to accept Him as Lord. Specifically, *special revelation* refers to the word of God; the written word (the Bible), and the manifest Word (the person of Christ), both of which are needed for salvation. Paul reminded us in Romans 10:17, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing *by the word of God*.” It's important to remember that while general revelation is enough to *condemn*, only special revelation is enough to *save*. Back in Ps. 19: 1, the heavenly bodies were called the “work of His hands.” Here in Psalm 111, truth and justice are added to the list (v. 7). Just as God created the physical elements of life, so

He created the moral and spiritual elements as well. These are revealed to us through God's word. His instructions are called trustworthy (v. 7), eternal (v. 8), and truthful and morally upright (v. 8). His word describes redemption (v. 9), explains His eternal promise (v. 9), and inspires His followers to praise Him (v. 9). Does God exist? Certainly! *General revelation* proves it. *Special revelation* proves it. And the wise man both acknowledges Him and submits to Him (v. 10).