A Serious Matter

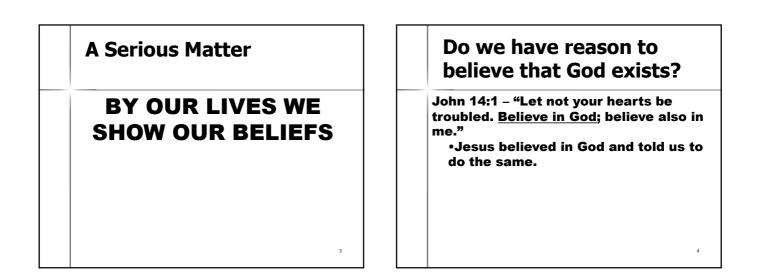
Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

A Serious Matter

• Are we just going through the motions?

•Are there convictions behind our faith?

•II Corinthians 10:3-5 – "... take every thought captive ..."



Do we have reason to believe that God exists?

Creation

- Genesis 1:1 "... God created ..."
 God tells us how the world was created
- Romans 1:20-21 "... have been <u>clearly perceived</u> ..."
 God tells us that we can see His creation when we look around

Do we have reason to believe that God exists?

Miracles

Hebrews 2:1-4 – "... by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit ..."
God proved His authority to us by the miracles performed

Do we have reason to believe that God exists?

• The Bible

• Written over a period of about sixteen centuries by over 40 people

II Timothy 3:14-17 – "... able to make you wise for salvation ..."
God's existence is shown in the Bible, as are His mighty works and wonders

Do we have reason to believe that God exists?

- The Bible
 The ultimate authority in our lives
 - It shows us God
 - It shows us responsibility and obedience
 - It shows us heaven and hell

Our lives may show that we do not even believe in God

- Evolution
 - God told us how He created
 - If we don't believe exactly, we show that we don't believe Him

• Those who refuse to believe will be in trouble on the last day

• II Peter 3:5-7 – "... kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly."

Our lives may show that we do not even believe in God

- "Scientific" explanations for miracles
 - John 10:37-38 "... believe the works ..."

Our lives may show that we do not even believe in God

- "The Bible contradicts itself"
 - Ephesians 3:3-5 "When you read this, you can perceive ..."
 - II Peter 3:14-17 "... the ignorant and unstable twist ..."

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Our lives may show that we do not even believe in God

In our daily spiritual lives

Prayer

• Ephesians 6:17-20 – "... praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication ... and also for me ..."

- Paul knew the importance of prayer
- •We weaken ourselves when we do not pray. ¹²

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Our lives may show that we do not even believe in God

• In our daily spiritual lives

- Bible study and reading
 II Timothy 2:15 "Study ..."
 - I Timothy 4:12-13 "... devote yourself to the public reading ..."

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Our lives may show that we do not even believe in God

- In our daily spiritual lives
 - Attendance in the assemblies

 I Corinthians 11:17-18 "... when you come together as a church ..."
 Hebrews 10:24-27 "... not neglecting to meet together ..."
 How shall we encourage each other and build each other up if we refuse to gather together?

Our lives may show that we do not even believe in God • In our daily physical lives • Obedience to laws • Romans 13:1-2 – "... be subject to the governing authorities ..." • The clothes we wear (appearance and modesty) • I Timothy 2:9-10 – "... in

respectable apparel ..."

• I Timothy 3:2 – "... respectable ..."

Our lives may show that we do not even believe in God

- In our daily physical lives
 - The places we go
 - The things we do
 - The way we speak

Our lives may show that we are ashamed of God A Serious Matter • We have the opportunity to teach others almost daily • We have the opportunity to teach others almost daily • At work • At work • At school • At the store • EVERYWHERE • Do we show that we are ashamed of God and His gospel when we fail to use the opportunities He gives us? Why are you here today?

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A Serious Matter

- Romans 10:8-17
 - Hear the Word of God
 - Believe in Jesus Christ
 - Confess Jesus as Lord
- Acts 17:30
 Repent of your sins
- Acts 22:16
 - "Rise and be baptized"

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