A Serious Matter

Ecclesiastes 12:1-14

• Are we just going through the motions?
• Are there convictions behind our faith?
• II Corinthians 10:3-5 – “... bringing every thought into captivity ...”

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II Corinthians 10:3-5 – “3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh 4 (for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds), 5 casting down imaginations, and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”

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BY OUR LIVES WE SHOW OUR BELIEFS

Do we have reason to believe that God exists?

John 14:1 – “Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me.”
• Jesus believed in God and told us to do the same.

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 – “… are clearly seen ...”
    • 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 by manifold powers, 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 thee wise unto 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 – “… reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

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 ye read, ye can perceive …”
  - II Peter 3:14-17 – “… the ignorant and unstedfast wrest …”
In our daily spiritual lives
- Prayer
  - Ephesians 6:17-20 – “... with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons ... And on my behalf ...”
  - Paul knew the importance of prayer
  - We weaken ourselves when we do not pray.

In our daily spiritual lives
- Bible study and reading
  - II Timothy 2:15 – “Study ...”
  - I Timothy 4:12-13 – “... give heed to reading ...”

In our daily spiritual lives
- Attendance in the assemblies
  - I Corinthians 11:17-18 – “... when ye come together in the church ...”
  - Hebrews 10:24-27 – “... not forsaking our own assembling together ...”
  - How shall we encourage each other and build each other up if we refuse to gather together?

In our daily physical lives
- Obedience to laws
  - Romans 13:1-2 – “... be in subjection to the higher powers ...”
  - The clothes we wear (appearance and modesty)
  - I Timothy 2:9-10 – “... in modest apparel ...”
  - I Timothy 3:2 – “... respectable ...”

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
- We have the opportunity to teach others almost daily
  - 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?
A Serious Matter

Why are you here today?

A Serious Matter

• Romans 10:8-17
  • Hear the Word of God
  • Believe in Jesus Christ
  • Confess Jesus as Lord

• Acts 3:15
  • Repent of your sins

• Acts 22:16
  • “Arise and be baptized”