

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 1:21**. Sentinel, OK; 8.
- B. Let us ponder this morning on the question of, "How did you come to know God?"
- C. Many of us would answer, "My parents told me about God." And this answer would be given many generations back.
- D. But by going back far enough we would then ask of Adam and Eve the same question.
- E. Let us take a look how we can't find God, and some ways people have tried to find God, and then how to find God.

I. **ONE CANNOT FIND GOD THROUGH REASON.**

- A. Webster defines reason as the "inferences or conclusions drawn from the facts known or assumed."
- B. Reason is therefore a means to an end, not a beginning.
- C. The "great" psychologist, Sigmund Freud said that we reasoned our way to God, by taking all of the good qualities found in earthly Fathers and making a composite called our Heavenly Father, and put that God in the Bible.
- D. But man would not make a God that is described in the Bible:
 - 1. That would put man in a paradise and then forever banish him.
 - 2. That would allow one man to kill another.
 - 3. That would destroy the entire earth except for 8 souls.
 - 4. That would bring 7 years of plenty followed by seven years of famine, to show His favoritism of one brother over 11 others so that in generations to come His people would be in slavery.
 - 5. Allow His chosen people to wander in the wilderness so long that by unbelief only 2 would enter the promised land.
- E. Reason can get us in trouble. EXAMPLE: frog, cutting legs off, frog goes deaf.

II. **ONE CANNOT FIND GOD THROUGH IMAGINATION.**

- A. Alexander Campbell in a debate asked our question to the atheist, Robert Owen. Owen answered, by imagination.
- B. Alexander would never ask a question in a debate that he did not already know the answer to. Imagination was an incorrect answer.
- C. We cannot imagine anything that is new. EXAMPLE: of monster made of things that already exist.
- D. Carl Marx thought that religion was the opiate of society, because mankind had imagined God to help in trouble and want.
- E. To explain that which you have imagined, you must use terms of things that already exist.
- F. Since God cannot be found through wisdom, reason, or imagination, this only leaves one possible way (it is correct); revelation.

III. **GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO MAN THROUGH THE GOSPEL.**

- A. Look at these scriptures: 1Cor. 1:21; 2:1-8.

IV. **SOME TRY TO PROVE GOD THROUGH MIRACLES.**

- A. Scripture text: 1Cor. 1:22a.
- B. Jesus would sometimes give a miracle as proof of who He was but the message was always the important thing.
- C. Jesus said the signs of me have already taken place (Mt. 12:39,40; Lk. 19:16-31; Jn. 5:39).
If they believe not Moses and the prophets neither will they believe in a miracle.

- D. Today some believe that a person must speak in tongues, heal, or do some miracle to, prove they are a Christian. God said no such thing (Rom. 8:16).

V. SOME TRY TO PROVE GOD THROUGH WISDOM.

- A. Many are trying to improve on the pattern, by exercising their own wisdom, instead of believing and obeying what God has said.
- B. Albert Barnes doesn't believe baptism is essential to salvation. In his wisdom how does he explain Ac. 2:38 and Mk. 16:16?
- C. But sometimes we do the same thing. Like in Bible class arguing the point of what Paul's thorn in flesh was, instead of realizing the lesson that God's grace is sufficient, and His power is made perfect in weakness.
- D. Story of the girl, mom, and Sunday school class. She learned that if we believe in God; obey Him, He will take care of us no matter what happens. (She also learned. about a man and his family in a boat.)
- E. We cannot out-smart God (Rom. 1:22).

VI. WE COME TO KNOW OF GOD BY HIS WORD, THE MESSAGE PREACHED.

- A. The scripture text: 1Cor. 1:21-25.
- B. The world won't understand it. Friends won't understand it. But God will be pleased when we rest on His, word to save our souls.
- C. The gospel is the power unto salvation (Rom. 1:16).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Let us leave behind unimportant things and follow the simple plan of salvation that can save our souls.
- B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.