

WHY>

MESSAGE Two:

Why Should I Believe in God in the First Place?

Pastor Mike Chapman

We are entering the second week of our 40-day journey, seeking answers to life's most important questions. Last week, talked about getting off the treadmill of life and pausing to ask the big questions and to seek answers.

Today, we are looking at the second question—*Why Should I Believe in God in the first place?* It is a very important question and more consequences follow from the way we answer this question than any other.

WHY DO PEOPLE STRUGGLE WITH BELIEF IN GOD'S EXISTENCE?

It seems anti-intellectual.

The problem of evil

Religious pluralism and the question of truth

Personal bias against religion

Psalm 14:1, *The fool says in his heart, "God does not exist."* (HCSB)

TRUTH – WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE BELIEVE

John 18:37-38, *Jesus responded, "...All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true." "What is truth?" Pilate asked.* (NIV)

Truth is that which corresponds to reality.

The definition of truth is the agreement of thought with reality. What makes a descriptive proposition true is that it corresponds to the way things really are.

-- Mortimer J. Adler

There is a difference between knowing and believing. Knowing relies exclusively on **observation** and **experience**.

Believing relies on observation and experience but also adds the elements **common sense** based on **human reason**.

To believe something is to look at the evidence, make use of our reason, listen to our heart, and to come to a rational conclusion.

THE TESTIMONY OF GOD

The testimony of **Curiosity**: *Where does our interest in and longing for God come from?*

Ecclesiastes 3:11, *He has planted eternity in the human heart.* (NLT)

The testimony of **the universe**: *How and Why does the universe exist as it does?*

Psalm 19:1, *The heavens are telling of the glory of God.* (NASV)

Romans 1:19-20, *People try to put a shroud over truth. But the basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is! By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can't see: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of his divine being. So nobody has a good excuse.* (Msg)

The testimony of **conscience**: *What is the source of man's sense of right and wrong?*

Romans 2:15, God's law is not something alien, imposed on us from without, but woven into the very fabric of our creation. There is something deep within that echoes God's yes and no, right and wrong. (Msg)

The testimony of **my life**: *How did I come to believe in God?*

Mark 9:24, I believe. Help me with my doubts! (Msg)

If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.

--C. S. Lewis