

INTRODUCTION: Before leaving this passage of scripture, I want us to have a better understanding of those who do not believe and those to whom the wrath of God condemns. Many falsely accuse God saying it is just not fair that so many people will miss out on heaven and spend an eternity in hell. Consequently, they say things like this: “as long as they are sincere and do good, God will not send them to hell, whether they are Islamic, Buddhists, or even atheists. Our text, this morning deals with those who reject the knowledge of God. Many atheist prefer to be called agnostic. **Agnostic means “no knowledge.”** The Latin rendering is “**ignoramus.**” It has become fashionable for many to deny God’s existence on the grounds of being an agnostic; however very few people in this world have done an honest investigation to find out if God exists.

The decision to search for ultimate truth is a free choice. Many people live their whole lives and never discover the truth about God. Perhaps this lies in the fact that one needs to seek after God to find Him. **Jeremiah 29:13** And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. **Hebrews 11:6** But without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. The problem is, that, due to the sinfulness of man, there are not any honest seekers. **Romans 3:10** There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. This morning, we shall look at four aspects of man’s sinful nature that keeps him from making an honest search for God. An honest seeker is someone who is willing to take an objective look at the evidence and make a decision based on that evidence. Before we do, we need to remind ourselves that the reason anyone ends up truly seeking god and finding him is because he was sought out! **Luke 19:10** For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. **John 6:44** No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

I. FIRST, MAN IS SO SELFISH AND FOCUSED ON THIS WORLD

John 6:26 Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me not, because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life; which the son of Man will give you because god the Father has set His seal on Him.

II. SECOND, MAN’S SINFUL NATURE LOVES SIN The Bible teaches that sin can be temporarily pleasurable and fun **Hebrews 11:25** ...than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin. Jesus made it clear why he was rejected and eventually crucified. The reason was not because he didn’t give them enough evidence. It was not an intellectual issue, but a moral issue of whether they were willing to turn from sin. **John 7:7** The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me, because I testify of it that its works are evil.

III. THIRD, MOST EVERYBODY LOOKS AT INACCURATE EVIDENCE

Many skeptics do not study the right evidence. It is very important to look at the best possible evidence. Many non-Christians have made up their minds based **upon hearsay information.** Hearsay information is not admissible in a court of law and should not be used in making a determination about something as important as Christianity. **John 7:41-42** Others said, this is the Christ, but some said, will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem where David was? With a little effort, they could have discovered the truth as to where Jesus was born.

IV. OPEN-MINDEDNESS, NOT TOLERANCE, IS REQUIRED OF THE SEARCH Perhaps the greatest virtue esteemed in secular society today is tolerance. Society frowns upon those who would make value judgments about the beliefs and morals of others. Some hold that no one's truth should be held to be superior to anyone else's. **RELATIVISM MEANS WHAT IS TRUE FOR YOU IS NOT NECESSARILY TRUE FOR ME.** Christianity differs from other religions in the fact that it claims to have unique ownership of truth. **Jesus said, I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me.**

VI. FINDING THE TRUTH REQUIRES FAITH **Hebrews 11:6** Without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. The Bible promises that faith produces assurance. Many seekers delay exercising faith because they seek absolute assurance before they will make a faith commitment. But God's promise of assurance must be preceded by faith.

Dear God,

I am not sure if you exist or not, but I want to find out. If you are there, I want you to know that I am honestly going to seek you and wish to hold you to your promise that all honest seekers will be rewarded. I want to know the truth no matter what. I promise that if you reveal to me that you are real, I will commit my life to you and become a Christian. If you really exist, help me in my search and keep me from turning back until I find the truth. Amen