

God Just Won't Go Away

So many wish He would. They foolishly try to wish Him away, explain Him away, and ignore Him away.

The universe is studied diligently for answers of our origin and yet the astronomer who gazes intently into his telescope fails to recognize the mighty fingerprints of God all over what he sees.

Fervent attempts are being made all the time to make God disappear from our culture. Some are intent on removing His name from our money, schools and government.

The Bible is treated as just a bunch of stories without any real relevance to people's lives. So many regard it as merely a book of wise suggestions but nothing to examine closely, consider intently and implement carefully.

No amount of dislike or rejection can change the following facts:

“Am I a God who is near...and not a God far off?...Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” (Jeremiah 23:23, 24)

“He is not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:27).

“The word of the Lord abides forever” (1 Peter 1:25).

“He will judge the world in righteousness” (Acts 17:31).

“...the earth and its works will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).

Why is it that these facts escape the notice of people? The problem is that God is associated with unpopular concepts: self-control; humility; honesty; selflessness; purity; even worship. Heaven is not a problem, but hell is. And His only Book of instruction for safe arrival in eternal bliss rather than eternal torment is a problem too. Most people just do not want to do it. Their deeds are evil and they have little desire to change (John 3:19-21).

Even “Christianity” participates in the attempt to alter (lessen) the requirements. Pleasing God takes a backseat to pleasing self. Catering to the whims of man is exalted above submission and obedience. The problem is that since man has yet to find a way to circumvent mortality, we need something to look forward to beyond death. So we cling to some hope of bliss hereafter, and further insist on having the prerogative to decide an acceptable path.

Wishing Him away, wishing His word away, a majority of people do their own thing all the while breathing His oxygen daily. They are oblivious, “...for in Him we live and move and exist” (Acts 17:28). He sustains our lives day after day and many hardly give Him a passing thought.

The world--and all of its machinery--full of aspirations, pursuits, plans and dreams will one day come to a grinding halt. Like an unexpected thief in the night, the Lord will return (1 Thessalonians 4:16-5:6). Those who revered, obeyed and served Him will ascend to meet Him in the air. Those who had wished Him away and out of their lives completely will have exactly what they wanted (or thought they wanted). Their god, this world, will come crashing down around them and, sadly, “...these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

A fervent love for this world grips so many lives. Ultimately, such a love can only disappoint and leave one destitute. While the *pomp, pleasure and pride* of this world passes away, “the one who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17). Nothing about our lives here is permanent. God is permanent.

The reality of His presence and His involvement in His creation cannot be made to disappear no matter how hard one may try. Though a diligent attempt is made to remove Him completely from one’s thoughts, He’s not going anywhere. Any attempt to discredit His word is likewise futile. Nor can we alter Him to suit ourselves,

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever”
(Hebrews 13:8).

Instead of pointlessly looking for a way to get rid of Him, it is far more sensible and profitable to acknowledge, reverence and serve Him. Listening to Him and depending upon Him is great reward (Psalm 19:11; Hebrews 10:35). The message of Isaiah 55:6 is always a relevant one, “Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.”

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