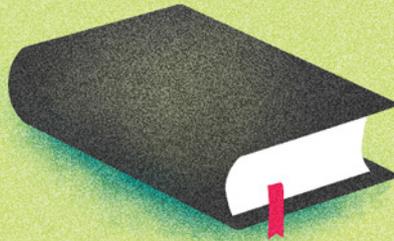


# LIVING BY FAITH IN A SKEPTICAL WORLD



“Is it Reasonable to Believe in God?”

Lecture #2 - 10:20a



# **Living by Faith in a Skeptical World**



# What Does Faith Look Like in a Skeptical World?

- Faith is beyond reason, not contrary to reason.
- The problem of Fideism:
  - "Blind faith"
  - "Just believing"
  - Fideism is not true faith



# What Does Faith Look Like in a Skeptical World?

- **How Is Faith Biblically Defined?**
  - The Hebrew writer describes faith as “the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1).
  - This trust surrenders in obedience to God, “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

# What Does Faith Look Like in a Skeptical World?

- What is the source of faith?
- "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17).





# What Does Faith Look Like in a Skeptical World?

- **The Role of Reason in Faith**
  - The drive of evangelism (I Pet. 3:15).
  - The example of the apostles (Acts 15:2; 17:2-4, 17; 18:4, 19, 27-28; 19:8-10; 28:23f).
  - Biblical record (2 Tim. 3:16f; I John 1:1-4).
  - Faith presupposes reason



## **A Serious, but not Fearful Approach**

- **The mission of the Kingdom of God is to engage the culture with the gospel.**
- **Be discerning: try to understand the situation.**
- **The work of the church is to equip believers for greater service.**



# Living Our Faith Before An Unbelievable World

- Our proclamation of the gospel cannot be reduced to well calculated responses.
- Our lives in Christ are powerful lessons of the transformation of His grace.

# Learning From The Antagonistic Witness



**“I want to talk to you about this . . . I get home after the show . . . there was one guy waiting over to the side after I was done. Big guy probably about my age and he had been the guy that helps with props . . . He walked over to me and he said ‘I was here last night, I was here at the show . . .’ He was very complimentary in a really genuine way. He said, ‘I brought this for you’ and he handed me a pocket edition of the New Testament.**

# Learning From The Antagonistic Witness



He said, 'I wrote in the front of it and I wanted you to have this... I am evangelizing. I'm a businessman, I'm sane and I am not crazy and he looked me right in the eye. It was really wonderful. I believe he knew I was an atheist. But he was not defensive and he looked me right in the eyes... he was really kind, nice, sane, and looked me right in the eyes and gave me this Bible...

# Learning From The Antagonistic Witness



... I have always said, 'I don't respect people who believe and yet do not evangelize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe there is a heaven and hell and people could go to hell or not receive eternal life and you think it is not really worth telling this because it will make it socially awkward ... **How much do you have to hate someone to not tell them about salvation**' I have always thought that... but this guy was a really good guy and he was polite and honest... He wrote me a little note and left phone numbers. I'll tell you he was a good man..."

