

Sermon Text: 1 Kings 18:1-40

Sermon Title: Why Follow God?

Quote: "I have passed through the same atheist revelation that most self-confident British members of my generation...have experienced. We were sure that we, and our civilization, had grown out of the nursery myths of God, angels and Heaven. We had modern medicine, penicillin, jet engines, the Welfare State, the United Nations and 'science', which explained everything that needed to be explained." - Peter Hitchens

The Story In Three Parts

Part 1: The Question: Why Follow God? (vv. 1-21)

Part 2: The Answer (vv. 22-40)

Part 3: Application

Part 1: Why Follow God? (vv. 1-21)

Cite vv. 1-21

Reasons we struggle to follow:

- Suffering
- The prosperity of the wicked (Cite, v. 19)
- Cite, Psalm 73:2-5
- Cite, Psalm 73:12-13
- Persecution

Part 2: The Answer

Cite vv. 22-40

Cite: v. 36

Cite v. 37

Cite v. 39

The Answer: The LORD is God!

How the Passage Shows us a GOOD God:

1. The LORD is: Supreme to answer the prayers of His people.

Cite v. 26 & 29

2. The LORD is: The God of Surprising Grace

Cite, vv. 36-37

Cite 1 Kings 8:35-36

Cite: Ephesians 2:8-9

3. The LORD is: The God who Delights to Accomplish the Impossible

Part 3: Application - How Should We Respond?

1. Don't limp between your idols and Jesus

Cite: 1 John 5:20-21

Cite: John 20:31

2. Pray for those burdened by sickness, suffering and sin

Cite; James 5:16-18

3. Be encouraged that God will prove himself to be true

Quote: "I gaped, my mouth actually hanging open, at the naked figures fleeing towards the pit of Hell. These people did not appear remote or from the ancient past; they were my own generation. Because they were naked, they were not imprisoned in their own age by time-bound fashions. On the contrary, their hair and the set of their faces were entirely in the style of my own time. They were me, and people I knew. I had a sudden strong sense of religion being a thing of the present day, not imprisoned under thick layers of time. My large catalogue of misdeeds replayed themselves rapidly in my head. I had absolutely no doubt that I was among the damned..."