

Monday, April 20, 2020 – Where is God?

“Where is God?”

The same old, tired question asked by atheists and others that don't want to admit God is the ruler of all. Such stubbornness is inexcusable! Beginning in Romans 1:20, the revelation that 'God is' comes in a general nature and is available to ALL mankind! How? Consider the following:

- ❖ Through the created universe, a man may perceive the power and divinity of God.
- ❖ Perceive means to discover with the senses of the mind.
 - By observing nature, one can come to the knowledge that there is a powerful God.
 - For every effect, there must be a cause and the great cause is God.
 - Man cannot know the righteousness of God by nature; this comes only by revelation from God's word, written or spoken. However, he can know enough that he is without excuse.
 - It is implied that when a man knows there is a God, he should seek him; and if he seeks, he will find him (Matthew 7:7).

When men refuse to have God in their knowledge, he gives them up to a “reprobate mind,” i.e., one which does not “pass the test” (Rom. 1:28). They are not “intellectuals,” as they fantasize; they are fools (Rom. 1:22).

The coronavirus has once again brought the God haters and deniers out to spew their foolishness asking, “How can a loving God allow such death and despair?” A basic understanding of God's plan allows one to understand that all of us will die (unless alive when Christ returns) and face a judgment before Jehovah (Heb. 9:27). For those who are faithful to God the judgment will be a source of celebration as we are welcomed in as “good and faithful servants.” For those who deny God, their judgment will be that of eternal fire (Matt. 25:41).

God is love (1 John 4:16). Where is God's love in times like these? Look to the earlier verses:

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected

with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot ^[a] love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

God's love on this earth is manifested in our doing good one to another, showing love one to another! Go back to Matthew 25 and see how Jesus correlates these actions of love to the judgment:

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ *Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

⁴¹ *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

Where is God in times like these? He is in us doing good to those in need!

Last Wednesday I asked you to help 102 families in the two India churches I work with. I asked for ten dollars a family so that the churches there could provide them food since they were unable to work due to government restrictions. Nine families stepped up and provided \$1,000 dollars which was sent to the churches there and food has been and is being distributed to the members there. I received this note this morning:

"Our Dear Beloved brother our Church members felt hearty thanks to you and all who help to this and says that the brothers and the sisters in USA are like God's love shows towards us. Some of the denomination people talked with me about this merciful help in this critical situation. And says that we are doing the Word of truth and help the poor people you are the

real Christian doing Lords service. When they said this I felt very happy as a Church Of CHRIST preacher. All this is done by yours merciful help and kind heart."

Lives in the church have been affected by your generosity but those outside the church are seeing God's work in these acts of love!

What I did not know was how few days of food this money bought. For most families the purchased food will only allow them to eat 2 or 3 days. A wife and husband with a small family will eat 4 days. A big family will eat 1 or 2 days.

These brethren are looking at probably 15-20 more days before they will be able to go back to work and begin providing for their families again. Their government is not giving them money. The only help they are receiving is from other brothers and sisters across the world.

I'm asking for continuing help, if you can, for these souls in India. Remember Christ's words in Acts 20:35: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Giving is easy through Pay-Pal, Venmo or via check. Please let me know if you can help!

God bless all who are tragically affected by this pandemic and thank you for your help!

SCROLL DOWN FOR A COUPLE OF PICTURES





