

‘A World Without God And His Word’

A man comes home from the office and tells his wife he had a frustrating day at work. His wife says, ‘Ahhhhh, tell me all about your day honey’. The husband looks at her and says, ‘Well, I just did.’

Communication is a skill that most people need to work on, whether it be looking more carefully or listening more carefully. Let me ask you, **how do you communicate with someone who can’t see?** We use brail, **don’t we?** **How do you communicate with someone who is deaf?** We use sign language, **don’t we?**

God knows that the world is filled with people who are deaf and blind which are the two main ways of communication, **so how was He going to let all those who are spiritually blind and deaf know He exists?** Well, He did that in two ways and the first way was by **‘creating a ‘braille pad’ for the spiritually blind’.**

A braille pad which is so huge that even the blindest of the blind couldn’t miss what’s been written. **Romans 1:20** **‘For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.’**

Since the beginning of time God has made Himself known to mankind through creation. It’s been well documented that when a person loses one of their senses, the other senses heighten. If someone loses their eyesight, it’s been proven that their sense of hearing and feeling increases. Spiritually blind people can feel the beauty of the flowers in the ground and hear the glorious singing of birds in the air. And they can know that God is indeed an awesome God, who is powerful enough to create even the smallest things in creation. Paul says that anyone with a drop of spiritual common sense, will know that there is a Designer.

The second way which God uses to show people He exists, is by using **‘sign language for the spiritually deaf’**. **Psalm 19:1-4** **‘The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.’**

Notice that God communicates but He doesn’t speak, He communicates but doesn’t use words, He communicates but He doesn’t use sound. And yet creation itself speaks so loudly about its Creator, it’s God’s sign language to the spiritual deaf of the world, that He exists.

It’s interesting when you watch TV, we hear how scientists are discovering new galaxies and new planets all the time. But those who want to remain spiritually deaf tell us that evolution is just so wonderful, it’s incredible how the universe has evolved over the years. But for those people who are really listening to what the universe is really declaring, we can’t help but conclude that God is so wonderful, it’s incredible how powerful He is.

I believe that everyone who has ever lived, everyone who’s living now and everyone who will live in the future, will have or will at some point in their lives, stopped and looked up into the skies and wondered, **where did all this come from?** When we look at up into the universe, we find that God speaks to us, when we look at our planet, we find that God speak to us. Every blade of grass, every human being, every new planet discovered, tells us something about our God.

His creation shouts out to us all and tells us something about His invisible qualities, His eternal power and His divine nature. Some people have eyes, but they can’t see, some people have ears, but they don’t understand what creation is saying to them. **Matthew 13:13** **‘Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.’** The attitude of some people today is still very much like the attitude of the people in Jesus day.

I heard a story about a woman who was getting married in a large church with a long aisle. The bride, who was a little short-sited, chose not to wear her glasses for the occasion. And as she walked in on her father’s arm, she turned to him and her words echoed through the church, **‘Is he there?’**

And sadly, that’s how some people think when it comes to God, they either ignore Him or don’t acknowledge Him. Ok, the heavens declare the glory of God, and His creation displays His awesome power, but the heavens and His creation doesn’t tell us what He wants from us, **does it?** He’s proven through creation, He’s all powerful, but **how do we know what He wants from us?**

Well to put it simply, **He had it written down**, to reveal to us, what He wants from us. The word, 'Bible' means 'book' and it's a compilation of 66 books written by about 40 different authors scattered across many countries during a period of 1600 years. Originally the biblical books were hand written on animal skins or on paper made from the papyrus plant.

Remember, printing hadn't been invented yet, so every copy of an original had to be made by hand. And so, as we can imagine that copies were rare and extremely valuable. That's why we know the Ethiopian eunuch in **Acts 8**, must have been a wealthy guy because he had a copy of the scroll of Isaiah.

The first five books of the Bible were written by Moses about 1500 years B.C. During the next thousand years the remaining books were penned, and it appears that Ezra the scribe brought them all together into a single book about 400 B.C. **Nehemiah 8:5** 'Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up.'

Now look at the respect the people gave 'the book', as Ezra opened it, the people stood up. The heavens declare His glory, creation displays His awesomeness, but this was God's Word. This was probably the only copy they had, they would have never heard this being read before. But as soon as Ezra opens it up, the people knew it was time to listen to what God had to say. People were in awe about hearing God's Word, they were excited about hearing what God had to say.

These people didn't have the Word of God so readily available to them like we do today. Even when the Bible was finally compiled as we have it today, most of society still didn't have copies available to them. Most people couldn't read, and if they could read, they couldn't afford a copy to read for themselves because they were so expensive.

It wasn't until **1456** when printing was invented by Johanne Gutenberg, was it possible to publish Bibles much faster. In fact, the first book printed by Gutenberg was a Latin Bible and the first printed English Bible was the New Testament as translated by William Tyndale in **1525**. But he was strongly opposed by the Catholic church and so he had his Bibles printed in the continent and then smuggled them into England. History tells us that most of these copies were publicly burned in London.

And do you know what happened to Tyndale? He was betrayed and burned at the stake for giving the Bible to the common people. You see, we come to worship with our own Bibles and we have other Bibles available for anyone who doesn't possess one to use. But it wasn't that long ago here in the UK when the only person who owned a Bible was a priest.

And that's because the so-called religious leaders of the day didn't want you to have one, **why?** Because when you opened it and read it, you'll soon discover that the practices and beliefs of the church at that time weren't taught in the Bible.

Loved ones, God fearing people have sacrificed their very lives and been murdered so that we can have our Bible today. And I believe if we were around back then, then we too, like the people in Ezra's day would have a lot more respect for God's Word. We're so blessed to have it so readily available in this country, but I don't think we appreciate just how blessed we are.

You see, Satan has tried to keep everyone from owning a Bible because he didn't want people to know what God's message to mankind was. He's winning that battle in some countries but failing in others, but **do you know what he does now?** He says to himself, 'just give them God's Word, they won't read it anyway and even if they do, they'll just fight over whose interpretation of it is right'.

I was reading a survey the other month which suggested that only 65% of Christians actually own a Bible and out of that 65%, only 5% actually took the time to read it. Looks like Satan's plans are working, even today among Christians.

Now there's no denying that the Bible itself claims to be from God. **2 Peter 1:21** 'For no prophetic message ever came just from the human will, but people were under the control of the Holy Spirit as they spoke the message that came from God.' And the Bible itself tells us that the Holy Spirit so guided the writers that they couldn't make mistakes.

1 Corinthians 2:13 ‘So then, we do not speak in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, as we explain spiritual truths to those who have the Spirit.’ There are no contradictions in the Bible, no matter how many people say there are many.

The Bible is scientifically accurate, even though it’s not a book of science. It’s historically accurate and every attempt to prove it historically wrong has failed. It’s prophetically correct as many prophecies have been fulfilled beyond question. The Bible is impartial, as it presents the good, the bad and ugly of mankind. It doesn’t try to hide the sin of people, even some of the great Bible characters’ sin are clearly portrayed. And yes, people have tried to ban the Bible and totally destroy it, but we still have it today.

The question is, **do we appreciate the great sacrifices which people have made in the past, so that we can have this incredible book?** It’s clear that those who are spiritually blind and deaf don’t appreciate what it took for us to have the Bible, because they’re not interested in anything God has done or has to say to them. And we know that because of the things they turn to in life.

Let me ask you, **what do people in Britain turn to when life gets tough?** When there’s been a death in the family, **what do people in Britain turn to?** When they’ve just lost their job, **what do people in Britain turn to?** When they’ve been diagnosed with a fatal illness, **what do people in Britain turn to?** When there’s been a split in a marriage, **what do people in Britain turn to?** They turn to the most trusted and comforting thing, which is the cure for everything in life, they turn to a good old cup of tea.

‘Having relationship problems, let’s get together and chat over a cup of tea!’ ‘Being evicted from your house, come over to mine and we’ll have a cup of tea!’ ‘Your son’s been sentenced to five years in prison, let’s have a cup of tea and talk about it.’ Oh, how the British love their tea! It seems that people will turn to anything except God and His word for guidance, strength and comfort in times of difficulties.

Loved ones, society isn’t only trying to squeeze God out of existence, society is also trying to silence His Word. Especially when you think about countries like North Korea where the Bible is banned and if you’re caught with one you could be jailed, tortured or even put to death. Or a country like Somalia, where Christians have to meet secretly and aren’t allowed to own a Bible.

Or the Maldives where the importing of Bibles is forbidden. Or Morocco and Libya where you’re not allowed to have an Arabic translation of the Bible. Maybe now you can understand why I’m always going on about Bible study and why I try to encourage us to spend more time together in a study.

Now let me ask you to imagine living in a world where God’s Word doesn’t exist! With that though in mind, please turn your Bible to **Proverbs 29**. Now the whole of **Proverbs 29** is speaking about how social skills make it possible for people to maintain relationships with others in society. When those relationships are maintained, they will guarantee the rule of the king. And so, the leaders of any nation must set an example of righteous conduct that the people can follow.

Now let’s go to the text I’ve been asked to speak on today. **Proverbs 29:18 ‘Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom’s instruction.’** The King James Version says, **‘Where there is no vision the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he’**

Now when I was asked to speak about this verse, it quickly came to my attention how often it’s been misapplied and taken out of context. If you go on some church websites, you’ll read it on the main page as some kind of vision statement from the leaders to the church. Now don’t get me wrong, I think it’s great that the leaders have a vision and goals for the church.

But that’s not what Solomon is teaching us, he’s saying if any society doesn’t have God’s Word taught in it, then that society will very quickly turn towards moral chaos. The word translated **‘vision’** or **‘revelation’** refers to special revelation or God’s Word. The word translated **‘cast off restraint’** carries the idea of there being a total loss of social order.

It’s the same word used in **Exodus 32** to describe the Israelite’s behaviour during the golden calf incident. **Exodus 32:25 ‘Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies.’**

In other words, if any society doesn't hear God's Word, then we can expect that society to break down and get out of control. **Why?** Because social harmony and restraint can't be achieved without the appeals of the prophets and the teaching of the law. You see, public morality depends on knowing the law of God and for years the Bible was the highest standard of any law of how a society should act and live with each other.

But I don't believe we can say that now, and not just here in the UK but all over the world. And that's because a world without God and His Word, is a world full of moral chaos. Listen to how Paul describes what a society looks like without God and His Word.

2 Timothy 3:1-6 'There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.'

Does that society look and sound familiar? You only have to turn on your T.V. or read a newspaper to hear and read about how people are being slaughtered by the thousands in wars. We hear about women being raped and sold as sex slaves, we hear about old ladies being mugged and houses being broken into in broad daylight. We hear about children being sexually molested and innocent people being murdered.

We don't need to look very far to envisage what a world without God and His Word looks like. And the truth is, it's chaos out there, we live in a society where almost anything goes and there's no shame and no guilt. Political correctness is now the new law, where everyone is afraid to have an opinion and speak out against someone else in case that person gets offended and sues them.

If you speak out against Islam, your classed as having Islamophobia, if you speak out against homosexuality, your classed as having Homophobia. If you speak out against the Germans, your classed as having Germanophobia, and if you speak out against the Scottish, well, your classed as being English, that was a joke. Now loved ones, the list could go on and on and believe it or not there's actually a phobia for those who speak out against Christ and His teachings, it's called, Christophobia.

Now the English dictionary says that the word '**phobia**' means '**an extreme or irrational fear of or aversion to something**'. Another dictionary says that the word '**Christophobia**' means '**one who has an intolerance of, hostility towards Christians**'.

But loved ones just because we don't agree with some of the religious beliefs and practices of others. Just because we don't agree some people's lifestyles, doesn't mean we've got some kind of extreme or irrational fear of them. The Bible teaches us to fear God only and God tells us love the sinner but hate the sin.

You see, society is trying to silence God because it doesn't want to be reminded of their sinfulness. But as someone once said, '**Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them**'. We've got some prominent religious groups in this country who are constantly changing their stance on God's Word in order to remain popular with the people.

Listen loved ones, those religious groups can change their stance on what God has written all they like. They can change their views on gay marriage, they can change their views on women elders and deacons, they can change their views on baptism, but that doesn't change God's Word.

Numbers 23:19 'God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind.'

Hebrews 13:8 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.'

James 1:17 'Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.'

God doesn't change, and His Word still stands no matter how much people don't like it or change it.

Now we could point out all the sins of the world but the question we need to ask ourselves is this, **are we adding to the chaos or showing a Christ-like example to the world?** Now remember Jesus says, He's the light of the world and we as His children are supposed to reflect His light in this world.

Philippians 2:14-15 'Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a crooked and perverse generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.'

Do you know that song, 'this little light of mine' that children sing? Did you know that the Bible never says, 'That you are a little light!' The Bible never talks about this little light of mine, the Bible says, 'You are a big, old awesome star'. You're a big huge light, shining in a dark universe. And as one of God's stars, I've to reflect the brilliance of God's holiness in this dark world.

The Bible says, 'that the world is crooked and perverse' in other words, it's full of crooks and perverts and God needs some big old stars in it. **How's the world going to know it needs redeeming unless we shine bright enough to expose their sinfulness?**

Ephesians 5:8-14 'For you were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord, live as children of light, for the fruit of the light consists of all goodness, righteousness and truth and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness but rather expose them, for it shameful to even mention what is done in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible for it is light that makes everything visible. That is why it is said, wake up oh sleeper, rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you.'

God wants big stars in this dark world we live in. Now people aren't always going to like the light because the light exposes their evil deeds. That's why sometimes they're going to criticise the light, sometimes they're going to argue with the light and sometimes they're going to mock the light. But you've got to keep on shining.

I heard a story about a judge that was being mocked by an arrogant lawyer and someone asked him why he didn't discipline the young man. The judge said, 'Well, in my town there is a widow with a dog, and every time the moon comes out that dog barks all night long'. Then he changed the subject. Then the man said, 'yeah, but what about the moon and the dog?' The judge said, 'Oh well, the moon keeps right on shining that's all.' And that's what Paul said, you just need to keep on shining and God said, 'I want you to shine now in the midst of a very ugly world'.

Let me ask you a hard question, **besides coming to worship, what is it about you that is noticeably different from your non-Christian neighbour?** Despite the fact that you get out of bed earlier on a Sunday, what is noticeably different about you?

People are always fussing about how evil the world is, about all the sinning that's going on. Listen loved ones, sinning is what unbelievers do, that's their job description. The problem in the world isn't that sinners are sinning, the problem is the light isn't shining.

You see, it bothers me when I hear that there were one million new pornographic videos for rent last year. But what really bothers me is that some Christians will rent them. Yes, it bothers me when I hear rude and racist jokes but what really bothers me is that Christians will listen and laugh at them because they're afraid to stand out and let that light shine. Yes, it bothers me when I hear that billions are lost with income taxes, but it bothers me even more that Christians are just as guilty as anybody.

The real issue is, **is the light going to shine, in the midst of a dark world?** Yes, we'll be criticised, but we've got to make sure there's no just criticism against us. In fact, we've got to live such bright lives that we shut up some of that criticism.

Years ago, in the UK when you were having a party and making lots of noise and a minister came in, everything would just go quiet, why was that? The idea was that there is nothing that will shut up a good party like a clergyman.

1 Peter 2:15 'It's God will, that by doing good you silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.' It's God's will to let our lights shine so bright, that some of the nonsense and some of the venom being poured out in this world, just gets shut up because it just can't stand the heat of the light.

In a world that's rejecting God and rejecting His Word, let me ask you, if God's own people don't value His Word and study it regularly, [then what makes us think we can convince anyone else in the world to study it?](#) If we don't believe His Word is powerful enough to change people's lives and make society better, [then how can we convince any non-believer that it can?](#)

God has spoken, and still speaks through His creation, to those whose eyes and ears have been spiritually opened. God has spoken, and stills speaks to those same people through His Word. When you go home today, sit in your garden, enjoy the flowers and trees, listen to the birds and see God's beauty in them. Take a moment to look up into the sky tonight and remind yourself of the awesomeness of God in His creation.

Let me encourage you to keep shining, let me encourage to treasure God's Word and study it regularly.