Prepared: Why I Believe in God

Wylie United Methodist Church Pastor Jeff Hatcher – February 16, 2020

<u>1 Peter 3:15</u>

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. <u>Always be prepared to</u> give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the <u>hope that you have</u>. But do this with gentleness and respect.

I believe in God because of...

I. FIRST CAUSE

<u>Genesis 1:1a</u> In the beginning <u>God</u>!!

<u>Psalm 102:25-26</u>

25 In the beginning <u>you laid the foundations of the earth</u>, and <u>the heavens are the work of your hands</u>. 26 They will perish, but <u>you remain</u>...

I believe in God because of...

2. INTELLIGENT DESIGN

<u>Genesis 1:1a</u> In the beginning God <u>created</u>...

Romans 1:20

For <u>since the creation of the world</u> God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and <u>divine nature</u>-have been <u>clearly seen</u>, being understood from what has been made, so that <u>men are without excuse</u>.

<u>Psalm 19:1</u>

The <u>heavens declare</u> the glory of God; the <u>skies proclaim</u> the <u>work of his hands</u>.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are <u>God's workmanship</u> (masterpiece)...

I believe in God because of...

3. <u>REASONING</u> & <u>MORALITY</u>

Romans 7:18

... For <u>I have the desire to do what is good</u>, but I cannot carry it out.

<u>Romans 2:15</u>

... the requirements of the law are written on their hearts ...

I believe in God because of...

4. <u>RISK</u> & <u>REWARD</u>

<u>Proverbs 14:12</u> There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end <u>it leads</u> to death.

<u>Psalms 53:1</u> The <u>fool says</u> in his heart, "<u>There is no God</u>."

I believe in God because of...

5. JESUS' <u>RESURRECTION</u>

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

3 ... <u>Christ died for our sins</u> according to the Scriptures, 4 that <u>he</u> was buried, that <u>he was raised</u> on the third day... 5... 6 After that, he appeared to <u>more than five hundred</u> of the brothers at the same time, <u>most of whom are still living</u> ...

<u>John 20:28</u>

Thomas said to [Jesus], "<u>My Lord and my God</u>!"

Hebrews 1:3

The Son is the <u>radiance of God's glory</u> and the <u>exact</u> <u>representation</u> of his being,

I believe in God because...

6. HE <u>CHANGED</u> MY <u>LIFE</u>

<u>I Corinthians 15:10</u> [God's] grace to me was <u>not without effect</u>.