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HARD TO BELIEVE - GOD ?

Whatever comes to your mind about "God" says much more about you than it does about Him. Indeed, mankind clearly reveals its considerable confusion about who **GOD** is - and who **WE** are. This not only makes all the difference in the world where you will spend eternity - but how you live your life here.

In a recent poll, nearly three-quarters of all Americans said they believe in "One true God in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." This seems encouraging - until you see results of the rest of the survey. It's available at "theStateOfTheology.com" where you can compare your own responses. It's clear that most people "believe" in a god they've made up, rather than the God revealed in the Bible.

But mankind's opinions do not change reality. The Bible tells you the truth - powerfully. Isaiah 44:6 says "**Thus says the LORD - I am the first and the last; besides me there is no god.**" Apart from God's revelation of Himself, people the world over invent their own plethora of deities. In verse 7 God says, "**Who is like Me? Let him proclaim it... Let them declare what is to come.**"

The media says there are three great mono-theistic religions which believe in "one God" - Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. But don't be deceived - Allah of Islam is not the God of the Bible. No Muslim would make that claim, because they define their god quite differently. And they don't have a remedy for sin.

In verse 8, God says, "**You are my witnesses! Is there a God besides Me?...I know not any.**" Why? Because there can be only one Creator. God says "**I am the LORD, who made all things.**" The history revealed in the Bible shows the truth of God's words, "**I frustrate the signs of liars...and make the knowledge of wise men foolish.**" The more mankind learns about science the more it points to God. The more we learn about the spiritual world the more it points to the truths of the Bible alone.

But idol-making continues, even if not in the same forms as ancient times. How can any of them be really real? Verse 9 says, "**All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit.**" Why? The passage goes on to describe how men cut down a tree, using it to build a fire and cook food. Then "**the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it and prays to it.**" What does God think about your idol-making? Verse 20, "**a deluded heart has led him astray.**" Our idols are fashioned of plastic and titanium and chemicals and precious metals. Ours are fashioned of fame and fortune and leisure and luxury.

Our idols are made in our own image, accountable to our own small minds. But the "made-up God" of our own making cannot compare to the real God - who is beyond imagination. This God is worth worshiping. This God says in verse 21, "**Remember these things - I formed you... You will not be forgotten by Me... I have blotted out your sins... Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.**" No mere imagination of the finite mind of man can stand before the infinite God of the universe. Nothing we can invent will blot out our sins. Only our eternal holy Creator can save His wayward creatures.

Many people say, "I believe in God - so I will be okay for eternity." But James 2:19 says "**even demons believe in God - and they shudder.**" Romans 1:18 says what can be known about God is clearly perceived in Creation, so all mankind is without excuse. Believing in God means you're a rational human being who is thinking clearly. It's just the first step. Jesus said in John 14 "**Believe in God - believe also in Me... I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life - no one comes to the Father except through Me.**"

Romans 3:23 spells it out, "**all have sinned**" by rebelling against God. Your only hope is Jesus - to be "**justified by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.**" You can't be made right with God by anything you can do - or believe in - except that Jesus paid the penalty for your sin. Jesus is the only Savior! Romans 10:9 says, "**If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**"

Believing in a 'god' you make up may make you feel good. But it can't save you from sin. Only the one true Triune God who created you can rescue you from your impossible reality. Believing in Him means you submit to His lordship. He sets you free from sin - **so you can live out His life through yours!**