

Kind of looks like the beginning of a really bad joke: *“So an Atheist, an Agnostic, a Deist and a Disciple walk into a bar...”* If that was our joke tonight, our punch-line may not be funny but would be true: *“The Atheist is sure he can be there; the agnostic isn’t sure if he should be there; the Deist probably doesn’t that God will care; and the Disciple knows he should get out of there!”*

What we have here are four terms that could describe all of Western religion people - Every person in this room, country and world fits somewhere under one ... if not a combination of these headings.

Note: God wants to save ALL of these people. Jesus died to save ALL of them. Therefore, whether they acknowledge Him or not, believe or not, study or not, the Bible has a message for each of them: us all. **(Titus 2:11-14)** - (Typed out on Overhead)

Today we will take a closer look at what these terms mean, but more importantly, for each we have three questions that must be answered: [What has God said?] [What will Jesus say?] [What must I do?]

- I. **Atheist:** *“one who denies the existence of God”* -- “There is no God”
  - a. This person lives as they please, guided only by evolved sense of conscience.
  - b. They answer to no one but themselves, for there is none higher than themselves.
  - c. WHAT HAS GOD SAID?
    - i. **Psalm 14:1-6** – I am here! And you are foolish! This will not work out for you.
    - ii. **Romans 1:18-20** – Nature proclaims, shouts... no Excuse. Design / Designer
    - iii. **I Cor. 1:20-21,25** – Though you call Christians fools and believe to be so wise... God’s wisdom has always trumped mans fallible work... don’t trust in men, but Me!
      1. *Most only consider men... example of Atheist, never read her Bible!*
  - d. WHAT WILL CHRIST SAY?
    - i. Don’t know for sure... perhaps: “Surprise!” But here is an indication:
    - ii. **II Thess. 1:6-10** -- Interesting “affliction” that is what it is like now to be faithful
      1. Maybe: “You did not know my mercy; now you will know my wrath”
      2. Maybe: “You wouldn’t accept My presence, now live forever without it!”
  - e. WHAT MUST YOU DO?
    - i. Hear God... quiet the self-will, man’s suppositions: **Psalm 19:1-2 ; 7-10**
- II. **Agnostic:** *“ultimate reality (as God) is unknown and probably unknowable”* -- “There is a God?”
  - a. Agnostic means: “No Knowledge.” This person only believes what they can understand. And since an infinite God is so far beyond our understanding. So, they neither confirm or deny His existence.
  - b. Hence, while not openly defying the will of God in the Bible, they will not live their lives by it, not knowing with any conviction if it matters or not. *(won’t pray until sick: God if you are up there... please help. They don’t know, not enough to give it all to Him)*
  - c. WHAT HAS GOD SAID?
    - i. **Acts 17:22-23** – These chose to worship but just as easily could have not. There is no certainty in them that God is real and abiding.
    - ii. **Acts 17:24-29** – Through Paul He proclaims: I am near. Look for Me. Grope for Me. You can find Me.
    - iii. **Acts 17:30-31** – Ignorance is no excuse! I just wasn’t sure... not good enough! Find God, repent of sins and prepare for the sight of Jesus. He is coming!
  - d. WHAT WILL JESUS SAY?
    - i. Again, it cannot be said for sure. Certainly he may ask: “Do you doubt now?”
    - ii. **Heb. 11:6** -- Faith was an option, not a reality, a purpose, a choice... no reward!

- iii. Perhaps he will quote the words spoken to Thomas, who had to see Jesus to be sure... *"Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed!"* (**Jn 20:29**) Thomas saw me with time... you have none.
- e. WHAT MUST YOU DO?
  - i. **John 20:30-31** – If you aren't sure... let the Gospels make you sure! READ... you owe it to yourself to gather the evidence so you can KNOW HIM... and HAVE LIFE!

III. **Theist:** *"a person who believes in the existence of God"* "There is a God!"

- a. Certainly we are theists, believing in God. But being a Theist is not enough to be prepared.
- b. This person may be Buddhist and call Him "Prime mover"; Islam and call Him "Allah." This person may be Christian and call Him "Father." In that sense, I pray you are a theist.
- c. WHAT HAS GOD SAID?
  - i. **James 2:19-20,24** – You do well. But the demons have gone that far. You must also do My works and prove true faith by such.
  - ii. **I John 2:3-6** – If you know Me as you claim. Then do my will!
  - iii. Specifically, honor MY SON as your sacrifice and King! (**I Jn 2:1-2**) "listen to Him"
- d. WHAT WILL JESUS SAY?
  - i. If on judgment there stands before Him those who believed in God, but no more?
  - ii. **Matt. 7:21-23** – Be it belief in God the Father, God the Son, or both... if we believe but are not doing the will of the Father.... We knew of Him, but don't know Him, and He will not know us.
- e. WHAT MUST YOU DO? (*If I believe, but haven't taken it much further???*)
  - i. **Acts 2:32-33,36** – Know that God is real, yes, but so is Jesus, now exalted to rule.
  - ii. **Acts 2:37-38** – Obey Him! Now and forever... (**Matt. 28:18-20**)

IV. **Disciple:** *"a pupil or adherent of the doctrines of another; learner"* "His Son is my Lord"

- a. This person knows God exists, through nature and revelation. They know Jesus is sent by Him from heaven to deliver salvation. And by adhering to every word from Christ, LIVING FOR THE LORD, we know the Father and will most certainly be in heaven.
- b. WHAT HAS GOD SAID?
  - i. Many wonderful, hopeful things. The entire NT is full of words of God to saints. But perhaps the most profound are those things He has spoken to us through His son
    - 1. **Rev. 2:8-11** – Words, not to casual believer, or doubters, but to disciples... people holding the line. Giving it all... and suffering for it!
      - a. Crown of Life ; No Tears in Heaven
- c. WHAT WILL JESUS SAY?
  - i. **Matt. 25:34-40** - Unlike the demon faith of the world, your life will be full of service. He'll look at it; site that work, ... His work... and welcome you home.
  - ii. **Matt. 25:20-21** – Our discipleship will carry fruit, produce and he'll say "enter in"
- d. WHAT MUST YOU DO?
  - i. Live by faith in the promises of God -- **II Timothy 4:7-8**
  - ii. Fight the good fight -- Continue growing in discipleship
  - iii. And unlike Demas (**v10**) ... never let the world rob you of a place w God in heaven!

Conclusion: Regardless of who you are: Atheist, Agnostic, Simple Theist, or Disciple

... All have been given the same Word: God is beckoning for you to choose Him!

... All will stand before the same King: And here Him announce your choice and what will come next.

... And all have the power today, right now, to do what you must to be ready!