

A scenic view of a European city at dusk, featuring a canal, historic buildings, and a church tower. The sky is a deep blue, and the buildings are illuminated by warm lights. A church tower with a clock face is prominent on the left. The canal in the foreground reflects the lights and buildings.

GOD'S NOT DEAD

1. IS GOD JUST AN ILLUSION?
2. WHY IS THERE SOMETHING RATHER THAN NOTHING?
3. IF GOD IS GOOD, WHY THE CORONAVIRUS?
4. IS THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS FACT OR FICTION?
5. HOW IS JESUS THE ONLY WAY?

IF GOD IS GOOD, WHY THE CORONAVIRUS?

Sermon outline

Two pillars

Immorality

Natural disasters

Sin's solution



Two pillars?

Romans 1:20-21 (NLT)

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.

Creation:

God can be seen in creation

There is a designer

Morality:

God can be recognised through our conscience

Good and evil exists.



“In the 1950s kids lost their innocence. They were liberated from their parents by well-paying jobs, cars, and lyrics in music that gave rise to a new term ---the generation gap.

In the 1960s, kids lost their authority. It was a decade of protest---church, state, and parents were all called into question and found wanting. Their authority was rejected, yet nothing ever replaced it.

In the 1970s, kids lost their love. It was the decade of me-ism dominated by hyphenated words beginning with self. Self-image, Self-esteem, Self-assertion....It made for a lonely world. Kids learned everything there was to know about sex and forgot everything there was to know about love, and no one had the nerve to tell them there was a difference.

In the 1980s, kids lost their hope. Stripped of innocence, authority and love and plagued by the horror of a nuclear nightmare, large and growing numbers of this generation stopped believing in the future.

In the 1990s kids lost their power to reason. Less and less were they taught the very basics of language, truth, and logic and they grew up with the irrationality of a postmodern world.

In the new millennium, kids woke up and found out that somewhere in the midst of all this change, they had lost their imagination. Violence and perversion entertained them till none could talk of killing innocents since none was innocent anymore.”

— Ravi Zacharias, *Recapture the Wonder*



Immorality

Human behaviour and choice

Mark 7:20-23 (NLT)

And then he added, "It is what comes from inside that defiles you. For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you."

Israels history

Isaiah 59:2 (ESV)

But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

Obedience resulted in peace and economic expansion

Disobedience resulted in war and natural disaster



"God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. How shall we comfort ourselves, the murderers of all murderers? What was holiest and mightiest of all that the world has yet owned has bled to death under our knives: who will wipe this blood off us? What water is there for us to clean ourselves? What festivals of atonement, what sacred games shall we have to invent? Is not the greatness of this deed too great for us? Must we ourselves not become gods simply to appear worthy of it?"

- Nietzsche

"What Hitler did not believe and what Stalin did not believe and what Mao did not believe and what the SS did not believe and what the Gestapo did not believe and what the NKVD did not believe and what the commissars, functionaries, swaggering executioners, Nazi doctors, Communist Party theoreticians, intellectuals, Brown Shirts, Black Shirts, gauleiters, and a thousand party hacks did not believe was that God was watching what they were doing. And as far as we can tell, very few of those carrying out the horrors of the twentieth century worried overmuch that God was watching what they were doing either. That is, after all, the meaning of a secular society."

- David Berlinski, *The Devil's Delusion: Atheism and Its Scientific Pretensions*



Natural disasters

Evil in nature

Genesis 3:17-18 (ESV)

And to Adam he said,

*“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ **cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.***

Nature is influenced by human behaviour



Sin's solution

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

We live in a world influenced by sin

