

## CHRISTIAN ATHEISM

*From the series – 1 TIMOTHY: EVERY MOMENT, EVERY DAY*

### SUMMARY...

If the phrase '**Christian Atheism**' sounds like a contradiction, well, it is. The most accurate definition for this would be 'people who believe in God, but they live as if He doesn't exist'. The Apostle Paul did not want this for Timothy or the church in Ephesus and he certainly does not want this for any of us. In [1 Timothy 3:14-16](#), the Apostle Paul gives us two words, not a formula or a list of things to do in order to combat Christian Atheism, just two words – Church and Christ. As we grow in our understanding of the church, and the role of the church in the life of believer coupled with a growing awareness of Christ and the gospel message, we'll be able to kiss Christian Atheism good-bye forever.

### REFLECT...

How would you describe the church to someone who does not believe in God or attend church?

### LEARN... BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. What does 'Christian Atheism' it look like, and how have you seen or experienced this in your walk with God? What impact does Christian Atheism have on the Christian as well as our witness to an unbelieving world?
2. Read [1 Timothy 3:14-15](#) – In 1 Timothy 3:15, the Apostle Paul talks about the church in three ways – '**the Household {or family} of God**', '**the church of the Living God**', and the '**Pillar and Foundation of Truth**.' What is the significance of how Paul describes the church? How does each description helps to shape Christ-like conduct? When you think about the church, which description have you forgotten? How does that omission impact your walk with God?
3. In these two verses, the Apostle Paul wants Timothy to know how Christ-followers are to conduct themselves. For Paul, why is our conduct so crucial? What does our conduct (behavior) reveal about what we believe about God?
4. In [1 Timothy 3:16](#), the Apostle Paul breaks forth in song when reflecting on the Person and work of Jesus. What are the six attributes or characteristics of Jesus that are crucial shaping Christ-like character within each of us? Which characteristic sticks out to you and why? Collectively, how do recognizing and remembering these attributes help to prevent Christian Atheism (that is, believing in God, but not living like Jesus)?

### NEXT STEPS...

Where might you need to change, adjust or correct your thinking and/or attitude about the church? Are there steps you need to take to better engage within the church, and if so, what would these steps look like?

Check out the [GENESIS EVENTS](#) page for upcoming classes, such as Chapter One, Chapter Two, Chapter Three, and GROUPS 101.