

25-1005p - Detailed Summary

25-1005p - *Discerning God*, Steve Cain

Bible Reader: Mike Mathis

This detailed summary by Grok, xAI, (Transcription by TurboScribe.ai)

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Discerning God

Scripture Readings

1st Reading (0:04 - 1:13): Mike Mathis

Psalm 19:1-6: Mike begins by announcing two passages from the Psalms to be read from the New King James Version. He starts with Psalm 19, verses 1 through 6, emphasizing how the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showcases His handiwork. The reading describes how day and night continuously utter speech and reveal knowledge without any spoken language, as their message reaches everywhere without barriers. It further illustrates that their influence extends throughout the earth and to the world's end, with God setting a tabernacle for the sun, which emerges like a bridegroom from his chamber or a strong man rejoicing in a race. The sun's path spans from one end of heaven to the other, leaving nothing hidden from its heat.

2nd Reading (1:14 - 2:16): Mike Mathis

Psalm 97:1-6 Continuing the scripture reading, Mike moves to Psalm 97, verses 1 through 6, proclaiming that the Lord reigns and calling for the earth and the multitude of isles to rejoice and be glad. The passage depicts clouds and darkness surrounding God, with righteousness and justice forming the foundation of His throne. It describes a fire going before Him to burn up His enemies, His lightnings illuminating the world, causing the earth to see and tremble. The mountains are said to melt like wax in the presence of the Lord of the whole earth, while the heavens declare His righteousness, allowing all peoples to see His glory. Mike concludes this as the reading of God's word.

Summary of Transcript (0:04 - 36:58), Preacher: Steve Cain

(2:21 - 3:57) Introduction to the Topic: Atheism and Agnosticism

Steve introduces the evening's subject as addressing atheism and agnosticism. He defines atheism as the belief that there is no God, with individuals firmly convinced of human existence through evolution or even absurd ideas like UFOs leaving garbage that evolved into life, which he mocks as requiring immense faith. In contrast, agnostics do not outright deny God's existence but question how one can know, demanding convincing evidence. He notes that in essence, agnostics also do not believe in God and may not be open to input or education on the matter due to their attitudes and perceptions.

(3:59 - 6:16) What Pleases God: Reference to Hebrews 11

Steve shares a common starting point from his Bible classes, posing the question of what pleases God, and directs attention to Hebrews 11 for the answer. He reads verses 1 through 3, defining faith as confidence in hoped-for things and assurance in the unseen, for which the ancients were commended. By faith, the universe was formed at God's command, with the visible made from the invisible. He pauses to emphasize that this affirms the Genesis creation account as inspired by the

Holy Spirit through Moses, insisting that true faith requires believing in God's creation of the earth to sustain humanity before placing people in it.

(6:17 - 7:09) Examples of Faith: Abel and Enoch

Continuing from Hebrews 11, Steve reads verse 4 about Abel's faith in offering a better sacrifice than Cain, leading to his commendation as righteous, with his faith still speaking despite his death. He then introduces Enoch in verse 5, who by faith was taken from life without experiencing death because God took him away, commended as one who pleased God.

(7:10 - 8:16) The Key to Pleasing God: Faith in His Existence and Rewards

Steve highlights verse 6 of Hebrews 11, stating that without faith, it is impossible to please God, as anyone approaching Him must believe He exists and rewards those who earnestly seek Him. He transitions to Romans, intending to comment on faith in relation to atheism and agnosticism, viewing them as acts of rejection and defiance against God. Such individuals challenge God's authority over their lives and moral standards.

(8:17 - 9:54) Discerning God's Existence Through Creation and Psalms

Drawing from the Psalms readings, Steve explains that humans can discern God's existence, though His nature and what pleases Him require divine revelation. He uses the analogy of a watch implying a watchmaker, asserting that creation—like stars, earth, trees, flowers, animals, and wildlife—proclaims God's existence. One can sit in a forest and perceive this truth through observation.

(9:56 - 11:15) Knowing God Through the Bible and Holy Spirit

Steve stresses that deeper knowledge of God, including how to please and worship Him, comes solely from the Bible, which is the product of the Holy Spirit searching God's mind and revealing what He wants known. According to 2 Peter, prophets did not originate these ideas but were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write them. Thus, recognizing God's existence leads to the need to explore the Bible for further understanding.

(11:16 - 12:55) God's Disappointment and Intervention: Reference to Acts 17

Steve urges consideration of Romans regarding God's disappointment in those not seeking Him. Referencing Acts 17 from a morning reading, he recalls Paul's address to the Athenians about their altar to an unknown God. Paul explains that God, through one man, created all people and determines their dwelling places to encourage seeking Him, as He is not far. This shows God's divine intervention in lives to make Himself known.

(12:55 - 14:29) God's Wrath Against Godlessness: Romans 1:18-20

Turning to Romans 1:18, Steve reads about God's wrath revealed from heaven against godlessness and wickedness of those suppressing truth through wickedness. What is knowable about God is plain because He has made it evident; since creation, His invisible qualities—eternal power and divine nature—are clearly seen in what has been made, leaving people without excuse.

(14:30 - 15:39) Empowerment from Scripture and Targeting the Vulnerable

Steve expresses love for this statement as it empowers believers, declaring atheists and agnostics without excuse, merely rejecting and defying God. Their defiance targets Christians and those curious about God, particularly young people influenced by such individuals in positions of authority.

(15:40 - 16:41) Consequences of Rejecting God: Romans 1:21-25

Continuing with Romans 1:21-25, Steve reads that although they knew God, they neither glorified nor thanked Him, leading to futile thinking and darkened hearts. Claiming wisdom, they became fools, exchanging God's glory for images of humans, birds, animals, and reptiles. Consequently, God gave them over to sinful desires, sexual impurity, and body degradation. They traded God's truth for a lie, worshipping creation over the Creator.

(16:42 - 17:46) Critique of Atheists and Agnostics' Self-Perceived Intelligence

Steve asserts that atheists and agnostics view themselves as intelligent, not fooled by Christianity or the idea of God. He presents this critically, expressing anger mirroring God's wrath, as described by Paul. These individuals, with advanced degrees, position themselves to influence young people who idolize education and professors over parents.

(17:46 - 18:05) Continuation of Critique and Transition to 1 Corinthians

Steve continues his critique by stating that agnostics and atheists present themselves as much smarter than churchgoers. He then directs attention to 1 Corinthians, chapter 1, starting from verse 18, but first using verse 13 as an introduction.

(18:07 - 19:24) Reading from 1 Corinthians 1:13-17

Steve reads from 1 Corinthians 1:13-17, questioning if Christ is divided, if Paul was crucified for them, or if they were baptized in Paul's name. He thanks God for baptizing only Crispus and Gaius, so no one can claim baptism in his name, and mentions also baptizing the household of Stephanas but not remembering others. Paul explains that Christ sent him not to baptize but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom and eloquence, to avoid emptying the cross of its power. Steve interprets this as Paul preaching the gospel without presenting himself as highly educated.

(19:25 - 20:10) Paul's Challenge to the Wise

Keeping the concept in mind, Steve moves to the core of Paul's letter, asking where the wise person is, referring to those who set themselves up as intelligent and not falling for Christianity or the idea of God, claiming superior sharpness.

(20:12 - 21:07) Dismissal of Worldly Wisdom: 1 Corinthians 1:20-21

Paul questions the location of the wise person, the teacher of the law, and the philosopher of the age, showing no respect for them despite their education, as they do not believe in God. He states that God has made foolish the wisdom of the world, for through its wisdom, the world did not know God.

(21:08 - 21:39) Rejection of God and the Foolishness of Preaching

Steve explains that these individuals have not figured out or reject that there is a God, making no effort to know Him. God was pleased through the foolishness of preaching to save believers, clarifying that Paul does not call the sermons foolish but notes that the self-proclaimed wise view them as such.

(21:40 - 23:15) Christ Crucified as Stumbling Block and Foolishness: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

God uses this perceived foolishness to save believers. Jews demand signs, Greeks seek wisdom, but Paul preaches Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. To those called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power and wisdom of God. The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and His weakness stronger than human strength.

(23:16 - 24:28) God's Unmatchable Plan of Salvation

Steve references a morning Bible class point that no human could devise God's plan of salvation, regardless of wisdom or information. The only way to know it is through God's revelation via the Holy Spirit in the Bible. God's wisdom exceeds any man's; one can discern God's existence in nature but needs revelation for more, provided through the Holy Spirit.

(24:29 - 25:41) Superiority of God's Foolishness and Weakness

Repeating that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and His weakness stronger than human strength, Steve mocks worldly views dismissing baptism into Christ as silly, yet it is God's requirement. He emphasizes that God's apparent foolishness surpasses human wisdom.

(25:42 - 27:01) God's Choice of the Foolish and Weak: 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Addressing brothers and sisters, Paul urges them to consider their calling: not many were wise by human standards, influential, or of noble birth. God chose the foolish things to shame the wise, the weak to shame the strong, the lowly and despised to nullify the things that are. Steve clarifies that God is not calling believers lowly or despised but noting that the worldly wise view them as such for becoming Christians.

(27:02 - 28:05) Boasting in the Lord: 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

No one may boast before God; it is because of Him that they are in Christ Jesus, who is wisdom from God—righteousness, holiness, and redemption. As written, let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.

(28:06 - 29:44) Boasting in God's Actions

The wise boast in their intelligence, but believers should boast in God, who chose them before any worthiness, sending His Son to die so that whoever believes shall be saved. Quoting John 3:17, God did not send His Son to condemn the world but to save it. Boast in what God has done, is doing, and will do.

(29:45 - 30:56) Influence on Youth and Charlie Kirk's Efforts

Atheists and agnostics often succeed, particularly targeting college students. Steve mentions Charlie Kirk, who targets college students to resist persuasion by atheistic and agnostic teachers, encouraging belief in God and godly living. Children are primary targets, made to think parents are stupid, influenced by education and teachers, requiring countermeasures.

(30:57 - 32:23) Admonition from Colossians 2:6-8

Drawing to a close, Steve turns to Colossians 2, focusing on verse 8, starting from verse 6. Believers should continue living in Christ as received, rooted, built up, strengthened in faith, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy depending on human tradition and elemental spiritual forces rather than Christ.

(32:26 - 33:10) Warning Against Deceptive Philosophies

Paul warns against people dismissing faith as misguided, often those respected as worldly wise, relying on human traditions and worldly forces instead of Christ.

(33:12 - 34:08) Closing Thoughts on Bombardment and Devaluing the Bible

Closing with that thought, Steve notes constant bombardment via television and claims of scientific proofs like evolution, using degrees to devalue the Bible. However, God reveals how to be right in His sight and seek Him.

(34:09 - 34:49) What Pleases God: Diligent Seeking

What pleases God is believing He exists and rewards diligent seekers. Steve emphasizes "diligently," requiring energy, focus, concentration, and full faith that God communicates.

(34:50 - 35:56) God's Providence and Desire for Salvation

Through divine intervention, providence, and preservation, humans exist. God reaches out, wanting salvation and eternal presence at Judgment Day, making it possible through Jesus, sent to reconcile, overcome sins, forgive, and present believers spotless before God. Through Jesus, they approach God in prayer.

(35:57 - 36:47) Jesus as Advocate and High Priest

Upon baptism into Christ for remission of sins, He cleanses, becomes Advocate and High Priest, interceding and presenting believers spotless. To have Jesus as High Priest, obey by making disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; believers shall be saved.

(36:48 - 36:58) Invitation to Respond

This is the message to share. If anyone needs to respond, the opportunity is extended, followed by standing to sing a song of encouragement.