

“Running from God”

Jonah 1:1-3

Introduction

- I. Have we ever had to do something, but for whatever reason, we tried not to do it?
- II. We no doubt can see the problems that can present, but maybe we do not like to think about them.
- III. Jonah is an example of a man that knew what he needed to do, but he did not want to do it.
 - A. Jonah ran from God's presence.
 - B. Jonah ran from God's purpose.
 - C. Jonah ran from God's pity.

Discussion

- I. Jonah ran from God's presence (Jonah 1:1-3, 10).
 - A. The truth is that there is no where to which we can run from the presence of God (Prov. 15:3; Eccl. 12:13; Psm. 33:13-14).
 - B. Even with all of the evidence of God, some try to escape God's presence by convincing themselves that God does not exist (Psm. 14:1; 53:1; 19:1; Rom. 1:20ff.)
- II. Jonah ran from God's purpose (Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-2).
 - A. God wanted the men of Nineveh to have a “second chance” (2 Pet. 3:9; Psm. 86:15).
 - B. What is God's purpose today (Luke 6:36; 2 Cor. 1:3-4; Matt. 25:35-40; Gal. 6:2; Col. 3:12-14; 1 Tim. 2:4; Matt. 16:15)?
 - C. Do we try to run from God's purpose (Luke 14:15-21)?
- III. Jonah ran from God's pity (Jonah 4:1-5).
 - A. God is full of pity toward mankind (James 5:11; John 3:16).
 - B. Do we have that same type of pity toward our fellow man (1 Pet. 3:8-9; Matt. 6:12-15)?

Discussion

- I. The study of Jonah is a great one!
- II. We are able to learn from Jonah's mistakes.
- III. May we always strive never to run from God!