

Surprise, surprise!

Are unbelievers unwittingly *servicing God*?

First, when ancient Israel disobeyed God, he severely disciplined them by using Babylon's heathen ruler to remove them out of their land and take them all into captivity in Babylon!

And God called this pagan ruler – Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon – “*my servant*”.
Jeremiah 25.9.

Second, unbelievers crucified Jesus, God's Son. Were they unwittingly *servicing God* too?
Yes.

“Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together” to do whatever God's hand and purpose “determined before to be done.”
Acts 4.27-28.

By slaying the Lord of glory – the most wicked deed the world has ever known – these men were actually *servicing God*! He turned their action on its head by accepting Jesus as our substitute – bearing our sins for us as he died on the cross! John 3.16.

Third, the apostle Paul said that God “set me apart before I was born” Galatians 1.15 (RSV). Yet, at first, Paul fiercely opposed God.

So how did this serve God's plan? Because Paul's unbelief was so powerful it made his conversion even more powerful. And in 1 Timothy 1.12-13 Paul tells the world that his opposition to God was done “ignorantly in unbelief.”

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God is using all of us, right now, to serve his purposes.

Ken Packer