

Sermon Outline October 9, 2016

"The Living and True God"

Jeremiah 10:10; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

I. Our God is living and true, He has very specific, definable attributes –

WSC 4 What is God?

Answer: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. (WSC 1:4 WCS)

1. God is a Spirit –

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24 NKJ)

2. God is infinite –

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! (1 Kings 8:27 NKJ)

3. God is eternal -

Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. (Psalm 90:2 NKJ)

4. God is unchangeable, immutable –

"For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. (Malachi 3:6 NKJ)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (James 1:17 NKJ)

5. God is all wise –

The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens; (Proverbs 3:19 NKJ)

6. God is all powerful –

Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; ... (Psalm 147:5 NKJ)

7. God is holy –

"Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? (Exodus 15:11 NKJ)

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8 NKJ)

8. God is perfectly just –

He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He. (Deuteronomy 32:4 NKJ)

9. God is good –

And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ "keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." (Exodus 34:6-7 NKJ)

10. God is love –

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:7-8 NKJ)

11. God is a consuming fire –

For our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:29 NKJ)

Our God has specific, definable attributes because He is real! Real beings, Real people, and even real things have specific definable attributes.

Imaginary beings, imaginary people and imaginary things are not limited to defined attributes. We tend toward wanting to use our IMAGINATION about God, and we tend toward distorting His image –

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. (Romans 8:7 NKJ)

II. How do people distort God's image?

1. They distort Him out of real existence –

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! (Romans 11:33 NKJ)

Oh how we distort even Scripture! I have experienced people distorting Romans 11:33!

How? God's judgments and ways are unsearchable, it means they are high and beyond our minds, we cannot completely comprehend them! However, those who distort these things say unsearchable means UNKNOWABLE and

UNKNOWABLE means completely UNKNOWABLE and completely UNKNOWABLE means any study of God is completely fruitless and foolish, even to the point that ANYONE's imagination of Who and What God is, is (to them) equal, or perhaps even preferred to the Bible!

Even to the point –

- The Flying Spaghetti Monster is the deity of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster or Pastafarianism, a social movement that promotes a light-hearted view of religion and opposes the teaching of intelligent design and creationism in public schools. According to adherents, Pastafarianism is a "real, legitimate religion, as much as any other." Pastafarianism is legally recognized as a religion in the Netherlands and New Zealand ...
The implication is unknowable equals imaginary and imaginary means anything goes!

2. *They (We) distort Him according to their (our) desires -*

A. *We can distort His grace to imagine that He is light on sin –*

Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, (Romans 5:20 NKJ)

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? (Romans 6:1-2 NKJ)

B. *Distortions are as great and as many as there are sins, and sinners in this world ...*

III. *How can we fight these things? We who true, Bible believing Christians must promote THEOLOGY (The study of God) as the Great and Glorious study which it is –*

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJ)

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; ²⁴ But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NKJ)

The most exciting thing in the entire world is to know the truth about the true and living God – It has been said that "the proper study of mankind is man." I believe it is equally true that the proper study of God's elect is God; the proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.

There is something exceedingly improving to the mind in a contemplation of the Divinity. It is a subject so vast, that all our thoughts are lost in its immensity; so deep, that our pride is drowned in its infinity. Other subjects we can grapple with; in them we feel a kind of self-content, and go our way with the thought, "Behold I am wise." But when we come to this master science, finding that our plumbline cannot sound its depth, and that our eagle eye cannot see its height, we turn away with the thought that vain man would be wise, but he is like a wild ass's colt; and with solemn exclamation, "I am but of yesterday, and know nothing." No subject of contemplation will tend more to humble the mind, than thoughts of God....

But while the subject *humbles* the mind, it also expands it. He who often thinks of God, will have a larger mind than the man who simply plods around this narrow globe.... The most excellent study for expanding the soul, is the science of Christ, and Him crucified, and the knowledge of the Godhead in the glorious Trinity. Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued investigation of the great subject of the Deity.

And, while humbling and expanding, this subject is eminently *consolatory*. Oh, there is, in contemplating Christ, a balm for every wound; in musing on the Father, there is a quietus for every grief; and in the influence of the Holy Ghost, there is a balsam for every sore.

Would you lose your sorrow? Would you drown your cares? Then go, plunge yourself in the Godhead's deepest sea; be lost in his immensity; and you shall come forth as from a couch of rest, refreshed and invigorated. I know nothing which can so comfort the soul; so calm the swelling billows of sorrow and grief; so speak peace to the winds of trial, as a devout musing upon the subject of the Godhead. C. H. Spurgeon

... and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 NKJ)

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*. (John 1:18 NKJ) *Part of Jesus' delivering us from wrath, is His declaring to us the true knowledge of God!*

Arnold Brevick