

GOD's Solution To Life's Problems

Lesson 2 – Seeking To Know God Our Creator & His Character

INTRODUCTION

There are many opinions about what God is like. The purpose of this lesson is to study the Scriptures to learn and know the one true God.

“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 on January 7, 1855

I. SEEKING TO KNOW GOD OUR CREATOR

1. According to this verse, why should God receive glory and honor and power?

Revelation 4:11 _____

2. How did God create the world?

Psalms 33:6-9 _____

3. How has God revealed Himself to us? In other words, how can you know that God exists?

Romans 1:19-20 _____

Acts 14:17 _____

4. Why did God create mankind and all things? In other words, what is our purpose in life?

Isaiah 43:7 _____

Isaiah 43:21 _____

Colossians 1:16 _____

5. Since God is our Creator and rules the universe, how does He want us to respond to Him?

Acts 17:24-27 _____

Hebrews 11:6 _____

Isaiah 66:2 _____

[Contrite means grieving and penitent for sin or shortcomings.]

6. In light of what the Bible says about God being our Creator, what might be some implications for our lives? In other words, what is the relationship between a Creator and what He creates?

II. SEEKING TO KNOW GOD AND HIS CHARACTER

1. How important is it to know God? What did Jesus equate it to?

John 17:3 _____

2. What do these verses teach us about knowing and understanding God and His ways?

Romans 11:33 _____

Isaiah 55:9 _____

Psalm 147:5 _____

God is incomprehensible (unable to be fully understood).

“The doctrine of God’s incomprehensibility has much positive application for our own lives. It means that we will never be able to know “too much” about God, for we will never run out of things to learn about Him, and we will thus never tire in delighting in the discovery of more and more of His excellence and of the greatness of his works.” Wayne Grudem

3. What does God want us to boast about concerning knowing Him? What can we know about Him?

Jeremiah 9:23-24 _____

4. What is unique about God? What do the following verses infer about God?

1 Samuel 2:2 _____

Exodus 15:11 _____

Habakkuk 1:13a _____

Psalm 24:3-4 _____

The above verses help us to understand the Holiness of God.

- 1) God is distinct, separate, and in a class by Himself.
- 2) God is absolutely morally pure and perfect (without sin).

The primary meaning of holy is ‘separate.’ It comes from an ancient word that meant, ‘to cut,’ or ‘to separate.’ Perhaps even more accurate would be the phrase ‘a cut above something.’ When we find a garment or another piece of merchandise that is outstanding, that has a superior excellence, we use the expression that it is ‘a cut above the rest.’ R.C. Sproul

5. In the following passages, underline the words that reveal who God is in accordance with each holy characteristic. Then, answer the application questions. It should be noted that this is not an exhaustive list of God's characteristics, rather it is a taste of who God is.

A. Sovereignty (supreme power or authority)

[God supremely rules (king) the universe. He is in complete control of everybody and everything.]
Proverbs 19:21-*"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand."*
Proverbs 21:1-*"The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He will."*
Philippians 2:13 - *"for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."*
Romans 8:28 - *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."*
Job 42:2 - *"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted (prevent from succeeding in or accomplishing something)."*

APPLICATION:

What do you think of the idea that God is in control of your life and ultimately in control of the entire universe? Does this truth raise objections in your mind? How does it encourage you? (Gen. 50:20)

B. Omnipotent (almighty or unlimited power)

[God is all-powerful, and has strength to do all things.]
Jeremiah 32:17 - *"Ah, Lord God! It is you who has made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you."*
Matthew 19:26 - *"But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*
Jeremiah 32:27 - *"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?"*

APPLICATION:

Knowing God is Omnipotent, what does Isaiah 41:10 teach you concerning life's difficulties?

Isaiah 41:10 - *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

C. Wisdom

[God's decisions always bring the best results through the best possible ways.]
Romans 16:27 - *"to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen."*
Psalm 104:24 - *"O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures."*
Romans 11:33 - *"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!"*

APPLICATION:

While we can't make sense of all God's decisions, how does 1 Peter 4:19 tell us to respond?

1 Peter 4:19 - *"Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good."*

D. Righteousness or Justice (morally right and fair)

[God always does what is right, and as Judge He is the final standard of what is right.]

Deuteronomy 32:4 - *“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.”*

Genesis 18:25c - *“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”*

Psalms 119:137 - *“Righteous are you, O Lord, and right are your rules.”*

APPLICATION:

How do you think your standard of what is right and just compares with God’s standard?

E. Immutable (unchanging)

[God never changes His nature or His purpose.]

Malachi 3:6 - *“For I the Lord do not change...”*

Hebrews 6:17-18 – *“So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.”*

Numbers 23:19 – *“God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?”*

Psalms 33:11 - *“The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.”*

APPLICATION:

How might it be encouraging to know that God never changes (His promises, His Word, etc.)?

F. Omniscient (knowing everything)

[God knows all things possible and actual. Nothing takes Him by surprise.]

1 John 3:20 - *“...God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.”*

Hebrews 4:13 - *“And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”*

Psalms 139:1-6 - *“O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.”*

APPLICATION:

How might it be comforting and challenging to know that God is omniscient?

G. Omnipresent (present everywhere)

[God is present everywhere at all times.]

Proverbs 15:3 – *“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.”*

Psalms 139:7-10 – *“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol (grave), you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.”*

Jeremiah 23:23-24 - "Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord."

APPLICATION:

How might it be comforting and challenging to know that God is omnipresent?

H. Love

[God is love which means He sacrificially gave of Himself to meet our needs.]

1 John 4:8 - "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Romans 5:7-8 - "For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

APPLICATION:

How is God's love different from our love for others?

I. Mercy, Grace, & Patience

[God's goodness is seen by his mercy, grace, and patience.]

Psalms 145:8-9 - "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made."

Psalms 130:3-4 - "If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared."

"God's mercy means God's goodness toward those in misery and distress."

Wayne Grudem

"God's grace means God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment."

"God's patience means God's goodness in withholding of punishment toward those who sin over a period of time."

APPLICATION:

How is God's mercy, grace, and patience different from our mercy, grace, and patience for others?

Thinking Question

In light of these truths that you have studied, what did you learn that was new about God? Have any of your views of God changed in light of this study? Explain.

Suggested Reading

Genesis 1