

## What Is God Like? Number one

### Introduction:

1. People who believe and know the scriptures are aware of at least five basic facts:
  - a. God exists! Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:6.
  - b. All have sinned, Romans 3:23.
  - c. Sin separates man from God, Isaiah 59:1-2.
  - d. There is a place called heaven, I Peter 3:22.
  - e. There is a place called hell, Matt. 10:28.
2. Yet, notwithstanding people's general knowledge of these basic truths, most people will be lost! Matt. 7:13-14.
  - a. Lost even though Jesus invited all to come to Him, Matt. 11:28-30.
  - b. Lost even though Jesus died for all, Heb. 2:9.
3. Why, we ask, will most people who believe in the existence of God, and who believe the Bible to be the word of God, still be lost? No doubt there are many reasons, but two very significant reasons come to mind, namely:
  - a. They fail to see God as he is.
  - b. They fail to see man as he is (especially as it relates to themselves).
4. It is therefore imperative that we get acquainted with God!
  - a. In this lesson, with that in mind, we shall ponder the question, "what is God like?"
  - b. This is a topic which I approach with fear and trembling.
    - (1) Fearful that I will fail to ascribe unto God the glory and honor due him.
    - (2) Especially, so, in view of the fact that I am finite, and finite man cannot comprehend a Being Who is infinite. Cf. Ps. 147:5. But not only is God's "understanding" infinite; He is infinite in all His attributes!

### Discussion:

- I. By the term "God," I am referring to those divine Persons who Constitute the "Godhead," and Who possess the qualities of Godhood.
  - A. Scriptures using "Godhead," in the KJV: Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9.
  - B. There are three Persons to whom the word "God" is applied:
    1. The Father, Hebrews 1:1-2
    2. The Son, Jesus Christ, Heb. 1:8; John 1:1-2,14.
    3. The Holy Spirit, Acts 5:3-4.
- II. **God has Revealed Himself through two primary sources.**
  - A. Natural Creation, Psalm 19:1-4; Rom. 1:20.
    1. Through nature, the created universe, one learns of God's Existence, intelligence, majesty, and power.
  - B. Divine revelation, I Cor. 2:10-12; 2 Tim. 3:16; Hebrews 1:1-2.
    1. Herein we learn the most about God – His immutability, omnipresence, omniscience, omnipotence, His moral character, holiness, love, mercy, truthfulness, faithfulness, goodness, patience, righteousness, grace, etc.
- III. **But What Is God Really Like?**
  - A. Is He the God of Muslim terrorists?
    1. Is He really Allah, a God who wants His followers to take over air planes, fly them into tall buildings, and takes the lives of hundreds of innocent victims? Is He a God Who wants His followers to blow themselves up in crowded places, taking the lives of many people, and Who promises His self-declared martyrs that they will go immediately to paradise upon killing themselves and others? Is He the God of Islam, Who encourages His followers to behead Christians and Jews, including innocent children?
  - B. Is He the impersonal God of Deists?
    1. People who believe He created the world, wound it all up, and got all things started, but retired from the scene, being uncaring and unwilling to be involved in our lives?
  - C. Is He the God of New Agers?
    1. People who simply regard "God" as the life force in everything, thereby condoning the worship of trees, crystals, and even themselves?
- IV. **What Is God Like?**
  - A. God is a Person!
    1. One Who has self-consciousness, and self-determination, Gen. 1:26.
    2. One Who has intellect, Acts 15:18; Sensibility, Gen. 6:5-6, and will, Matt. 7:21.

- B. God is “a Spirit,” John 4:24.
  - 1. By “*spirit*,” we refer to His essence or substance.
    - a. Negatively, He does not possess flesh and bones, Luke 24:39.
    - b. Positively, He is a rational being.
  - 2. As “*Spirit*,” He is invisible. Rom. 1:20; I Tim. 1:17; 6:16.
  - 3. The fact that he is a “*Spirit*” does not mean that He has no form or shape, John 5:37; Phil. 2:5-6.
- C. God is Alive!
  - 1. Jer. 10:10; Josh. 3:10; Matt. 16:16; Heb. 12:22.
  - 2. He has life within Himself, John 5:26.
  - 3. He gives life to others.
    - a. Physical life, Gen. 2:7; Eccl. 12:7; Acts 17:25.
    - b. Spiritual life, John 4:14; 5:24; 10:10.
- D. God is Infinite!
  - 1. He has no known bounds or boundaries; not limited or confined by the universe. God created the universe, but He is not limited by it. Rom. 11:36; Ps. 145:3; Job 11:7-8; Isa. 66:1; I Kings 8:27.
  - 2. Because He is infinite He can love each person as much as if he were the only person, number the hairs upon our head, and see each sparrow fall! Matt. 10:29-30; Ps. 44:21; Jer. 32:19.
- E. God is love.
  - 1. John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; I John 4:7-10.

**V. But in a practical sense, as it relates to me, what is God really like?**

- A. Briefly Relate the Parable of the Prodigal Son.
  - 1. Luke 15:11-24.
  - 2. The “*father*” in this parable represents God.
- B. A God Who:
  - 1. Provides for His children, Luke 15:11-12.
  - 2. Allows His children to depart from Him if they so choose.
    - a. Luke 15:13.
    - b. Such is not God’s desire, but He made us all free moral agents, able to choose whichever course we want to follow.
      - (1) When we make the wrong choices we suffer the consequences, Gal. 6:7; Prov. 13:15. We can choose the course we want to follow, but we cannot determine the consequences.
  - 3. Who is watching for His children!
    - a. Luke 15:17-20.
  - 4. Who runs!
    - a. Luke 15:20
  - 5. Who has compassion!
    - a. Luke 15:20-21.
  - 6. Who forgives and restores.
    - a. Luke 15:22-23.
  - 7. Who rejoices when we come to Him!
    - a. Luke 15:23-24.

**Conclusion:**

- 1. In view of Who God is, and in view of what God is like, one wonders how could any sober-minded person refuse to obey His gospel, or how any wayward child of God could refuse to return to God!
- 2. God longs for your salvation. He gives incentives to obey Him, especially as we reflect upon both His goodness and His severity, Rom. 11:22. He invites you to come to Him. But He gave you the choice of whether to obey or to reject Him. You should make the decision Joshua made! Joshua 24:15.

--Bobby Witherington, September 13, 2015