

What is God Like? Lesson Two

Introduction:

1. In the sermon last Sunday night we discussed the subject entitled, "What is God Like."
2. In beginning that lesson, I stated that this is a topic which I approach with fear and trembling.
 - a. Fearful lest I might fail to ascribe unto God the glory and honor due Him. Cf. I Cor. 10:31.
 - b. Fearful because I know that I am a finite being, and that God is infinite in all His attributes, and that my ways and thoughts are as much below God's ways and thoughts as the heavens are above the earth, Isaiah 55:8-9.
3. However, it is very important that we come to "know" God. John 17:3.
4. Fact: Every culture in the history of the world has had some concept of what "God" is like, and that concept, for good or bad, largely determined that nature and conduct of that culture.

Discussion.

I. Brief Review of the Previous Lesson.

- A. By the term "God," we are referring to the three Persons in the "Godhead" (Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9), each of Whom is called "God."
 1. The Father, Heb. 1:1-2.
 2. The Son, Jesus Christ, Heb. 1:8.
 3. The Holy Spirit, Acts 5:3-4.
- B. God has revealed Himself through:
 1. Natural creation, Rom. 1:20.
 2. Divine revelation, 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:1-2.
- C. God is:
 1. A Person, one Who has self-consciousness, and self-determination, Gen. 1:26.
 2. "A Spirit," John 4:24 (referring to His essence or substance).
 3. Alive, Matt. 16:16.
 4. Infinite; Ps. 147:5.
 5. Love, I John 4:8.
- D. We considered the subject "in a practical sense."
 1. We asked "in a practical sense, as it relates to me, what is God really like?"
 2. In reply, we noted that the "father" in the parable of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-24, represents God. The way that "father" responded to his penitent, prodigal son, reflects how God responds to us when we come to Him with a similar attitude.

II. Other Facts Pertaining to God.

- A. God exists!
 1. The Bible does not argue for God's existence. It starts out with "God." Gen. 1:1; Ps. 19:1.
 2. He is eternally self-existent, Ps. 90:2.
 - a. He exists above and beyond all creation. Ps 97:6.
- B. God is Sovereign!
 1. The same God Who made all things controls all things. Isa. 46:9-10.
 2. He is Supreme! All of His creatures, put together, cannot thwart His holy purpose. Ps. 93:1; 95:3; Jer. 23:20.
- C. God is Eternal.
 1. He had no beginning. His existence will never end. He is "the uncaused Cause." Ps. 90:2; Deut. 33:27; I Tim. 1:17.
 2. God transcends time. He exists independent of time; He is the eternal "I Am." Ex. 3:13-14.
- D. God is Immutable. He does not change.
 1. Mal. 3:6; Num. 23:19; Psa. 102:25-27.
 2. There was never a time when God was anything less than He is now.
 3. He is the same as when He created the universe. Heb. 13:8.
 4. A knowledge of this fact should be of comfort (and warning!) to us.
 - a. If he was able to sustain Israel He is able to sustain us.
 - b. If He was able to deliver Daniel from the lion's den, He is able to deliver us from the challenges we face.
 - c. If He was able to raise Jesus from the dead, He is able to raise us.

- E. God is Just.
 - 1. He is fair; He shows no favoritism; He is not a respecter of persons.
 - 2. Deut. 32:4; Ps. 18:30; Acts 10:34-35.

- F. God has Emotions!
 - 1. Anger, Ps. 7:11; Rom. 1:18.
 - 2. Compassion, Judged 2:18. "*moved with pity,*" NKJV.
 - 3. Grief, Gen. 6:6.
 - 4. Love, John 3:16; I John 4:8.
 - 5. Hate, Prov. 6:16.
 - 6. Jealousy, Ex. 20:5.
 - 7. Joy, Jer. 32:41.

Note: Personhood is defined as "the state of being an individual with intellect, emotions, and volition." To deny that God possesses emotions is to deny that He possesses personality. Hence, God's emotions are rooted in His holy nature. He does not have "mood swings" which cloud His judgment, for He is also infinite and unchangeable.

- G. God's Immensity.
 - 1. "The more you come to know Him the bigger He is."
 - 2. Isa. 40:12-15, 21-22.

- H. God is All-Knowing.
 - 1. Ps. 139:1-6; Isa. 40:27-28.
 - 2. God's knowledge encompasses every item and event in the universe. Ps. 147:4-5; Matt. 10:29-31.

III. When Jesus came to Earth, He showed us the Father, John 14:7-9.

- A. Through Jesus, we learn that:
 - 1. God seeks the lost, Luke 19:10.
 - 2. God is merciful, Luke 6:36.
 - 3. God is forgiving, Matt. 9:1-8.
 - 4. God is calling men to Him, Matt. 11:28-30.
- B. From a practical perspective, the things we have learned about God should convince us that He is the One to Whom we should turn, for:
 - 1. He is Big enough to help!
 - 2. He is Smart enough to help!
 - 3. He is Concerned enough to help!

Conclusion:

- 1. In view of Who and What God is (as reflected in His Word, His works and His attributes), it behooves all responsible people to come to Him! After all, He:
 - a. Is not willing that any should perish, 2 Peter 3:9.
 - b. He sent His Son to die for us, Rom. 5:8.
 - c. He has prepared a place for us, Matt. 25:34.
 - d. He has provided for us an "*inheritance, incorruptible, and undefiled...*," I Peter 1:4.
 - e. He has invited us to come to Him! Matt. 11:28-30.
- 2. But He has made you a creature of choice! Josh. 24:15. In a very real sense, you choose "where you will spend eternity."

--Bobby Witherington, Sept. 20, 2015