

Who says there is a God? Theology in question

Jn 20:24-29; 1 pet 3:15 "Our God, He is alive" # 672

I. Introduction

- A. Understanding God is necessary for the Christian. 1 pet 3:15
- B. Understanding God begins at an early age. Amanda.- where did I come from? why am I here?....
- C. Understanding God begins with questioning His existence.
- D. Understanding God is what theology is about (discourse on God).
- E. Understanding God is the theme of this four part series.
 - 1. Who says there is a God? Theology in question.
 - 2. Who is God? Theology in action.
 - 3. What is God? Theology in conception.
 - 4. What does God mean to me? Theology in practice.
- F. Understanding God starts with explaining His existence; and that is the focus of our lesson.

II. Body

- A. **The Cosmological argument for God's existence. (cause and effect)**
Psa 19:1-2
 - 1. Things just don't happen, there are causes. Creation of matter.
 - 2.. These things didn't just happen, their existence is an inherant proof of deity.
- B. **The Teleological argument for God's existence. (plain man's argument)**
Eccl 12:13
 - 1. Everything man makes has a purpose (an end design).
 - 2. Every complex thing has a higher intelligence designing it.
 - 3. Everyone asks "why am I here"... can't be answered without God!
- C. **The Ontological argument for God's existence (philosopher's argument)**
 - 1. Proof God exists because man universally conceives of God.
 - 2. Perception of God (whether or not He exists) and the assertion He does not exist is impossible, because this would invalidate reasoning. No atheism possible.
- D. **The Moral argument for God's existence (right vs. wrong)**
 - 1. Man is different from the animal; he has reasoning, a conscience, remorse.
 - 2. Man's universal concept of morality proves the existence of God.

E. The General argument for God's existence (religious necessity)

1. All men feel the necessity to worship God. This is fact.
2. An understanding of religion is seen in the human tendency to conceive of the reality of life in terms of what is true or not true. This means standards. Who provides perfect standards... God.

F. The Historical argument for God's existence. (The Jewish people)

III. Conclusion

- A. Realizing God exists is fundamental to Christianity. Heb 11: 1-6
- B. Really questioning all our beliefs is healthy, it makes us THINK, PROVIDES CONFIDENCE.
- C. Ready arguments for God's existence reveal our hope of eternal life to the world.

John 20:24-29

- 24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.
- 25 The other disciples therefore were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."
- 26 And after eight days again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be with you."
- 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing."
- 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"
- 29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

1 Pet 3:15

- 15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Ps 19:1-2

- 1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

Eccl 12:13

13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.

Ps 14:1

1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.

Heb 11:1-6

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
2 For by it the men of old gained approval.
3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.
4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.
5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.
6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (NAS)

Who is God? Theology in Action

BR: John 1:43-51

Song: "We're marching on to Zion"

I. Introduction

- A. Coming to know who God is.... How? Scriptures, Wisdom, Association
- B. Consider that understanding God is a **VERY IN DEPTH TOPIC**. (This is a short study)
- C. Completeness of our understanding is equal to the extent of God's revelation to us. (John 20:30f.)
- D. Consider the actions and character of a person to know him... God as well.
- E. Character next week, this week **ACTIONS**..

II. Body

- A. God is the ***creator*** of all things. Gen 1:1, 27; Jn 1:1; 1Cor 6:19-20
- B. God is ***wise***. (judicial use of knowledge) 1 Cor 1:18-21; provb 3:19-20
- C. God searches the ***hearts of men***. 1 Chrn 28:9; Jere 17:10; Ac 1:24
- D. God is ***involved*** with men. Gen 45:7; prov. 16:9; Gal 4:4; 1 Cor. 10:13
- E. God is the ***savior*** of men. 1Tim 2:4-6; Matt 28:19; Eph 1:13
- F. God is a ***jealous*** God.(zealous for purity) Exo 20:5; 34:13-14; Numb 25:1-13
- G. God ***reveals*** himself. Isa 40:12-31; 1Cor. 2:16; Eph 3:1-6

H. God is the supreme *judge*.

**1Chrn 16:14; Jn 12:48-50;
1 Cor 4:4-5**

III. Conclusion

- A. God was not so much a theological concept to the Jews as He was a concrete reality.
- B. God revealed himself to men over thousands of years in many ways, but in these last days he has shown himself through his son.
- C. God shows Himself to us daily, as He works in our lives.
- D. God will be further revealed to us in heaven, where our understanding of Him will not be clouded by sin.

John 1:43-51

- 43 The next day He purposed to go forth into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me."
44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter.
45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."
46 And Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."
47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!"
48 Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."
49 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."
50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these."
51 And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you shall see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (NAS)

John 20:30-31

- 30 Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;
31 but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (NAS)

Gen 1:1

- 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (NAS)

Gen 1:27

- 27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (NAS)

John 1:1

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (NAS)

1 Cor 6:19-20

- 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (NAS)

1 Cor 1:18-21

- 18 For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the

clever I will set aside."

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to
know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached
to save those who believe. (NAS)

Prov 3:19-20

19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the
heavens.

20 By His knowledge the deeps were broken up, and the skies drip with dew.
(NAS)

1 Chr 28:9

9 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a
whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and
understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find
Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever. (NAS)

Jer 17:10

10 "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man
according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds. (NAS)

Acts 1:24

24 And they prayed, and said, "Thou, Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show
which one of these two Thou hast chosen(NAS)

Gen 45:7

7 "And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to
keep you alive by a great deliverance. (NAS)

Prov 16:9

9 The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps. (NAS)

Gal 4:4

4 But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman,
born under the Law,

1 Cor 10:13

13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is
faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with
the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to
endure it. (NAS)

1 Tim 2:4-6

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man
Christ Jesus,

6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time.
(NAS)

Matt 28:19

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, (NAS)

Eph 1:13

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, (NAS)

Exod 20:5

5 "You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,

Exod 34:13-14

13 "But rather, you are to tear down their altars and smash their sacred pillars and cut down their Asherim

14 for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God-- (NAS)

Num 25:1-13

1 While Israel remained at Shittim, the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab.

2 For they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.

3 So Israel joined themselves to Baal of Peor, and the LORD was angry against Israel.

4 And the LORD said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and execute them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel."

5 So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you slay his men who have joined themselves to Baal of Peor."

6 Then behold, one of the sons of Israel came and brought to his relatives a Midianite woman, in the sight of Moses and in the sight of all the congregation of the sons of Israel, while they were weeping at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

7 When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he arose from the midst of the congregation, and took a spear in his hand;

8 and he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and pierced both of them through, the man of Israel and the woman, through the body. So the plague on the sons of Israel was checked.

9 And those who died by the plague were 24,000.

10 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

11 "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned away My

wrath from the sons of Israel, in that he was jealous with My jealousy among them, so that I did not destroy the sons of Israel in My jealousy.

- 12 "Therefore say, 'Behold, I give him My covenant of peace;
13 and it shall be for him and his descendants after him, a covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God, and made atonement for the sons of Israel.'" (NAS)

Isa 40:12-31

- 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and marked off the heavens by the span, and calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, and weighed the mountains in a balance, and the hills in a pair of scales?
13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has informed Him?
14 With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge, and informed Him of the way of understanding?
15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.
16 Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering.
17 All the nations are as nothing before Him, they are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.
18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him?
19 As for the idol, a craftsman casts it, a goldsmith plates it with gold, and a silversmith fashions chains of silver.
20 He who is too impoverished for such an offering Selects a tree that does not rot; He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman to prepare an idol that will not totter.
21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
22 It is He who sits above the vault of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.
23 He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.
24 Scarcely have they been planted, Scarcely have they been sown, Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth, but He merely blows on them, and they wither, and the storm carries them away like stubble.
25 "To whom then will you liken me that I should be his equal?" says the Holy One.
26 Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars, the One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power not one of them is missing.
27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and the justice due me escapes the notice of my God"?
28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the

Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

- 29 He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power.
30 Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly,
31 Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary. (NAS)

1 Cor 2:16

- 16 For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Eph 3:1-6

- 1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles--
2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;
3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.
4 And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,
5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;
6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,
(NAS)

1 Chr 16:14

- 14 He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. (NAS)

John 12:48-50

- 48 "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.
49 "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak.
50 "And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."(NAS)

1 Cor 4:4-5

- 4 For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.
5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God. (NAS)

What is God? Theology in conception

BR: 1 John 4:8

Song: "Oh to be like thee"

I. Introduction

- A. What amazes me about New Jersey is the diversity of the people.
- B. What is extraordinary about Christians is that there are so many levels of spirituality.
- C. What would you think about a Christian who knew God only by 1 John 4:8?
- D. What a task ... explaining God ! Definition by A. H. Strong:
"God is the infinite and perfect Spirit in whom all things have their source, support and end."
- E. What needs to be understood is the complexity of the subject. It would take many, many sermons to do more than just briefly understand God.
- F. What this lesson will attempt to do is understand God by His composition (Godhead [Trinity]), His natural characteristics, and His moral attributes.

II. Body

A. Understanding God means a comprehension of the Godhead.

Col 2:9

- 1. God is the **Father**. Mal 2:10; Eph 4:6; Heb 12:9; Exo 4:22ff.; 1 Chrn 29:10
- 2. God is the **Son**. Jn 1:1, 18; 20:28; Titus 2:13
- 3. God is the **Holy Spirit**. Acts 5:3-4; Jn 14:23; 1 Cor 6:19
- 4. God is **one, yet three**. Dt 6:4; Mk 12:29; Jn 15:1-8; 17:22f; Jn 5:18; 10:30

B. Understanding God means considering His natural attributes.

- 1. God is **Spirit**. Jn 4:24; Lk 24:39; Col 1:15; 1 Tim 6:16
- 2. God is **immutable**. Heb 1:10-12; 13:8; Mal 3:6
- 3. God is **omnipotent**. Gen 17:1; 18:14
- 4. God is **omniscient**. Rom 11:33-36; Psa 147:5
- 5. God is **omnipresent**. Psa 139:7-12; Gen 18:25
- 6. God is **eternal**. 2 Pet 3:8; Rev 1:8; 1 Tim 1:17; 6:15-16

C. Understanding God means understanding His moral attributes.

- 1. God is **Holy**. Isa 6:1-3; Eph 4:24; Exo 15:11; Isa 57:15; Rev 15:4
- 2. God is **Righteous**. Gen 18:25 Dt 32:4; Rom 2:6-16
- 3. God is **Just**. Dt 32:1-4; Psa 7:9-12; Psa 89:14
- 4. God is **Truth**. Jn 14:6; Psa 31:5; Isa 65:16
- 5. God is **Love**. 1 Jn 4:8; Jn 3:16

6. God is **Mercy**.

Psa 116:5; 62:12; 2 Cor 1:3; Exo 34:6;
Mic 7:18

III. Conclusion

- A. There has been much diversity of opinion concerning what God is like over the centuries.
- B. There are many, many scriptures which explain God, but the most important thing to remember is that understanding God begins with being known by Him.
- C. The three things that will determine my understanding of God are:
 - 1. My attitude.
 - 2. My effort to try to understand Him.
 - 3. My actions as a result of trying to please Him.

I Jn 4:8

8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (NAS)

Mal 2:10

10 "Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers? (NAS)

Eph 4:6

6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. (NAS)

Heb 12:9

9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? (NAS)

Exod 4:22-23

22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, "Israel is My son, My first-born.

23 "So I said to you, 'Let My son go, that he may serve Me'; but you have refused to let him go. Behold, I will kill your son, your first-born.'" (NAS)

1 Chr 29:10

10 So David blessed the LORD in the sight of all the assembly; and David said, "Blessed art Thou, O LORD God of Israel our father, forever and ever. (NAS)

John 1:1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (NAS)

John 1:18

18 No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. (NAS)

John 20:28

28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (NAS)

Titus 2:13

13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;(NAS)

Acts 5:3-4

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?
4 "While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God." (NAS)

John 14:23

23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him." (NAS)

1 Cor 6:19

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? (NAS)

Deut 6:4

4 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! (NAS)

Mark 12:29

29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; (NAS)

John 15:1-8

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit.
3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.

8 "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. (NAS)

John 17:22-23

22 "And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one;

23 I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me. (NAS)

John 5:18

18 **For this cause therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. (NAS)**

John 10:30

30 "I and the Father are one." (NAS)

John 4:24

24 **"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (NAS)**

Luke 24:39

39 **"See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." (NAS)**

Col 1:15

15 And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. (NAS)

1 Tim 6:16

16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen. (NAS)

Heb 1:10-12

10 **And, "Thou, Lord, in the beginning didst lay the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Thy hands;**

11 **They will perish, but Thou remainest; and they all will become old as a garment,**

12 **And as a mantle Thou wilt roll them up; as a garment they will also be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will not come to an end. "** (NAS)

Heb 13:8

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever. (NAS)

Mal 3:6

6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed. (NAS)

Gen 17:1

1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. (NAS)

Gen 18:14

14 **"Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."** (NAS)

Rom 11:33-36

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?

35 Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again?

36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen. (NAS)

Ps 147:5

5 **Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.** (NAS)

Ps 139:7-12

7 **Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence?**

8 **If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there.**

9 **If I take the wings of the dawn, if I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,**

10 **Even there Thy hand will lead me, and Thy right hand will lay hold of me.**

11 **If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night,"**

12 **Even the darkness is not dark to Thee, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to Thee.** (NAS)

Gen 18:25

25 "Far be it from Thee to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from Thee! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" (NAS)

2 Pet 3:8

8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (NAS)

Rev 1:8

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (NAS)

1 Tim 1:17

17 **Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.** (NAS)

1 Tim 6:15-16

15 which He will bring about at the proper time-- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords;
16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.
(NAS)

Isa 6:1-3

1 **In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.**
2 **Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.**
3 **And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." (NAS)**

Eph 4:24

24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (NAS)

Exod 15:11

11 "Who is like Thee among the gods, O LORD? Who is like Thee, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders? (NAS)

Isa 57:15

15 For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.
(NAS)

Rev 15:4

4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? For Thou alone art holy; for all the nations will come and worship before Thee, for Thy righteous acts have been revealed." (NAS)

Gen 18:25

25 "Far be it from Thee to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from Thee! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" (NAS)

Deut 32:4

4 **"The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He. (NAS)**

Rom 2:6-16

6 who will render to every man according to his deeds:
7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;
8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.
9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek,
10 but glory and honor and peace to every man who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
11 For there is no partiality with God.
12 For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law; and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law;
13 for not the hearers of the Law are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.
14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves,
15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness, and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,
16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus. (NAS)

Deut 32:1-4

1 **"Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak; and let the earth hear the words of my mouth.**
2 **"Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, as the droplets on the fresh grass and as the showers on the herb.**
3 **"For I proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God!**
4 **"The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He. (NAS)**

Ps 7:9-12

9 O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; for the righteous God tries the hearts and minds.
10 My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart.
11 God is a righteous judge, and a God who has indignation every day.

12 If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready. (NAS)

Ps 89:14

14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne; lovingkindness and truth go before Thee. (NAS)

John 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me. (NAS)

Ps 31:5

5 Into Thy hand I commit my spirit; Thou hast ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth. (NAS)

Isa 65:16

16 "Because he who is blessed in the earth shall be blessed by the God of truth; and he who swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hidden from My sight! (NAS)

I Jn 4:8

8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (NAS)

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. (NAS)

Ps 116:5

5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yes, our God is compassionate. (NAS)

Ps 62:12

12 And lovingkindness is Thine, O Lord, for Thou dost recompense a man according to his work.(NAS)

2 Cor 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; (NAS)

Exod 34:6

6 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; (NAS)

Micah 7:18

18 Who is a God like Thee, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love. (NAS)

GOD, NAMES OF

The titles or designations given to God throughout the Bible. In the ancient world, knowing another's name was a special privilege that offered access to that person's thought and life. God favored His people by revealing Himself by several names which offered special insight into His love and righteousness.

Jehovah Yahweh. One of the most important names for God in the Old Testament is Yahweh, or Jehovah, from the verb "to be," meaning simply but profoundly, "I am who I am," and "I will be who I will be." The four-letter Hebrew word YHWH was the name by which God revealed Himself to Moses in the burning bush <Ex. 3:14>. This bush was a vivid symbol of the inexhaustible dynamism of God who burns like a fire with love and righteousness, yet remains the same and never diminishes. Some English translations of the Bible translate the word as Jehovah, while others use Yahweh.

God is the author of life and salvation. His "I am" expresses the fact that He is the infinite and original personal God who is behind everything and to whom everything must finally be traced. This name, "I am who I am," signals the truth that nothing else defines who God is but God Himself. What He says and does is who He is. The inspired Scriptures are the infallible guide to understanding who God is by what He says about Himself and what He does. Yahweh is the all-powerful and sovereign God who alone defines Himself and establishes truth for His creatures and works for their salvation.

Moses was called to proclaim deliverance to the people and was told by God, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you' " <Ex. 3:14>. In the deliverance of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt, God revealed a deeper significance to His name. But He had already disclosed Himself to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as Yahweh. Each of them had called on the name of the Lord (Yahweh) <Gen. 12:8; 13:4; 26:25; Ex. 3:15> as the God who protects and blesses. Yet <Exodus 6:3> shows that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did not know the fuller meaning of Yahweh, which was to be revealed to Moses and the Hebrew people in the Exodus experience.

The divine name Yahweh is usually translated Lord in English versions of the Bible, because it became a practice in late Old Testament Judaism not to pronounce the sacred name YHWH, but to say instead "my Lord" (Adonai)-- a practice still used today in the synagogue. When the vowels of Adonai were attached to the consonants YHWH in the medieval period, the word Jehovah resulted. Today, many Christians use the word Yahweh, the more original pronunciation, not hesitating to name the divine name since Jesus taught believers to speak in a familiar way to God.

The following are other names in honor of the Lord in the Old Testament that stem from the basic name of Yahweh:

Jehovah-jireh-- This name is translated as "The-LORD-Will-Provide," commemorating the provision of the ram in place of Isaac for Abraham's sacrifice <Gen. 22:14>.

Jehovah-nissi-- This name means "The-LORD-Is-My-Banner," in honor of God's defeat of the Amalekites <Ex. 17:15>.

Jehovah-shalom-- This phrase means "The-LORD-Is-Peace," the name Gideon gave

the altar which he built in Ophrah <Judg. 6:24>.

Jehovah-shammah-- This phrase expresses the truth that "The-LORD-Is-There," referring to the city which the prophet Ezekiel saw in his vision <Ezek. 48:35>.

Jehovah-tsebaoth-- This name, translated "The-LORD-of-hosts," was used in the days of David and the prophets, witnessing to God the Savior who is surrounded by His hosts of heavenly power <1 Sam. 1:3>.

Jehovah Elohe Israel-- This name means "LORD-God-of-Israel," and it appears in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and the Psalms. Other names similar to this are Netsah Israel, "The Strength of Israel" <1 Sam. 15:29>; and Abir Yisrael "The Mighty One of Israel" <Is. 1:24>.

El. Another important root name for God in the Old Testament is El. By itself it refers to a god in the most general sense. It was widely used in ancient eastern cultures whose languages are similar to Hebrew and therefore may refer either to the true God or to false gods. The highest Canaanite god was El whose son was Baal. In the Bible the word is often defined properly by a qualifier like Jehovah: "I, the LORD (Jehovah) your God (Elohim), am a jealous God (El)" <Deut. 5:9>.

Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba "and there called on the name of the LORD (Yahweh), the Everlasting God (El Olam) <Gen. 21:33>. Jacob built an altar on a piece of land he purchased at Shechem and called it "El Elohe Israel" ("God, the God of Israel"), commemorating his wrestling with the angel at the place he called Peniel ("the face of God"), and receiving his new name Israel (Yisra-el, "God strives") <Gen. 32:28-30; 33:20>. El Shaddai (God Almighty), signifying God as a source of blessing, is the name with which God appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob <Ex. 6:3>.

Elohim. Elohim is the plural form of El, but it is usually translated in the singular. Some scholars have held that the plural represents an intensified form for the supreme God; others believe it describes the supreme God and His heavenly court of created beings. Still others hold that the plural form refers to the triune God of <Genesis 1:1-3>, who works through Word and Spirit in the creation of the world. All agree that the plural form Elohim does convey the sense of the one supreme being who is the only true God.

Several important names of God identify Him as Branch, King, Wisdom, Shepherd, and Servant:

Branch of Righteousness. <Jeremiah 23:5-6> names the coming messianic figure, the "Branch of righteousness," who will descend from David and be raised up to reign as King to execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. Christians see in this linkage a prophecy about God the Son taking on human flesh to serve as righteous King.

King. This descendant of David will have several divine qualities. He will be a Branch of Righteousness, a King, and His name will be called "The Lord Our Righteousness" (Jehovah Tsidkenu).

Wisdom. This person also appears in <Proverbs 8:1-36> as Wisdom, the speaker who always says and does what is righteous, is equal to Jehovah, and works with Him in the creation of the universe. Paul describes Christ in these terms in <Colossians 1:13-19; 2:1-3>.

Shepherd. God is also described in prophecy as the Shepherd who will feed His flock, gather the lambs in His arms, carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those with young <Is. 40:11; Jer. 31:10; Ezek. 34:11-16>. Jesus applied this name to Himself <Luke 15:4-7; John 10:11-16>, making Himself equal to God; and Jesus Christ is so named by His followers <Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 7:17>.

Servant. The name of Servant also identifies this divine person and His saving ministry on behalf of His people. God's Servant is described in terms that apply to Jesus. He is upheld and chosen by God; He delights in God; He receives God's Spirit. Like Wisdom in <Proverbs 8>, He is holy, just, and righteous. He will bring Jacob back to Him and will be a light to the nations since He is an offering for sin <Is. 42:1-4; 49:1-7; 53:1-12>.

Word of God. The Word of God figures prominently in Scripture as another name of God. The Word is not as clearly a person in the Old Testament as in the New Testament where Jesus Christ is identified as the personal Word of God <John 1:1, 14>. But it is evident from <Psalm 33:4,6>, and <9> that the Word should be understood in a personal sense, for "the word of the Lord is right" indicating a personified Word. "By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made" <v. 6>, echoing the creation in <Genesis 1:3,6>. In the New Testament Jesus is seen to be both Word and Law personified.

Glory. God is described as Glory (Shekinah) in <Exodus 16:7; Psalm 104:31>; and <Isaiah 60:1>. In the New Testament Jesus shares the glory of God <Matt. 25:31; 1 Cor. 2:8; Heb. 1:3>.

When the new age arrives with the birth of Jesus Christ, the names of the three persons who comprise the trinity are made more explicit. These names fulfill the deeper meanings of the Old Testament names for God.

In the New Testament God is known as Father <Matt. 5:16; 28:19> and Abba <Mark 14:36; Gal. 4:6>. Jesus is known as Son <Matt. 11:27>, Son of God <John 9:35>, and Son of man <Matt. 8:20>, Messiah <John 1:41>, Lord <Rom. 14:8>, Word <John 1:1>, Wisdom <1 Cor. 1:30>, Bridegroom <Mark 2:19>, Shepherd <John 10:11>, Vine <John 15:1>, Light <John 1:9>, and "I AM" <John 8:12>. The Holy Spirit is known as the Helper <John 14:16>.

(from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

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GOD

theos ^{^2316^}, (I) in the polytheism of the Greeks, denoted "a god or deity," e. g., <Acts 14:11; 19:26; 28:6; 1 Cor. 8:5; Gal. 4:8>.

(II) (a) Hence the word was appropriated by Jews and retained by Christians to denote "the one true God." In the Sept. theos translates (with few exceptions) the Hebrew words Elohim and Jehovah, the former indicating His power and preeminence, the latter His unoriginated, immutable, eternal and self-sustained existence.

In the NT, these and all the other divine attributes are predicated of Him. To Him are ascribed, e. g., His unity, or monism, e. g., <Mark 12:29; 1 Tim. 2:5>; self-existence, <John 5:26>; immutability, <Jas. 1:17>; eternity, <Rom. 1:20>; universality, <Matt.

10:29; Acts 17:26-28>; almighty power <Matt. 19:26>; infinite knowledge, <Acts 2:23; 15:18; Rom. 11:33>, creative power, <Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 3:9; Rev. 4:11; 10:6>; absolute holiness, <1 Pet. 1:15; 1 John 1:5>; righteousness, <John 17:25>; faithfulness, <1 Cor. 1:9; 10:13; 1 Thes. 5:24; 2 Thes. 3:3; 1 John 1:9>; love, <1 John 4:8,16>; mercy, <Rom. 9:15,18>; truthfulness, <Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18>. See GOOD, No. 1 (b).

(b) The divine attributes are likewise indicated or definitely predicated of Christ, e. g., <Matt. 20:18-19; John 1:1-3; 1:18>, RV, marg.; <5:22-29; 8:58; 14:6; 17:22-24; 20:28; Rom. 1:4; 9:5; Phil. 3:21; Col. 1:15; 2:3; Titus 2:13>, RV; <Heb. 1:3; 13:8; 1 John 5:20; Rev. 22:12,13>.

(c) Also of the Holy Spirit, e. g., <Matt. 28:19; Luke 1:35; John 14:16; 15:26; 16:7-14; Rom. 8:9,26; 1 Cor. 12:11; 2 Cor. 13:14>.

(d) Theos is used (1) with the definite article, (2) without (i. e., as an anarthrous noun). "The English may or may not have need of the article in translation. But that point cuts no figure in the Greek idiom. Thus in <Acts 27:23> ('the God whose I am,' RV) the article points out the special God whose Paul is, and is to be preserved in English. In the very next verse (ho theos) we in English do not need the article" (A. T. Robertson, Gram. of Greek, NT, p. 758).

As to this latter it is usual to employ the article with a proper name, when mentioned a second time. There are, of course, exceptions to this, as when the absence of the article serves to lay stress upon, or give precision to, the character or nature of what is expressed in the noun. A notable instance of this is in <John 1:1>, "and the Word was God"; here a double stress is on theos, by the absence of the article and by the emphatic position. To translate it literally, "a god was the Word," is entirely misleading. Moreover, that "the Word" is the subject of the sentence, exemplifies the rule that the subject is to be determined by its having the article when the predicate is anarthrous (without the article). In <Rom. 7:22>, in the phrase "the law of God," both nouns have the article; in <v. 25>, neither has the article. This is in accordance with a general rule that if two nouns are united by the genitive case (the "of" case), either both have the article, or both are without. Here, in the first instance, both nouns, "God" and "the law" are definite, whereas in <v. 25> the word "God" is not simply titular; the absence of the article stresses His character as lawgiver.

Where two or more epithets are applied to the same person or thing, one article usually serves for both (the exceptions being when a second article lays stress upon different aspects of the same person or subject, e. g., <Rev. 1:17>). In <Titus 2:13> the RV correctly has "our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." Moulton (Prol., p. 84) shows, from papyri writings of the early Christian era, that among Greek-speaking Christians this was "a current formula" as applied to Christ. So in <2 Pet. 1:1> (cf. <1:11; 3:18>).

In the following titles God is described by certain of His attributes; the God of glory, <Acts 7:2>; of peace, <Rom. 15:33; 16:20; Phil. 4:9; 1 Thes. 5:23; Heb. 13:20>; of love and peace, <2 Cor. 13:11>; of patience and comfort, <Rom. 15:5>; of all comfort, <2 Cor. 1:3>; of hope, <Rom. 15:13>; of all grace, <1 Pet. 5:10>. These describe Him, not as in distinction from other persons, but as the source of all these blessings; hence the employment of the definite article. In such phrases as "the God of a

person," e. g., <Matt. 22:32>, the expression marks the relationship in which the person stands to God and God to him.

(e) In the following the nominative case is used for the vocative, and always with the article; <Mark 15:34; Luke 18:11,13; John 20:28>; <Acts 4:24> in some mss.; <Heb. 1:8; 10:7>.

(f) The phrase "the things of God" (translated literally or otherwise) stands for (1) His interests, <Matt. 16:23; Mark 8:33>; (2) His counsels, <1 Cor. 2:11>; (3) things which are due to Him, <Matt. 22:21; Mark 12:17; Luke 20:25>. The phrase "things pertaining to God," <Rom. 15:17; Heb. 2:17; 5:1>, describes, in the Heb. passages, the sacrificial service of the priest; in the Rom. passage the gospel ministry as an offering to God.

(III) The word is used of divinely appointed judges in Israel, as representing God in His authority, <John 10:34>, quoted from <Ps. 82:6>, which indicates that God Himself sits in judgment on those whom He has appointed. The application of the term to the Devil, <2 Cor. 4:4>, and the belly, <Phil. 3:19>, virtually places these instances under (I). (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words) (Copyright (C) 1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

What does God mean to me?

Theology in Practice

BR: 2 Cor 11:18-30

Song: "I want to be a worker for the Lord"

I. Introduction

- A. God can not be ignored -- we have a choice to make. Dt 5:7
- B. God was never an impersonal deity -- He got involved with us.
- C. God expects us to live a spiritual life. Dt 6:4-8
- D. God in us, the hope of Glory Col 1:27

II. Body

A. **Understanding God means understanding ourselves.**

- 1. Our origins. Gen 1:26ff.; Acts 17:28
- 2. Our purpose in life. 1 pet. 2:9; Eccl 12:13
- 3. Our ultimate goal. 2 tim 4:7-8; 1Cor 15:1-4, 50-58

B. **Understanding God means knowing and being known by Him.**

Mtt 7:21-23; 2 cor 10:17; Phil 3:7-11; 1 Jn2:4, 3:14; Jer 31:34

C. **Understanding God means becoming like Him.**

- 1. A change from our ways to His ways. 1 Cor 10:13
- 2. A Great example. Mtt 4:1-10; Heb 4:14-16
- 3. A Godly life. Heb 12:14; Eph 5:2

D. **Understanding God will enable us to detect and exterminate sin in our lives.**

1Tim 1:15-16; Eph 4:22; Heb 12:1-2

E. **Understanding God will allow us to obey His commands in Spirit and Truth.**

1Cor 1:18-31; Dt 5:6-21; Matt 5:2-18;

F. **Understanding God correctly will help us to acceptably worship Him.**

Jn 4:24; Acts 17:22ff.; Heb 11:6; Jn 4:22; Matt 15:7-9

G. **Understanding God will help us mature spiritually.**

Eph 4:11-15; 2pet 1:1-8

- H. Understanding God will enable us to share Christianity with others.**
1 pet 3:15; Jn 3:11-16; 2 pet 1:9-10; 2 tim 3:14-15

III. Conclusion

- A. Learning about God will reinforce our faith.
- B. Learning about God will give us new goals of spirituality.
- C. Learning about God will give us encouragement to reach out to others.

2 Cor 11:18-30

- 18 Since many boast according to the flesh, I will boast also.
19 For you, being so wise, bear with the foolish gladly.
20 For you bear with anyone if he enslaves you, if he devours you, if he takes advantage of you, if he exalts himself, if he hits you in the face.
21 To my shame I must say that we have been weak by comparison. But in whatever respect anyone else is bold (I speak in foolishness), I am just as bold myself.
22 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.
23 Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as if insane) I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.
24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.
25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.
26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;
27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.
28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches.
29 Who is weak without my being weak? Who is led into sin without my intense concern?
30 If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness. (NAS)

Deut 5:7

- 7 'You shall have no other gods before Me. (NAS)

Deut 6:4-8

- 4 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!
5 "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
6 "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart;

7 and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

8 "And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. (NAS)

Col 1:27

27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (NAS)

Gen 1:26-27

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (NAS)

Acts 17:28

28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.' (NAS)

1 Pet 2:9

9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (NAS)

Eccl 12:13

13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. (NAS)

2 Tim 4:7-8

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;
8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing. (NAS)

1 Cor 15:1-4

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,
2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.
3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, (NAS)

1 Cor 15:50-58

50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will
sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.
53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on
immortality.
54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will
have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is
swallowed up in victory.
55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"
56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;
57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in
the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (NAS)

Matt 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but
he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.
22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name,
and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'
23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who
practice lawlessness.' (NAS)

2 Cor 10:17

17 But he who boasts, let him boast in the Lord. (NAS)

Phil 3:7-11

7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the
sake of Christ.
8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of
knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and
count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ,
9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the
Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes
from God on the basis of faith,
10 that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His
sufferings, being conformed to His death;
11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (NAS)

I Jn 2:4

4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His
commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; (NAS)

I Jn 3:14

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren.
He who does not love abides in death. (NAS)

Jer 31:34

34 "And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother,
saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the

greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." (NAS)

1 Cor 10:13

13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it. (NAS)

Matt 4:1-10

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
2 And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.
3 And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."
4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'"
5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city; and he had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple,
6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will give His angels charge concerning You'; and 'On their hands they will bear You up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"
7 Jesus said to him, "On the other hand, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and their glory;
9 and he said to Him, "All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me."
10 Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" (NAS)

Heb 4:14-16

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.
15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.
16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need. (NAS)

Eph 5:2

2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. (NAS)

Heb 12:14

14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. (NAS)

1 Tim 1:15-16

15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

16 And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. (NAS)

Eph 4:22

22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, (NAS)

Heb 12:1-2

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NAS)

1 Cor 1:18-31

18 For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

19 For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside."

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.

22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom;

23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness,

24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble;

27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

28 and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are,

29 that no man should boast before God.

30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

31 that, just as it is written, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." (NAS)

Deut 5:6-21

6 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

- 7 'You shall have no other gods before Me.
8 'You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.
9 'You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,
10 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.
11 'You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.
12 'Observe the sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.
13 'Six days you shall labor and do all your work,
14 but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.
15 'And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day.
16 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.
17 'You shall not murder.
18 'You shall not commit adultery.
19 'You shall not steal.
20 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
21 'You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field or his male servant or his female servant, his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.(NAS)

Matt 5:2-18

- 2 And opening His mouth He began to teach them, saying,
3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
5 "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.
6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
10 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.

- 12 "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- 13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.
- 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.
- 15 "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house.
- 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- 17 "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.
- 18 "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished. (NAS)

John 4:24

- 24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (NAS)

Acts 17:22-23

- 22 And Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects.
- 23 "For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. (NAS)

Heb 11:6

- 6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (NAS)

John 4:22

- 22 "You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews. (NAS)

Matt 15:7-9

- 7 "You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying,
- 8 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from me.
- 9 'But in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.'" (NAS)

Eph 4:11-15

- 11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,
- 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;
- 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ.
- 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and

carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, (NAS)

2 Pet 1:1-8

1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge;

6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness;

7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.

8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NAS)

1 Pet 3:15

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; (NAS)

John 3:11-16

11 "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak that which we know, and bear witness of that which we have seen; and you do not receive our witness.

12 "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how shall you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

13 "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man.

14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;

15 that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. (NAS)

2 Pet 1:9-10

9 For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.

10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling

and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble;
(NAS)

2 Tim 3:14-15

- 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of,
knowing from whom you have learned them;
- 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to
give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
(NAS)