

“I Do Not Know the LORD”

(Adapted by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Ex. 5:2 - Who is God?

1. I have spent the last five years focused on a study of God, and this past week learned something I had not noticed before, that is, God sings
2. Zeph. 3:17 - How many other things do I not know about Him?
3. An incredible amount! We will not know God as He is until we see Him in heaven
4. What we can do is know Him by reasoning from the scriptures
5. If our view of God is not based on His own revelation, we do not know God any better than Pharaoh.
6. Col. 2:1-10

I. CURRENT DISTORTIONS OF GOD

A. Rom. 1:21-23

B. Distorted views of God come from a number of sources:

1. From human experiences
 - a. Unfortunately many who have experienced abuse or pain at the hands of various authorities including religious leaders project it onto God - Heb. 12:5-10
2. Deism - a god who creates and then leaves everything on its own
3. Some form of old man who lives in a heaven remote and distant
4. A capricious demon looking for opportunities to smite people, an implacable critic contemptuous of humanity

C. Easy to over-emphasize certain attributes

1. God's love vs. God's justice
2. God's judgment vs. God's mercy
3. God's Eternal Spiritual Being vs. God's Incarnation in Christ

II. WHO IS GOD?

A. God is spirit - John 4:24

1. We must be careful when we talk about God as spirit; not the idea of ephemeral things - smoke, wind, vapor, breeze, energy, ghosts, or even disembodied spirits
2. God has a form that is too powerful to manifest in this world; if He did, it would destroy this world
3. We are made in God's image - Gen. 1:26-27
 - a. We have an eternal spirit housed in a form that can exist in this world, but cannot survive in God's realm
4. God's being is greater than this world; we view him by faith - 2Cor. 5:7

B. God is in Heaven

1. 2Chron. 20:6; Neh. 1:5; Psalm 14:2; Mark 16:19; Acts 7:55, 11:9
2. There is no physical location that can contain God - 1Kings 8:27
3. In Him we live and move and have our being - Acts 17:26-28

4. How can God be all around us and yet in Heaven?
 - a. God created this universe and holds it in His hand
 - b. Psalm 95:4; Isa. 40:12

III. GOD IS

- A. John insists that no man has ever seen God - John 1:18
 1. But the scriptures paint a vivid portrait of Him
- B. God is love - Rom. 5:5-11; 1John 4:7-19
- C. God is patient - 2Peter 3:9
- D. God wants to give us all things - Rom. 8:32
- E. God is actively seeks the salvation of all men - 1Tim. 2:4
- F. God is working to justify us - Rom. 8:33-39
- G. God is holy - Lev. 11:44; 1Peter 1:16
- H. God is kind - Rom. 2:4

Conclusion

- A. Who is God?
- B. Job 5:8-18