

## The Description of God

TEXT: “O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.” (Psa. 117)

THESIS:

INTRODUCTION:

1. It is wonderful to see big things come in tiny packages.
  - a. In Jn. 11:35, “Jesus wept.”
  - b. This is the shortest verse in the Bible, but contains so much information.
2. It can be said that a painting can speak a 1,000 words.
  - a. When looking at the Bible, Psalm chapter 117 is the shortest chapter of the Bible.
  - b. It is packed full of great information whereas one could spend a lot of time exploring.
3. You know, our religion will never be any greater than our concept of God.
  - a. And, this is a wonderful description of God which is both comprehensive and compact more so than any other passage.
  - b. It speaks of nine characteristics of God by which we will explore.

DISCUSSION:

- I. GOD IS PRAISEWORTHY
  - A. The word praise is mentioned three times in just this very short chapter.
    1. God is indeed worthy of praise.
    2. He is worthy of praise because, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” (Gen. 1:1)
    3. He is worthy because without our faith in His worthiness, “. . . it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Heb. 11:6)
    4. He is worthy enough where we desire to, “sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:” (1 Pet. 3:15)
  - B. Sadly, the media and the world distort the image of God, his existence and attempt to cast a huge shadow over Him.
    1. They claim that he is not worthy of praise.
    2. However, we can stand and contend for the faith (Jude 3) and answer the skeptics who believe there is no God.
    3. In addition, we need to teach our children to know who God is.
      - a. Moses wrote, “these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” (Deut. 6:6-7)

4. We know that God exist because there is too much evidence to think otherwise.
- C. God is indeed praiseworthy because he is the shining light that we look to, he is the one who deserves to be glorified, he is the one who deserves to be honored and commended for his greatness.
- D. Yet, God is also praiseworthy because of what he has done and what he continues to do.
  1. Have we not opened our doors and looked at his marvelous creation?
  2. Paul said, “For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;” (Tit. 3:3-5).
    - a. God indeed has saved those who come to him and obey him.
- E. God is praiseworthy because we are so richly blessed by Him.

## II. GOD IS SOVEREIGN

- A. He is the greatest in authority and power.
  1. He is not controlled by any outside force.
  2. God is self governing and supreme which is why we are privileged to have the opportunity to obey his will.
- B. However, when thinking of the greatness of God, when will we mature to the point that we will look upon his word and obedience in Him as a privilege rather than a burden?
  1. Often times great burdens exist in the church because of a lack of studying to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Tim. 2:15).
  2. Often times that is tremendous friction in the church because two individuals cannot come to an agreement which God has so plainly written.
- C. Thus, we need to think more about God’s sovereignty and our obedience the Lord’s reign.
  1. Is it right to say we must obey God regardless of the cost?
    - a. Absolutely.
  2. Is it our right to question God?
    - a. Absolutely not.

## III. GOD IS IMPARTIAL

- A. The psalmist wrote, “O praise the LORD, all ye nations” (Vs. 1)
  1. Remembering the old days when God had Israel as a nation which the Messiah came through and who worshiped God, he still had an interest in other countries such as when Jonah preached to the Assyrians in Nineveh.
  2. It is not just the minority or a certain class of individual who is to praise

- God.
- a. Rather, it is all nations and all people in all nations.
- B. God does not care if one is Jew, Gentile, male, female, circumcised, uncircumcised, barbarian, a Scythian, a slave or a free person (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11)
1. “Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:” (Acts 10:34)
    - a. All have the opportunity to obey the Gospel because God is impartial.
    - b. Sadly, some teach just the opposite such as the case with Calvinism.
- C. But James tells us, “My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.” (Jam. 2:1)
1. God does not show favoritism outside the church and he is great because of it.

#### IV. GOD IS MERCIFUL

- A. Mercy means to have pity on the pitiful.
1. Isaiah said, “Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” (Isa. 59:1-2)
  2. It is a terrible to think that sin makes us pitiful.
    - a. “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isa. 53:6)
    - b. Paul boldly said, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:” (Rom. 3:10).
- B. So, we ought to be so thankful that God is merciful.
1. It is great to think that in spite of our condition, God provided a Savior.
  2. It is great to think that in spite of our condition, Christ provided a way.
    - a. “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (Jn. 14:6)
    - b. And, “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)
- C. It is not always realized just how much mercy God has given to us.
1. But, when thinking of God’s mercy, I marvel when I read of the publican’s prayer.
  2. “And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.” (Lk. 18:13)
- D. When we see what our lives look like before our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, like Isaiah, we out to cry out as he did that we are undone and are in constant need

of His mercy.

## V. GOD IS KIND

- A. Some claim that kindness is mercy expressed.
  - 1. However, it is different to have mercy and to express mercy.
  - 2. The Bible says, “be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” (Eph. 4:32)
  - 3. Jesus even went farther and said, “. . . Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;” (Matt. 5:44).
- B. Kindness can go a long way.
  - 1. It is the quality of being warmhearted and considerate.
  - 2. It is compassion shown toward others.
  - 3. And, God certainly is kind, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (Jn. 3:16)

## VI. GOD IS GREAT

- A. Job said, “Behold, God is great, and we know him not, neither can the number of his years be searched out.” (Job 36:26)
  - 1. God is so great, but is it possible to ever understand just how great He is?
    - a. You know, once in a while you may hear a child’s voice say, “God is great. God is good. Let us thank you for our food.”
    - b. It truly is a blessing to listen to little children because of how they see things.
  - 2. I would suggest that God is so significant and important to everything that it words would be inadequate to define His greatness.
- B. The psalmist said, “For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.” (Psa 95:3)
  - 1. And, we ought to be, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” (Tit. 2:13)
  - 2. For, one day Christ will come to us.
  - 3. He will come to rescue the saved and we ought to praise God continually because he is great?

## VII. GOD IS MIGHTY

- A. “For his merciful kindness is great toward us” (Vs. 2)
  - 1. What is there about us to cause Him to sacrifice His son to save us?
  - 2. The Bible says, “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:7-8)
- B. Now, we did not ask God for His Son to die for us on the cross.

1. Yet, it was Christ who took the initiative toward us to lower Himself and save us.
    - a. For Jesus, “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” (Phil. 2:7-8)
    - b. He did this because He is mighty.
  2. Now while some think that being mighty is how strong you are, it can also be in reference to ones greatness of degree.
    - a. Who else could be mighty enough to say, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” (Isa. 1:18)
    - b. Paul said, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:” (Phil. 2:5).
- C. Christ was mighty indeed.
1. Enough to humbly give himself for mankind.
  2. He said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (Jn. 15:13)
  3. How mighty is this?

### VIII. GOD IS TRUTHFUL

- A. This means that He is a God of integrity.
1. God, “said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.” (Gen. 15:13-16)
    - a. God made certain promises to Abraham and every single promise was fulfilled.
  2. God said that he gave his only begotten Son (Jn. 3:16)
    - a. Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mk. 16:16)
    - b. John said, “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” (1 Jn. 1:7)
- B. But, how do I know that God saves me?
1. I know because God cannot lie (Tit. 1:2).
  2. I know because the Bible tells me so.

## IX. GOD IS ETERNAL

- A. He is everlasting and His truth endureth forever.
  - 1. Several times in psalms, the writers sets forth the idea that God is from everlasting to everlasting.
    - a. “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” (Psa. 90:2)
    - b. “But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;” (Psa. 103:17)
    - c. “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.” (Psa. 106:48)
- B. Sadly, the atheists cannot conceive of a Being that has no beginning by which, they reject God.
  - 1. They claim that they have evolved from nothing into being born by which when they die they go nowhere.
  - 2. But, the Bible says that there is a Heaven and the Bible also says that there is a Hell for those who want to believe as the atheists do.

## CONCLUSION:

- 1. God is praiseworthy, sovereign, impartial, merciful, kind, great, mighty, truthful and eternal.
  - a. There are many attributes of God.
  - b. However, there is one thing that God wants to be that he cannot be without our consent.
    - i. A father.
    - ii. It is up to us if we will obey the voice of the Father and live in his house forever.
- 2. But, will we obey the Father who is in Heaven?