

HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD ?

Int.

1. Aim: To show the correct attitude we should have toward God.
2. Gen. 1:1
3. Ps. 14:1 "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God."
 - a. I could close my eyes and say there are no people in this building.
 - b. Some men close their minds to the abundant proof that there is a God.
4. Most of the people who have ever lived believed in God. But over the years people have had various attitudes about God and what he is like.
 - a. God is dead - was a popular theory for a few years
 - b. "He who is superior in outer space is secure" = 1961 - Dr. Werner Von Braun
5. Children have a child's attitude about God - book published called "Tiny Thoughts about God" in which they illustrated the way children misunderstand God
 - a. "Who put the water in the river?" God. How did he do it? He poured it in with a tea-cup."
 - b. Who made the sun, moon and stars? God did. Who made you? Doctor _____.
 - c. Dear God, instead of letting people die and haveing to make new ones why don't you just keep the ones you got now? Jane
 - d. Dear god, I f you watch in church on Sunday I will show you my new shoes. Mickey D.
6. Many times adults have tiny thoughts about God just as these children.... For example some think of God as....

Discussion

I. A POLICEMAN

- A. A lot of people think of God as being a policeman always saying "Don't do that"
1. They consider God a nagging inner voice holding them back
 2. Martin Luther felt this way about God. He once said, "Man is in constant fear that God is standing behind him, with a club in his hand, ready to strike him down."
 3. That is not the way the Bible Picture God.
 - a. Ps. 84:11 "For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly."
 - b. Ps. 34:10 "The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing."
 - c. Matt. 6:33
- B. Some people treat God like a policeman because they only go to him in times of trouble
1. Many will go to God only in times of death, sickness, heartache and sorrow.
 2. The rich man went to God, but it was too late.
 3. Samson waited too long also.

II. PARENTS

- A. Some people have the same bad attitude toward God that they had toward their parents
1. They resent authority
 - a. There is no respect
 - b. There is no love, they obey out of necessity, to keep from getting punished

2. Some people have the same attitude toward God
 - a. They resent authority
 - b. They have no respect or love for God
 - c. They obey out of necessity, they are afraid not to obey, it is not because they love God

B. The Bible teaches that we should obey from a heart of love

1. John 14:15 & 21 "If you love Me, keep My commandments"
2. I John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."
3. Matt. 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

III. GRAND OLD MAN

- A. Many people think of God as a grand old man who lived a long time ago and does not know anything about the space age
 1. To many people God is only a historical figure
 2. Jesus wore sandals, long robes and rode on horseback while he was here on earth.
 3. Therefore many people feel he would not really know anything about our problems on earth today
 4. In other words God, Christ and the Bible are out of date. They are old fashioned. They were good in their day but now they are useless to man

B. God is up to date and so is His word, the Bible

1. Heb. 13:8 "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."
2. Our physical way of life may change but the real needs and trials of life are the same.
3. Jesus and god are willing to treat us the same way they treated the 1st century people.
 - a. He has the same love and saving power for us
 - b. He has not changed in His attitude toward sin
 - c. Our savior and God are perfect therefore they do not change

C. God is not out of date. He is just as real to us as to any people who ever lived !

1. 1 Tim. 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;"
2. 1 Tim. 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

IV. MEEK AND MILD

A. Many people feel that since God is good He will not punish mankind very much

1. Some preachers imagine that Hell is not like we think it is - not all that bad
2. People reason like this: How could a God of love and mercy punish anyone by casting them into Hell with the Devil? Many people come to the conclusion that God would not really do it so therefore they see no reason to be a Christian. Nothing very bad will happen to me if I don't they think!

B. God is meek and mild but God is a just and holy God

1. Rom. 1:18 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"
2. Wrath - that in God which stands opposed to man's disobedience
3. Eph. 5:6 NKJV "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.."
4. God had to prove himself to the first people on earth
5. II Thes. 1:7-9

V. BOOK OF RULES - Slave Driver

A. Some people think of God only as a book of rules which he wants us to follow perfectly

1. After a man has tried to live the Christian life for a while he will discover that he will still have sin in his heart and in his life.
2. Therefore many people give up. They say what's the use. I can't be perfect, and God expects me to be perfect, therefore I'll just quit trying.
3. Then when they see anyone else who professes to be trying they mark them up as a hypocrite.

B. God is perfect, and since He created us he knows that we are weak and sinful creature

1. 2 Tim. 3:17 "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." = Perfect is translated complete in ASV
2. Matt. 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

3. 1 John 1:10 "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

C. Well what does it mean to be perfect. We know we all sin.

1. Here is what Paul said in Phil. 3:12 asv "Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect: but I press on, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus."

2. God is our perfect model. This requirement of trying to be perfect keeps us in mind of our infirmities and keeps us at work.

3. Like Paul we must be ever striving.

4. Our standard is not the perfection of great and heroic men, but of the infinite Creator himself.

D. God's book is written for us to live by. 1 John 2:1 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"

VI. MANAGING DIRECTOR

A. God controls the universe but is not interested in me as an individual - is a mistaken idea that some believe and teach

1. The idea is that God wound up the world - like a clock- and it is running down.

2. They believe God is out there watching but is not going to pay too much attention to little people like me.

3. These people do not believe God is concerned about the individual

B. Notice these passages that show that God is interested in every individual.

1. Matt. 10:29-30 "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered."
2. 1 Pet. 5:6 "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"
3. Lk. 10:20 - names being written in heaven - "Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven."
4. II Cor. 5:10 -we will be judged individually. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."
5. These verses show that God will deal with us individually

VII. EARTHLY REWARDER

A. Sometimes we feel that God should reward or punish us here and now for what we do.

1. This is the way we do things
2. And if God does not do it this way, we become disappointed and hurt.

B. God's ways are not our ways

1. Isa. 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

2. God is able to do what is necessary to bless us or punish us
 - a. Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego - Dan. 3:19
 - b. Daniel - Dan. 6
 - c. Stephen was stoned to death - Acts 7
3. Eph. 3:20 "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,"

C. We cannot model God from what we know of man. We must remember that if He is God He is above men, and that he is interested in man !

Conclusion

1. What is a correct view of God. We understand that God is...
 - a. All powerful = omnipotent
 - b. All knowing = omniscient
 - c. Everywhere = omnipresent
 - d. All seeing
 - e. Always the same = immutable
 - f. Faithful
 - g. Holy and pure
 - h. Full of mercy and grace
 - i. Love
2. When we understand and know that God is Love we will love Him.
 - a. 1 John 4:19 "We love him, because he first loved us."
 - b. What is the love of God? 1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."
3. When we don't obey God it is a sign that we don't understand Him. If you don't then you cannot love Him
4. If you love God you will obey his commands. Do you love God. ?

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