Truths That Matter ABOUT GOD Part 2 2/12/17

The most important question a person can ask is, "Does God exist?"

The second most important question is, "If God exists, what is He like?"

Is what we call god a force to tap into or a person to be obeyed?

Two weeks ago we addressed the question, "How do we know that God exists?"

This week we will examine the Scriptures to see what God is like.

- 1. Truth #1: God is holy. Isaiah 6:1-5; Revelation 4:8
 - a. Holy means that God is <u>unique</u>, <u>distinct</u>, <u>set apart</u>.
 - Those who encountered God frequently fell on their faces before Him.
 - ♦ Abraham, Joshua, Ezekiel, Daniel, Paul
 - God is not like us or anything else He created.
 - He made the universe; He is not a part of it.
 - He exists independent of His creation.
 - b. He alone is *God* and there are no others. Isa 43:10

Isaiah 43:10 "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.

- c. Because God is holy, He is to be treated with <u>reverence</u> and <u>respect</u>. Cf. Exodus 19:9-15; 20:18-20
 - The fear of God is referred to over 130 times in the Bible

Proverbs 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

• God is not to be disregarded or treated as common.

Exodus 20:7 "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.

Psalm 50:21 "These things you have done and I kept silence; You thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state *the case* in order before your eyes.

Hebrews 12:28-29 . . . let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

♦ Nadab and Abihu, Ananias and Sapphira,

2. Truth #2: God is all-powerful.

Luke 1:37 "For nothing will be impossible with God."

- God's power is seen in His creation. Romans 1:20; Psalm 19:1-6
- God's power is seen in Jesus' ability to calm the storm, heal the sick, and raise the dead.

Because God is all powerful, there is no person or circumstance that can touch you without God's permission.

- Not the schemes of men or the power of Satan
- No problem you face is too hard for Him to handle.

3. Truth #3: God is *unchanging*. Cf. Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17

God is not evolving.

Malachi 3:6 "For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

Because God is unchanging His promises are unchanging.

Romans 11:29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

- 4. Truth #4: God *cares* about you. Psalm 139:1-16
 - a. God knows everything about you. vv. 1-6

God is omniscient- He knows everything that is going on at all times.

- **v. 1** He knows you intimately inside and out.
 - He knows your joys, hurts, and fears
 - He knows your strengths and weaknesses.
 - He knows your faults and failures.
 - He knows your words, deeds, thoughts, and motives.
 - ♦ He knows everything about you and yet He still loves you.
- v. 2a He knows everything you do.
 - There is nothing that happens in your life that He isn't aware of.
 - ♦ There is never a situation or circumstance that you get into of which He is unaware.
 - He knows what is happening to you every moment.
- **v. 2b** God knows everything you think.
- v. 3 God carefully scrutinizes all that goes on in your life.
 - Scrutinize- To sift or winnow (examine, inspect, analyze)
- vv. 4, 16b God knows your future.
 - 4 He knows what you are going to say before you say it.
 - ♦ He knows what is in your heart and mind before you express it.

16b He knows all that will ever happen in your life.

♦ He knew everything about your life long before you were born? He even the number of days you will live.

vv. 5-6 God puts His protective hand around His people.

- **Isaiah 41:10** 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'
- **Psalm 4:8** In peace I will both lie down and sleep, For You alone, O LORD, make me to dwell in safety.

Not only does God know everything about you . . .

- b. God is always with you. vv. 7-16a
 - **vv. 7-10** He is present everywhere. (*Omnipresent*)
 - There is no place that you are outside of His presence.
 - vv. 11-12 There is no situation which can hide us from Him.
 - We need not be afraid in the dark.
 - Neither should we think that what we do in the dark is hidden from Him.
 - No matter where you are He is there.
 - ♦ Support in hard times
 - ♦ Strength in times of temptation
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13 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, so that you will be able to endure it.
 - ◆ Don't try to flee from God, flee to God.
 - vv. 13-16a God formed you in your mother's womb.
 - God brought all the right genes together to make you exactly the way He wanted you to be.
 - Your body is a masterpiece of exquisite design. Beautifully engineered
 - ♦ It is governed by several hundred control systems -- each interacting with and affecting the other.
 - God is intimately involved in the development of each baby while still in the womb.
 - ♦ ABORTION FACT SHEET/ SLIDE BOOK
 - ♦ BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE WITH "BIRTH DEFECTS"?
 - ♦ DOES GOD MAKE MISTAKES? Cf John 9:1-7
 - ♦ God didn't make a mistake when He made you the way you are!
- c. God loves you. vv. 17-18
 - God rejoices over His people. Cf Luke 15:3-24
 - **Jeremiah 31:3** . . . "I have loved you with an **everlasting love**; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.
 - **1 John 3:16** We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us

- Even though God loves you, He is holy, righteous, and just.
- d. We should hate what God <u>hates</u>. vv. 19-22
 - God hates <u>sin</u>. Cf. Prov 6:16-19; 8:13; Zechariah 8:17; Malachi 2:16
 - ♦ Hate- to reject or have an aversion toward
 - ♦ This passage is speaking of the <u>wicked</u>, <u>men of bloodshed</u>, God's <u>enemies</u> who <u>hate</u> Him; those who *speak evil against* Him, and *rise against* Him in rebellion.
 - After reflecting on God's greatness and goodness the Psalmist reflects on those who turn against God and concludes that their punishment is well deserved.
 - God is loving, but He is also holy and righteous.
 - ♦ The loving Jesus took a whip and drove the money changers out of the temple.
 - God grieves over our sins. Ephesians 4:30; Ezekiel 6:9

Ezekiel 6:9 "... how I have been hurt by their adulterous hearts which turned away from Me, and by their eyes which played the harlot after their idols . . .

• God's wrath will be poured out against sin. Ephesians 5:3-6

Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

• God's wrath and love meet at the *cross*.

Psalm 85:9-10 Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰ Lovingkindness and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

e. Invite God to search out the dark corners of your life. v. 23 a

To put His finger on things in your life that bring Him grief

- f. Entrust your anxieties to Him. v. 23b
 - God sees your heart, your fears and your needs.
 - God sees you in your distress.
 - God sees your mistreatment, rejections, desires, and true needs.

He knows your every temptation, frustration, and hurt.

- Because God is all-powerful, there is no problem you face that is too hard for Him to handle.
 - Satan and his Antichrist will not have the final victory over the Most High and His saints.
- God is bigger than your problems and crises.
 - He understands what you are going through.
 - He is big enough to handle your fears, finances, future.
 - He is powerful enough to do something about it.

1 Peter 5:7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

g. Present yourself to Him. v. 24

God is great!

There is nothing He does not know.

There is nowhere He is not present.

There is nothing He cannot do.

- God loves you enough to send His Son to die on the cross to take away your sins.
 - 1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.
- God also is also able to provide for our needs in this life.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Respond to His offer of eternal life.

John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Truths That Matter: God is holy, all-powerful, unchanging, cares for you.