

Spring Lake Presbyterian Church
Guest Pastor: Elder Jack Ulmer
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WHO IS GOD?

When I was asked by Rev. Katie if I would like to do the sermon today, I asked her if I could pick my own topic. She said of course you can. With that assurance I told her that I would do it and my topic would be, “Who is God”. There are roughly 6 billion people on earth and as long as there have been people there has been the question, exactly who is God and who created the universe and why? My thought was to research using the internet and see if I could find answers to the question, Who is God? I typed in the word God and hit enter and waited. I was shocked to find that there was 32,900,000 responses. Now I’m here to tell you I wasn’t able to look at 32,900,000. Responses. I knew the only real answer to the question would be found in the Bible. The existence of God is automatically assumed by the scriptures. Because of this the Bible does not attempt to prove his existence.

The scriptures begin with the majestic statement, “In the beginning God”. Such texts as Psalm 94:9-23 and Isaiah 40:12-31 are not proofs of God’s existence but rather analytical accounts of all that is involved in the idea of God.

God is a substance. He is, however, not a material substance but a spiritual substance. Jesus said, “God is spirit”. (John 4:24). Christ also said, “a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have”. God is infinite. God is a spirit with out beginning or end. God told Moses that no man could see him and live. (Exod. 33:20).

John says, “No one has seen God at any time.(John 1:18). Paul calls him the invisible God and declares that no man has seen him or can see him.(Timothy 6:16).

God is alive. The idea of spirit implies that God is not an inanimate substance but rather is alive. He is, therefore, called the Living God. (Josh.3:10, Sam.17:26, Psalm 84:2, Matt.16:16, Rev.7:2) Life implies feeling, power and activity. God has all of these.(Ps.115:3) He is also the source and support of all life, plant, animal, human, spiritual and eternal. (Ps.36:9, John 5:26). The living God is always in contrast to dead idols. (Ps.115:3-9,Acts 14:15). Our God is alive. He sees, hears and loves.

God is self-existent, while humanity’s ground of existence is outside ourselves, God’s existence is not dependent upon anything outside himself. His self-existence is implied in his affirmation, “I am who I am”.(Ex. 3:14). God is immense, God is infinite in relation to space. He is not limited or bound by space; on the contrary, all space is dependent on him. God’s immensity is a difficult doctrine to comprehend. He is everywhere present in essence as well as in knowledge and power. God is eternal. God is infinite in relation to time. He is without beginning or end, is free from all succession of time and is the cause of time. He is called “The Everlasting God”.(Gen. 21:33)

How do you imagine God is? As long as there has been people, there has been songs and stories that explore exactly who created the universe and why. The Christian history of God’s relationship with his creation is different because this history was written by those inspired directly by God and his own words, that is the Bible. In it we have God’s own self-testimony of who He is and why He matters. When discussing the topic of God, some people throw up their hands in despair but the Bible says we should throw up our hand in praise, lift up our voice in song and rejoice in God’s mercy to us all.

In the first pages of the Bible we learn that God is the creator of all things. A God of order and design as well as a God of incredible power who can simply speak things into existence. In addition, we are told that he created humankind both male and female after his own image. He made them persons with the ability to think and feel and make decisions. Every person is important and every person has fundamental rights as a creature of

God. Mankind possesses a basic dignity because in many ways humans are like God. The Bible reveals God as the Creator, with all things being accountable to Him.(Acts.17:22-31)

Now a question that disturbs many Christians. If God knows everything before it happens, Why doesn't he stop evil from occurring? The point must be made that he does. The Bible refers to God as our protector and gives clear examples of God holding back evil, however the fact that He knows everything before it occurs does not mean He is the cause. The Bible reveals to us that all of the evil in the world is our fault, not God's. Sometimes in his wisdom he allows evil to take place as part of his divine plan. The justice of God is evident in the fact that he punishes wickedness and reward righteousness. His justice is tempered by His love. Forgiving the sins of repentant believers and delivering his people from eternal death. He always seeks the highest good for us and desires a close relationship with each individual. This is love, not that we love God but that He loved us and sent his Son to save us. He loves the world and even the worst sinners in it.

The purpose of God is to create life, allow it to fall, provide a means of salvation, and thus demonstrate His grace and greatness. From eternity God has purposed to save those people who believe in him, making them the object of His favor and love.

Does God's word ever cause you discomfort? When you read the Bible, does what you read make you uneasy? Do you find, when you listen to Sermons, that the Scripture seems aimed directly at you? You are experiencing the reality that the word of God is alive and can read your thoughts and judge your intentions.

When God's words speaks to you it is always for a purpose. God knows your heart and knows what you need to do to bring your life into conformity to Christ. If, you are struggling to forgive, God's word will comfort you. If, pride has a strong hold in your life, God's word will speak to you about humility. Whenever sin needs addressing, you will find you are comforted by God's word. Regularly allow the word of God to wash over you and give you comfort.

Get to know God better. Does God seem distant? Is he detached from you? Maybe that's because you are waiting for God to come to you. If so, then you've got things backwards.

God has given His word, His Son, and His Spirit. This is more that we will ever need in order to understand God and certainly more that we can absorb in a lifetime. But the next step belongs to each of us. It's up to us to read God's word, to believe in his Son, and to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

You see God is a perfect gentleman. He never forces himself on anyone. He anxiously desires a deep and meaningful personal relationship with you, but He won't force the issue. It must be voluntary on your part. If you want to get to know God better, you must approach Him. God makes himself available but you must respond to His invitation. Take him at his word and go to Him. Open the door of you heart to Him. All it takes is your time and attention--reading His word and talking to Him. You don't have to call to schedule an appointment, He's already extended the invitation and He's waiting for you to respond.

God always blesses His reading