

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Theology Bites—God, Pt 2

Selected Passages

PowerPoint Presentation: None

Keywords: Sound Doctrine, False Teaching, Theology, Obedience, Truth, Holiness

SermonAudio blurb:

I. Introduction.

- A. Series is because of an important survey conducted that revealed a large divide between the opinions of Americans, including those who would portray themselves as “Christian” and the reality of what the bible actually teaches.
- B. We have considered the necessity of sound doctrine/theology in the first sermon.
- C. Last week we began to consider God as He reveals Himself in the bible. Two basic questions from the survey were answered.
 - 1. God has authority over people because He created human beings. And second, God does not determine all that happens, He simply knows it in advance.
 - 2. Very important message that you should hear if you haven’t already.
 - 3. Once you begin to rightly see God as revealed in the bible then things begin to shift in your thinking. And these two questions asked and answered last week were foundational to most everything else we will do in this series.

II. God as He Reveals Himself.

- A. Humans exist to bring God glory and to enjoy Him.
 - 1. Not only is this true but it is at the core of what salvation is all about.
 - 2. We tend to think about salvation being about us not going to hell, or having sins forgiven, or going to heaven. But the reality is that salvation brings us into a state where we can finally delight in God, our Creator.
 - 3. The bible is clear on this point: we were created to delight in God.
 - a. God says this bluntly through Isaiah 43:6-7, “Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth (says the Lord), everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory.”

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- b. When speaking of Israel it is written in Jeremiah 13:11, “I made the whole house of Israel ... cling to me, says the Lord, that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise and a glory.”
- 4. The challenge by many to this is that it seems to be egotistical.
 - a. The response back is simple, if God is our creator, if all that we are is because of Him, if He is all together glorious, and if nothing compares to Him, then why would we not desire to delight in Him most of all?
 - b. Romans 1 covers this in a slightly different way—Romans 1:18-25.
 - (1) We should not wonder what is wrong with this world. We have humanity pursuing everything but God as their ultimate joy and purpose.
 - (2) Many will accept God, but only on their terms and by their standards.
 - (3) The bible makes it clear that there is no one like God. Nothing that compares to Him. He is altogether glorious.
 - (4) So what else could God point to and say that it would satisfy His creatures? Only to Himself.
 - c. As it is said so succinctly in Romans 11:36.
 - d. Or, 1 Corinthians 8:6.
 - e. The New Testament writers consistently points us to the utter gloriousness of God.
 - (1) Philippians 4:20.
 - (2) 1 Timothy 1:17.
 - (3) 2 Peter 3:18.
 - (4) Jude 1:25.
- 5. Israel was uniquely chosen by God to be His people yet they rejected Him and received the promised cursing by God.
 - a. Yet God sent His prophets over and over to call them to repentance, though they would not listen.
 - b. In Jeremiah it is written (6:16-21).

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- c. Where do we find rest? Only in God. And what was it that Jesus said again to the people of Israel in Matthew 11:29? “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.”
 - d. This is the answer that we must offer to this world. We are all creatures of our God. We were made by Him and for Him. Until we come through Jesus to our heavenly Father there is no real rest.
6. The great lie is not that when we come to Jesus and trust in his death and resurrection for life and forgiveness that we lose joy or happiness.
- a. Whenever I have spoken to too many who are like the rich young man in the bible who wanted eternal life but when Jesus told him to sell all that he had and give it to the poor he walked away sad, for he had much riches. All Jesus did was expose him for the poor, needy person he really was.
 - b. C. S. Lewis said it well, “The New Testament has lots to say about self-denial, but not about self-denial as an end in itself. We are told to deny ourselves and to take up our crosses in order that we may follow Christ; and nearly every description of what we shall ultimately find if we do so contains an appeal to desire. . . . Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” (C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*, p1–2)

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- B. God is a perfect being and cannot make a mistake.
 - 1. This aspect of God touches on several points of theology—His sovereignty, His transcendence, and, obviously His perfection.
 - 2. As with all of this, there is a point where we either accept the Biblical message, or we are left to other devices. This is why you need to listen to the sermon on the Bible that is coming up next if you are having any doubts.

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3. Isaiah 14:26-27 declares a point about God that is helpful in revealing underlying prejudices against the perfection of God.
 - a. “This is the plan devised against the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out against all the nations. For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?”
 - b. Before you even bother to talk about God being perfect you have to grasp that the bible unabashedly declares that He is sovereign and does as He pleases.
 - c. Psalm 135:6, “Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.”
 - d. Cf. Ephesians 1:11; 3:11.
 - e. In other words, the bible declares God as perfect (lacking nothing) in His will, His plans, and His actions. Along with this you could add His power and ability.
4. Perfection is not speaking of morality and sinlessness.
 - a. It is speaking of completeness or a lack of any defect or a need for any thing.
 - b. Story of Joseph.
 - (1) Review it, explain Hebrew narrative setup.
 - (2) Genesis 50:20 is the culmination.
 - (a) Here we see the perfection of God in a very practical way.
 - (b) Man makes a plan that is evil. The very hatching of that plan was for evil.
 - (c) Meanwhile, God uses that same plan and it is “good.”
 - (d) We touch evil and it sticks to us. God, as Lord and Creator touches the same evil and it is good.
5. Behind the idea of God being perfect is really the attribute that is known as “immutability.”
 - a. “It is that perfection of God by which He is devoid of all change, not only in His Being, but also in His perfections, and in His

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purposes and promises. In virtue of this attribute He is exalted above all becoming, and is free from all accession [addition, increase] or diminution [decrease] and from all growth or decay in His Being or perfections. His knowledge and plans, His moral principles and volitions remain forever the same.” (Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, p. 58)

- b. Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”
- c. Psalm 33:11, “The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.”
- d. Malachi 3:6, “For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”
- e. James 1:17, “Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.”

III. Conclusion.

- A. Behind the perfection of God is Jesus Christ.
- B. Hebrews 2:9-18.
- C. Hebrews 4:15.

Community Group Questions

- **What parts of these last two messages have been the most challenging or encouraging and why?**
- **If God made us to enjoy Him then what is it that prevents us from doing so? How is that resolved? How does the gospel come into play with this whole issue?**