

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD?

WEEK 1 - INTRODUCTION

Introduction

#1 - The importance of knowing God

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Col. 1:9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Eph. 1:16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, **17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,...

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Jer. 9:23 Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, **24** but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

John Calvin (Institutes):

“...in their search for God’s truth men do not, sadly, go beyond the limits of their nature as they should; rather, they judge God’s greatness according to their own crude understanding. They comprehend him not as he has made himself know, but according to the image which they themselves have arrogantly fashioned.

...Therefore, all who, wishing to honour God, set up religions of their own devising, are merely worshiping their own fantasies.”

A. W. Tozer (The Knowledge of the Holy)

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

#2 - The importance of fearing God

Jerry Bridges:

“If you desire to be a godly person then you must understand and grow in the fear of God...but to understand this statement, we must move beyond equating the fear of God with being afraid of him.” (Joy of Fearing God, p25)

Prov. 14:27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death.

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Psa. 31:19 Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!

To paraphrase Jerry Bridges: It is the response to his transcendent majesty & Holiness, but also to his amazing grace and unfathomable love for us in Christ. We stand in awe not only of God's fiery splendor and absolute purity, but also of his grace and mercy to us...which motivates and activates of to love, obedience, and worship. (Joy of Fearing God pp28-31)

#3 - The importance of worship

Heb. 12:28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, **29** for our God is a consuming fire.

Psa. 96:7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! **8** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! **9** Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

Rev. 4:8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" **9** And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, **10** the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, **11** "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

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Is. 6:3 And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

Is. 6:5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Is. 6:8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

John 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Spurgeon: “All places are places of worship for the Christian. Wherever he is, he ought to be in a worshipping frame of mind.”