

“Who Is God to You?”

Last Sunday, we thought about "Who am I?" And through my preaching, I addressed the fact that we can realize our true selves when we stand at the throne of God. Today, I want to ask all of you a question: “Who is God to you?” Meanwhile, we must exercise caution while considering our definition of God.

On the one hand, there is the definition of God that human beings want to believe in. On the other hand, there is the definition of God in which human beings must believe. When these two definitions are different from each other, a problem arises. For some, the distance between the two ways we understand God is far from one another. As Christians, we must search for the true meaning of who God is and eliminate the gap between the two. The only way we can do this is through faith.

Humans are curious by nature. I believe God made us that way for a purpose. Many questions spring up in our minds when we think of God. "Who are you, God?" "How can I come to know you?" "Where can I find you?"

Our understanding of God is so limited, and because of people’s natural desire to want to understand things, we create a picture or image of who we think God is in our minds with the limited understanding we have.

However, it is critical that we develop that image of God in the proper manner. That method is found in the Bible. We can only find and encounter Him through the Bible. Why? Because God revealed himself in the Bible in a way that humans could understand.

Many Christians use the Bible to introduce God to others. However, in many circumstances, such folks do not seem to be able to meet Him. What exactly is the issue? Because people try to see the God they want to see rather than just absorbing His truth and allowing God to reveal Himself via His power.

What is the topic of today's Genesis scripture? These verses include the first definition of God. First and foremost, God is the source of all creation. He is the creator of heaven and earth. Everything started with him. There would be nothing without Him. Everything will be possible with Him.

I cannot exist until I believe in Him. If I believe in Him, I will exist eternally via Him. God the Father, the Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:1-2), and the Son Jesus Christ (John. 17:5) were one being in the beginning. He is the one who began all of creation and will bring it to an end.

Second, God is the owner of all who sent you and I to this earth. His purpose in sending us is to bless us. All of us have different stories about how we were born. Some of us were even born not according to our parents' plans.

It is, nevertheless, impossible to be born without God's favor and plan. The God who sent me into this life always keeps me in his arms. Zephaniah 3:17 says, "The Lord your God is with you; his power gives you victory. The Lord will take delight in you, and in his love, he will give you new life. He will sing and be joyful over you."

He is concerned about us since He sent us. God punishes us when we misbehave. Why? Because He loves us like a father would love his children. I'm sure you've all felt the sting of being spanked, and many of you have given that same hurt to your own children. Why do we punish our children? I hope it's not for our own amusement. We chastise our children because we love them, and when we witness bad conduct, we punish to correct it out of love. God, our Father, punishes us for our own benefit in order for us to share in His holiness.

When we walk with God, our lives are always secure. He will protect us till we return to his heavenly home because He sent us. You wouldn't leave your child anywhere without assurance that he or she will be cared for or has the means to care for himself or herself, would you? To assure our survival, God gave us the ultimate gift: his precious and only son, Jesus Christ. You can tell how valuable you are to Him by this sacrifice!

Third, God adores all of His creations. Someone might wonder, "If God loves us, why is the world in such a state?" Because of his or her upbringing and experience, the person may see the world from that perspective, which is entirely understandable. However, the world that God created was warped by man, not by God's error.

The day when he or she sees and experiences God's love will come. However, as I already stated, there must first be an admission of God's existence—a belief. When that happens, you can be certain that the day will come when you will acknowledge the love God has poured out on you.

The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 15, reveals the true nature of our God. We must observe the father who waited and persevered till his son returned. Why is the son's return to his father significant in this parable? It is because the son experienced his father's affection when he returned. In verse 18, we find the son admitting that he had sinned against his father and was only fit to be a hired hand.

Upon his son's return, however, the father continued to refer to him as "my son, who was dead and is alive again, who was lost and is found." This exemplifies how deeply the father desired for the homecoming of his prodigal son.

We frequently believe that we should seek the Lord while we are doing well. However, how often are we to seek and rely on the Lord when things are going well for us? He desires that we come to Him when we are in need of Him and His affection.

We know very little about the father portrayed in verses 24 and 32. We don't comprehend him and aren't familiar with him. We have no motive to feel attached to him or seek him out because we don't know him. The father is unconcerned about any of his son's misdeeds. He is simply pleased that his son has returned to him.

And, having gone astray, the son will never leave his father's side again. That fact offers the most joy to the parent, as well as to our God, the parent. However, are we sometimes too afraid to approach the Lord? Are we sometimes like the eldest son in the parable, who

neither separates himself from nor is near to his father? Yes, we are frequently like the elder son.

Those who understand and confess verses 17 and 18 of Luke 15 are God's children. You are extremely fortunate. We confess today that 1) our Father is the creator and source of all things. 2) We are sinners both to God and to others.

3) As a result of our sins, the only option for us to live is to return to the Father. God always forgives and greets us with open arms when we return to His presence, regardless of the circumstances. 4) Even though it appears that God is abandoning us because He is disciplining us, we shall never leave the presence of our Father.

Why don't I mention the God of justice and judgment? This is due to the fact that I cannot tell you everything there is to know about God in a single sermon. You can imagine how long we'd have to stay if I tried. Furthermore, I believe that a person who feels and hears about God's all-encompassing love would be more courageous and energetic in carrying out God's purpose than a person who learns about God's judgment.

Today, let us listen to God's voice. "You are my son and daughter, who were dead but are now alive," he says. You were lost, but now you've been discovered!" This is the voice we want to hear everywhere and in every situation. Our God longs to run up to us, wrap his arms around us, and kiss us.

God has been reaching out to humanity since the Garden of Eden and continues to do so now. "Please return to me. I am the God who created you in my image." God is calling your name from among the many creatures He has created. Can you hear Him speak?

We can see the stars outside when we switch off the light. We can hear the sound of nature's breeze when we stop singing. Similarly, when we relinquish control of our lives, God is always present and waiting. Surrender and open the door to your heart. Bring God into your life right now. God sleeps when you are working. When we let God work, though, he permits us to relax.

Who is God to you these days? Do you believe in the God who revealed Himself through the Bible's words? If so, you will enjoy the most blessed life with Him via the power of the Good News brought to us by Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit! Amen.

Reflect and Apply for Today's Sermon (7/16/2023)

1) What practical meaning does the God who created the heavens and the earth give to your current reality?

2) What type of God do you need right now? So, what kind of person do you believe God requires today? How can the chasm between the two be bridged?

3) 3) Regarding "The Parable of The Lost Son":

Would you subsequently join the party to celebrate your brother's return if you were the older brother? So, what caused you to be that way? (Regardless of the Bible's answer, try to respond.)