

INTRODUCTION.

- A. John 4:24 is not enough of a description to tell us all about God.
- B. A good understanding who God is, what He is like, and what He can and does do, helps us to be better Christians.
- C. A brief look at the nature of God:
 - 1. How we come to know Him.
 - 2. What He is like.
 - 3. How great He really is (a mind bender!).

I. HOW TO COME TO KNOW GOD.

- A. One cannot- come to know God by reasoning.
 - 1. The definition of reasoning: the drawing of inferences or conclusions from known facts.
 - 2. Paul states that through wisdom (or reasoning) the world did not come to know God (1Cor. 1:21).
- B. One cannot come to know God through imagination.
 - 1. Reason being that no one can imagine anything new. (Example of the monster.)
- C. The only way to come to know God is through revelation. God must reveal Himself to mankind.
- D. The Bible is the only place we find God revealed to us (1Cor. 1:21).

II. WHAT GOD IS LIKE.

- A. God is spirit:
 - 1. God is immaterial and incorporeal (Jn. 4:24; Lk. 24:39).
 - 2. God is invisible (1Tim. 1:17).
 - 3. God is living (1Th. 1:9).
 - 4. God manifests the attributes of His personality:
 - a. Self-consciousness (Ac. 15:18).
 - b. Self-determination (Isa. 46:11).
- B. God's self-existence:
 - 1. God exists in and of Himself, He is dependent on nothing (Jn. 5:26).
 - 2. God exists outside the scope of human comprehension (Ac. 17:24).
- C. God is eternal:
 - 1. He is without beginning or end (Isa. 57:15).
 - 2. He is free from the succession of time; He has never been young, and will never be old (1Tim. 1:17).
- D. God is omnipresent (always with us), omniscient (all knowing), and omnipotent (all powerful). See Rom. 8 :31 (if God is for us, who is against us?)

III. THE BEST WAY TO DESCRIBE GOD IS FOUND IN THE BIBLE.

- A. Note the following passages:
Job 9:2-12; 12:7-25; Isa. 40:9,12-31; Ac. 17:24-31; 1Cor. 1:19-31; Psa. 1:1-6; 23:1-6; Rom. 8:31-39.

CONCLUSION.

- A. Second Corinthians 5 :11 says, "Knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men..."
- B. Knowing more about God, tells us more of what kind of person we need to be. After all, we were made in His image.
- C. He can be proud to serve a God that is so great!
- D. Who can claim such a master? Not the scholar, not the fool, not the rich, not the poor, but only the Christian!

INVITATION.

- A. God is not mocked (Gal. 6:7).
- B. Reap eternal life tonight by being baptized for the remission of your sins.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.

THE NATURE OF GOD.

I. THE ESSENCE OF GOD.

- A. Spirituality:
 - 1. God is immaterial and incorporeal (Jn. 4:24; Lk. 24:39).
 - 2. He is invisible (1Tim. 1:17).
 - 3. He is living (1Th. 1:9).
 - 4. He manifests the attributes of personality:
 - a. Self-consciousness (Ac. 15:18).
 - b. Self-determination (Isa. 46:11).
- B. Self-existence:
 - 1. God exists in and of himself (Jn. 5:26).
 - 2. He is not dependent upon anything external to Himself.
- C. Eternality:
 - 1. He is without beginning or end (Isa. 57:15).
 - 2. He is free from the succession of time (1Tim. 1:17).

II. THE NON-MORAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD.

- A. Omnipresence (Psa. 139:7-12; Jer. 23:23,24).
- B. Omniscience; He knows himself and all other things perfectly (Psa. 147:5).
- C. Omnipotence:
 - 1. God has all power to do any and all things which are subject to accomplishment (Rev. 19:6).
 - 2. He will do only those things which are consistent with his nature and plan (2Tim. 2:13).
 - 3. That which is absurd or self-contradictory is not subject to accomplishment.
- D. Immutability; God's nature and essence are unchanging (Mal. 3:6).

III. THE MORAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD.

- A. His holiness:
 - 1. God is separate from and exalted above all his creatures; he is equally separate from moral evil and sin (Deut. 32:4).
 - 2. Sin and the holiness of God:
 - a. God cannot tolerate sin (Hab. 1:13).
 - b. Sin destroys fellowship with God (1Jn. 1:5-6).
 - c. Sin's seriousness:
 - 1) It separates from God (Isa. 59:1-2).
 - 2) It deserves (earns) punishment (Rom. 6:23).
- B. His righteousness and justice:
 - 1. Righteousness is the foundation of his throne (Psa. 89:14).
 - 2. He is perfect in justice (Ezek. 18:25-29).
 - 3. In all his dealings with man God always acts justly (Deut. 32:4).
- C. His goodness is shown in:
 - 1. His love (1Jn. 3:1; 4:8-10).
 - 2. His benevolence (Ac. 17:25).
 - 3. His longsuffering (2Pet. 3:9).
 - 4. His mercy (Eph. 2:4).