

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Hebrews 1:1-4](#).
- B. As is customary, I am appreciative of the privilege to be invited to be part of this Summer Series. Thank-yous go out to Loren and the elders for their excellent taste in speakers!
- C. My topic this evening is, "God Tells Us of His Plan" and I am happy to have this topic tonight.

I. WHERE DID YOU GET THE IDEA OF GOD?

- A. To begin our study we ask the question, "Where did you get the idea of God in the first place?"
- B. Many will answer, "my parents told me." But where did they get the idea of God? We can go all the back to Adam and Eve and ask the same question.
- C. There are four possible answers to this question.
 1. One can imagine God.
But this is not true because you cannot imagine anything new. It is the work of imagination to create and form images--it has no power to form realities. While there is no limit to the variety of mental pictures the imagination can form in the mind; it must work only on the materials at hand. (Ex.: a monster eating stars for breakfast is not new.)
 2. One can reason to God.
But this is not true either because reason is a rule or measure by which we compare and decide things. A carpenter, with his rule measures the dimensions of a surface or length of a board, but the rule is powerless to create the board it measures. Reason becomes a means to an end, not a beginning;
 3. Mankind created God.
"Sigmund Freud has argued that God is the creation of man, rather than men the creation of God. He believed that the idea of God is merely the projection of man's wish, mere auto-suggestion." He felt that man created God by taking all the good qualities of our earthly fathers, assembling them together and calling the entity our heavenly Father (or God).
The problem with this is that Freud went on to say that this created heavenly Father is the God of the Bible. Would mankind created a Father who destroyed the world with a flood? Assemble armies to go to war? Send His own Son into the world to die? NO! Our God would be a grandfather figure who would never say no to our desires and wishes. In no way would we come up with a God like that of the Bible.
 4. By revelation.
Mankind received the idea of God, because God has chosen to reveal Himself to mankind. God dwells in un-approachable light according to 1Tim. 6:16. Paul called men's attempt to find God a "groping" in Ac. 17:27. The reason that anyone knows of God (and of His plan) is because God has made Himself known and revealed that plan.
- D. God is known by three things:
 1. His nature.
 2. His word.
 3. His Son (who has revealed the plan).

II. GOD IS KNOWN THROUGH HIS WORD.

- A. God is the great communicator. He has revealed His word to us in three very important ways:
 1. God has spoken through His creation.
God has made himself evident in the creation about us (Rom. 1:19-20; Psa. 19:1; 139:13-15; Heb. 3:4).
 2. God has spoken through divine revelation.

The Bible is God's specific will for mankind (2Tim. 3:16,17; 2Pet. 1:3; Jude v3).

3. God has spoken to us through Jesus Christ, His Son.

The best way to know God, see God, understand God, and comprehend God is to examine Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:1-4; Jn. 1:1,14; 1:18; 14:9; 10:30; 17:1-10).

- B. May we develop a fascination with Jesus that we seek to know Him. May we develop a hunger for truth so that we will study the Scriptures.

III. GOD HAS REVEALED HIS NATURE.

Five very important things have been revealed about God.

A. First, God is eternal.

God has no beginning, no past, or no future. He is eternal (Jude v25; Rev.1:4; Jn. 5:26).

B. Second, God is all-powerful (omnipotent).

God spoke worlds into existence, controls weather with a blink of an eye, caused His son to be born of a virgin, and raises the dead. Nothing is impossible for God (Lk. 1:37).

C. Third, God is all-knowing (omniscient).

Science tells us how things work, and does a poor job at that. God can tell us the how and the why.

1. His understanding is infinite (Psa. 147:5).

2. He does not become weary or tired... His understanding is inscrutable (Isa. 40:28).

D. Fourth, God is all-present (omnipresent).

It is impossible to flee the presence of God. He is everywhere at all times.

(Ex.: God sits at desk with the top being His entire creation that is in reach.)

1. Where shall I go? (Psa. 139:7-10).

2. In God we live, move and exist (Ac. 17:28).

E. Fifth, God is all-good (omni-benevolent).

God is a good god. Everything that God has ever done has been in man's best interest (Mt. 7:11; Jas. 1:17).

- F. God has revealed Himself to us to show that He is a God who is to be respected, followed, and loved.

IV. GOD REVEALS HIS PLAN FOR MANKIND.

A. Scripture text: Romans 8:29,30.

B. What a wonderful plan this is!

1. FIRST, foreknowledge.

God had foreknowledge of our sin, pain, and suffering. God has the knowledge of future events and uses that knowledge for our advantage. What a wonderful God, Who knows our troubles, struggles, pain, and problems even before we have experienced them!

2. Second, a predetermined plan.

This predetermined plan was to save us from our sin. People are not predestined, but the plan is. And that plan is that we be like X. This is why Paul wanted to know everything, including the sufferings of Jesus (Phil. 2:10; 1Cor. 2:2; Eph. 4:15).

3. Third, a calling.

The calling of people to the plan is by the gospel (2Th. 2:14). God communicates His wonderful plan through Xians who preach the good news (Rom. 10:13-15). This calling includes the plan of salvation for the lost sinner (Heb. 11:6; Lk. 13:3; Mt. 10:30; Ac. 2:38; Mt. 28:19-20).

4. Fourth, a justification.

A making right of life and soul. To be justified is to be "just-as-if-I'd never sinned." Jesus is the just and the justifier (Rom. 3:25,26). Justification means forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life (1Pet. 1:3-4).

5. Fifth, a glorification.

This is the "pinnacle of achievement in greatness and happiness." Xians will, on the final day be in a state of glory; a state of eternal life in the bliss of heaven (Rom. 5:1,2).

CONCLUSION.

- A. God is the great communicator. He has revealed His WORD, His NATURE, and His PLAN.
- B. What is our response? Hopefully it is found in Romans 8:15; we cry out "Abba Father!" We are desirous of the salvation, care and love found in God through X.