

The Doctrine of God

There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things. He has in and of Himself all perfections, and is infinite in them all. To Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience.

Introduction: God cannot be known outside of that which He has revealed about Himself. If He has revealed Himself in one way and our thoughts of Him are different then our thoughts must be changed to conform to what has been revealed. Our mental thoughts of god are equal to idolatry and therefore must be broken down and an altar raised in its place to the one true and living God. God will not be what you want Him to be. He can only be what He has revealed Himself to be. He must be Himself!

It is we who must change so that we properly understand God and how we are to worship and serve Him. God will not change to conform Himself to our religious ideas. We must change and conform ourselves to His revealed truth.

The Scriptures reveal that there is but one true and living God (though manifest or made known unto us in three distinct persons as we will see in our next study).

There is but one God

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 – “Hear, O Israel: **The LORD our God is one LORD:** And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:”

Deuteronomy 6:4 -- “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD”

In this text we have a summary of true Christianity. How is it defined? It begins with God. There is one God. It then proceeds to our responsibility in light of the truth that there is but one God. We are to love Him with all our hearts. If we love Him we will listen to Him, we will worship Him, and we will obey Him.

The words of **Deuteronomy 6:4-6** are to be given serious consideration. What do these verses teach us to believe concerning God?

First, we will begin with a study of **Deuteronomy 6:4**.

In **Deuteronomy 6:4** the English word LORD is translated from the Hebrew word Y@hovah which is pronounced Yeh-ho-vaw. We pronounce it Jehovah. It is the Jewish national name for God and means the self-existent, eternal God.

Therefore, **Deuteronomy 6:4** teaches that Jehovah is the one true and living God and that He alone should be our God.

Then, in the same verse, the English word God is translated from the Hebrew word elohiyim which is pronounced el-o-heem. The Strong's Concordance defines this word as, “gods in the

ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme God.”

From the use of these two words in **Deuteronomy 6:4** we learn that the true and living God is the self-existent, eternal God manifest in the plural (meaning more than one) and yet He is one God.

In our next study we will see how the plural aspect of the one true and living God is manifest in the doctrine of the trinity. However, for our present study we are looking at the doctrine of the one true and living God.

From our previous study, we may conclude that since there is but one God, He is the only true and living God.

We may also conclude that since Jehovah is the one true and living God that He alone should be worshipped. He alone is the infinitely and eternally perfect God as well as the self-existent and self-sufficient God.

If we believe this truth we will then be delivered from all forms of idolatry.

If we believe this truth we will seek to know no other god but the one true and living God.

Deuteronomy 6:5 -- “Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might”

What does this verse teach us concerning our responsibility once we believe the truth that there is but one God? They teach us that we should love the Lord God with all thy heart.

If we love Him, we will worship Him. If we love Him we will listen to Him. If we love Him we will obey Him -- we will perform all the various responsibilities of our duty to Him from a heart of love. He has said, “My son, give me your heart.” We have said, “Our heart is yours.”

If we love Him we will highly esteem Him. We will determine that He is worthy of our love, worship, and praise. If we love Him we will be pleased with Him and with His relations to us.

If we love Him, our desires will be toward Him, our delight will be in Him, our dependence will be upon Him, and we will be devoted to Him.

If we love Him, we will consider it a pleasure to think about Him, we will desire to hear from Him out of His word, we will desire to speak to Him in prayer, and we will desire to serve Him.

If we love Him, we will love Him with a **sincere love** -- not in word and tongue only. We will not be like those who draw near to Him with their mouths while their hearts are far from Him.

If we love Him we will love Him with a **strong love**. Our love for Him will be fervent love.

If we love Him, we will love Him with a **super abounding love**. We will love Him above all

others and above all things.

If we love Him, we will love Him with **singular love**. In our love for Him, we will seek to know Him and understand Him as much as we can.

Mark 12:33 – “**And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding**, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

In order to properly love God with all our **understanding** we must know Him in an intimate and personal way. It will be impossible to love God without knowing Him. The knowledge of God may only be gained as God teaches each of us out of His word – the Holy Scriptures.

Therefore in **Deuteronomy 6:6** Moses says, “**These words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart**”

What do these verses teach us concerning our responsibility to learn of God and of His ways? What do the Scriptures mean to teach when they tell us that God’s word should be in our heart?

They are teaching us that we are to read God’s word, we are to memorize God’s word, and we are to meditate upon God’s word. We are to do those things in order that we might learn of Him and learn of His ways.

He that loves God will love God’s word – the Bible.

However it is important that we understand that we may read and learn the word of God and not have a love for it or for the God who spoke it into being. Knowledge of the word of God and even an appreciation of the word of God without the love for God will do us no good. At the same time, we must understand that we cannot know our God nor love Him in the manner in which we should if we neglect the word of God.

Now let us look at what the Scriptures teach concerning the one true and living God.

The One True and Loving God is our CREATOR

Genesis 1:1 – “In the beginning **God created** the heaven and the earth.”

Acts 17:24-28 – “**God that made the world and all things therein**, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And **hath made of one blood all nations of men** for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: **For in him we live, and move, and have our being. . .**”

Revelation 4:11 – “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for **thou**

hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

The One True and Living God is our Preserver

Colossians 1:16-17 – “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and **by him all things consist.**”

Albert Barnes in his commentary on this verse says, “The meaning is, that they are kept in the present state; their existence, order, and arrangement are continued by his power. If unsupported by him, they would fall into disorder, or sink back to nothing. If this be the proper interpretation, then it is the ascription to Christ of infinite power--for nothing less could be sufficient to uphold the universe; and of infinite wisdom--for this is needed to preserve the harmonious action of the suns and systems of which it is composed. None could do this but one who is Divine; and hence we see the reason why he is represented as the image of the invisible God. He is the great and glorious and ever-active Agent by whom the perfections of God are made known.”

II Peter 3:5-7 – “For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, **by the same word are kept** in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

Hebrews 1:3 – “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and **upholding all things by the word of his power**, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high”

Again, we can do no better than quote from Albert Barnes. In his commentary on the phrase “**upholding all things by the word of his power**” he said, “That is, by his powerful word, or command. The phrase "word of his power" is a Hebraism, and means his efficient command. There could not be a more distinct ascription of divinity to the Son of God than this. He upholds or sustains all things -- i. e. the universe. It is not merely the earth; not only its rocks, mountains, seas, animals, and men, but it is the universe -- all distant worlds. How can he do this who is not God? He does it by his word -- his command. What a conception! That a simple command should do all this: So the world was made when God "spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast," (Psalm 33: 9. So the Lord Jesus commanded the waves and the winds, and they were still, (Matthew 8: 26 - 27) so he spoke to diseases, and they departed -- and to the dead, and they arose. Compare Genesis 1: 3. I know not how men can explain away this ascription of infinite power to the Redeemer. There can be no higher idea of omnipotence than to say, that he upholds all things by his word; and assuredly he who can hold up this vast universe, so that it does not sink into anarchy or into nothing, must be God. The same power Jesus claimed for himself. See Matthew 28: 18.”

The One True and Living God is the Ruler of all things

Daniel 4:34-35 – “And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, **whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:** And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and **he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth:** and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”

II Chronicles 20:6 – “And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and **rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen?** and **in thine hand is there not power and might,** so that none is able to withstand thee?”

I Chronicles 29:11-12 – “Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of thee, and **thou reignest over all;** and **in thine hand is power and might;** and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.”

The One True and Living God is to be revered

Exodus 15:11 – “Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, **fearful in praises,** doing wonders?”

Psalms 111:9 – “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: **holy and reverend is his name.**” (Holy and tremendous in thy name) (The whole name or character of God is worthy of profoundest awe, for it is perfect and holy.)

Psalms 22:3 – “But thou art holy, **O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.**”

Psalms 89:7 – “**God is greatly to be feared** in the assembly of the saints, and **to be had in reverence** of all them that are about him.”

The One True and Living God is to be Obeyed

Micah 6:8 – “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD **require** of thee, but **to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?**”

Ecclesiastes 12:13 – “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.**”

John 14:23 – “Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words:** and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

I John 3:22-24 – “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his

commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And **he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him.** And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.