

Misconceptions of God

No. 98

Introduction.

- I. Surveys taken in recent years indicate that about 95 percent of the American people believe in God.
 - A. Although most people believe there is a Supreme Being there are countless misconceptions of God in our country.
 - B. These misconceptions are serious. The concept we have of God is a very important matter. It affects our attitude and service toward God, and it affects our attitude and relationship to others and it affects our actions.

II. For the next few minutes I would like for us to consider some of the misconceptions of God.

I. **God Had A Beginning** - Many people believe God had a beginning.

- A. They believe God is very old, but that He was either created or in some way evolved. There is no way He is eternal.

1. **Once there was little girl, name Linda Sue**, who repeatedly asked her mother, "Where did God come from? Finally, the mother said to her, "He always was and He will always be." Linda Sue said, "Well, when does always-was begin and always will-be end?"

2. It very difficult for children, as well as adults, to conceive of an eternal God. We think God must have a beginning and an end.

- B. God is, however, eternal. He had no beginning and He has no end. (Deut. 33:27; Psa. 90:2).

C. **How many of you know how long a quintillion years is.**

1. Let me try to illustrate the number. A thousand thousands is a million. A thousand millions is a billion. A thousand billions is a trillion. A thousand trillions is a quadrillion. A thousand quadrillions is a quintillion. It is one followed by 18 zeros.

2. To put it another way a quintillion is **one billion times a billion**. We can say it, but we cannot even begin to fathom such a large number. It is beyond our comprehension.

3. Let me illustrate this number another way. Show that the age of God is greater than the age of all the humans who have ever lived. (Assembly, Waco, Texas, Nation, World, All who have lived.)

4. You could multiply a quintillion times a quintillion (undecillion) and this still would not even begin to describe the age of the everlasting God.

II. **God Is Fleshly** - Others have the misconception that God is fleshly.

- A. They view God as a very wise and powerful, but as a God who is finite and fleshly.
- B. It is argued that since man is fleshly and man is made in the image of God that God must be fleshly.
- C. This argument sounds convincing on the surface, but it is clearly erroneous.
 - 1. The Bible teaches **God is not a fleshly being**. (Jn. 4:24; Lk. 24:39; Matt. 16:17; Col. 1:15).
 - 2. These scriptures clearly set forth that God is not a fleshly Being. God is not weak, corruptible, finite flesh, but God is Spirit.
 - 3. When it says man is made in the image of God, it refers to the authority and dominion of man.
 - a. God is a Being of absolute authority and He has given man authority over His creation. (Gen. 1:26-28).

GEN 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

- b. It is clear that man is like God in the sense that he has authority. He has been made preeminent over the lower creation.
- c. The dominion of man over creation is echoed by David. (Psa. 8:4-7).

III. God Is A Respector Of Persons - Others have the misconception that God is a respector of persons.

- A. They believe that God is a partial God. They believe that God has chosen certain races or people to be saved and others to be lost.
- B. God is not a respector of persons. (Heb. 2:9; Acts 10:34, 35; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9; Matt. 11:28).

IV. God Does Not Care About Man - Others have the misconception that God does not care about man.

- A. They believe that God is indifferent toward the needs of man. They believe it is useless to seek God's help. God just lets the world spin and whatever will be will be.
- B. God cares about man. (Matt. 5:45; 10:29-31; 1 Pet. 5:7).
- C. God urges us to seek His help with the assurance that He will hear and answer our prayers. (Eph. 3:20; Jas. 5:16).

V. **God Will Accept Second Place** - Others have the misconception that God will accept second place.

- A. **Sunday** comes and they have an opportunity to work overtime or go on some exciting trip. They forsake the assembly. **Wednesday night** comes and they have a ball game or home work. They forsake the assembly. They have an **opportunity to make some visits for God** and draw others closer to Him, but the T.V., social activities, and other interests come before God.
- B. God is made second place, but God will not accept second place. God must be first or not at all.
 - 1. **Jesus** said. (Matt. 6:33).
 - 2. Jesus insists that we must put God and His kingdom first in our lives. God must be given top priority. He must be preeminent.

VI. **God Cannot See Our Evil Deeds** - Others have the misconception that God cannot see our evil deeds.

- A. They do not really believe God is Omniscient. They believe that because something may be hidden from an that it can be hidden from God.
- B. Nothing is, however, hidden from God. (Prov. 15:3; Eccles. 12:13, 14).
 - 1. How sobering it is to know that **nothing escapes the all-seeing eyes of God**.
 - 2. How sobering it is to know that we must **give account of the things done in the light**.
 - 3. How sobering it is to know that we must **give account even for the things done in secret**.
 - 4. This should motivate us to live holy and righteously at all times. It should motivate us to be children of light and to walk in the light.
 - 5. **Lafayette**, who was a friend of Washington, tells about once being shut up in a little room in a gloomy prison for a great while. In the door of his little cell was a very small hole. At that hole, a soldier was place day and night to watch him. All he could see was the soldier's eyes, and those eyes were always there. Every moment when he looked up, he always saw the eyes. Oh, he says, it was dreadful! There was no escape, no hiding. The eyes of God are always upon us. This fact is comforting if we are doing right, but a dreadful thought to the wicked.

VII. **God Will Not Condemn The Wicked** - Others have the misconception that God will not condemn the wicked.

- A. They contend that God is a God of love and God would never condemn a person to hell.
 - 1. Some believe that the wicked will simply be **allowed to sleep in the grave**.
 - 2. Others believe that the wicked will have **a lessor degree of heaven than the righteous**.
 - 3. Some even even think that the wicked will suffer **no consequences for their actions**, but will

enjoy all the blessings of heaven.

B. The Bible warns, however, that God will condemn wicked men who refuse to come to repentance.

1. **Jesus** said He would say to the wicked in the last day. (Matt. 25:41, 46).
2. **Paul** said. (Rom. 11:22; 2 Thess. 1:8, 9).
3. **The Hebrew writer** gave these warnings. (Heb. 2:3; 10:26, 27, 31).
4. **John** records these fearful words. (Rev. 20:15).

Conclusion.

- I. These are some of the misconceptions of God. It is important that we rid ourselves of these misconceptions and accept and teach others truth about God. God is a loving and merciful spiritual Being who loves all men and will bless and save those who obey Him.
- II. The gracious God of heaven wants you to be a part of His spiritual family. He wants to bless you now and forever. He will not, however, force you to serve Him. You must come to Him. Come and be baptized that you might become a child of God and serve Him. God will bless that decision with abundant blessings. Come as we sing.