

GOD IS...

Some who claim to believe the Bible when it says Jesus Christ died for our sins say you cannot accept many parts of the Bible as written. They deny the identity of the men claimed to be the writers. They deny the miracles as supernatural events, offering other explanations from nature. They deny the biblical, historical record of such events as creation and the flood, calling them mythological stories instead.

Just as it is incongruous to refer to supernatural naturalism, it is incompatible to believe in the Christ while denying all or part of the book that reveals Him. The Bible is the platform and foundation preaching and proving the God who is responsible for both us and it. Notice some implications since God is.

***Because God is, He is worthy of praise and adoration.*** A God so mighty and intelligent as to create a world of such order and grandeur, is transcendent (above us), sovereign (over us), and supreme. He is better than us, as designer knows us, and all of this should create quite a response from us. We should be humbled to walk before such a mighty God. From the time Leah praised the Lord in Genesis 29:35 until the elders, living creatures and Christ offer Him praise in Revelation 19:5, the Bible is overflowing with tributes of praise to God. Because God is, He is worthy of my daily and most profound praise.

***Because God is, He is able.*** Occasionally, I have tried my hand at building things. I even helped work on our last building addition. I have tried to build things for Kathy through the years. Now anybody who knows my work can tell you that what I lack in expertise and skill I make up for in shoddy workmanship. Yet, I have seen some amazing and wonderful craftsmanship. Go to a shipyard and look at the huge battleships, some of the architectural marvels of the world like the Pyramids, Macchu Pishu, the Taj Mahal, the Great Wall of China, or the Space Needle, look under the hood of a luxury sedan, or take a tour of a jumbo jet. Man has demonstrated such ability to design and build. Where did He get the knowledge? The materials? The creativity? That sends me to the great designer, the intelligent of it all. The God of creation, who could make all of this, is able—He is able to deliver from danger (Daniel 3:17), to humble those who walk in pride (Daniel 4:37), to make one stand or fall (Romans 14:4), to help us when we are tempted (Hebrews 2:18), to save to the uttermost those who come to Him by Christ (Hebrews 7:25), to save and to destroy (James 4:12), and to give you all you need in all circumstances (II Corinthians 9:8). When I look at all He has done, my faith grows in what He can do now. God is still concerned with the affairs of this world and the affairs of my personal life.

***Because God is, He is to be obeyed.*** What a powerful implication that follows God's reality. If He is, then whatever He wills He can obligate us to do. He has the right to rule by virtue of His creation. He are the product and He is the producer. He is loving, kind, compassionate, an caring, but He has let us His will and He both expects and deserves our obedience (cf. Isaiah 29:16; Romans 9:20-21). This has to be a big reason why people fight so hard against the truth of God's existence. This truth suggests as obligation and submission on man's part. If we are not only created, but created for a purpose, it urges a proper response.

***Because God is, He is to be shared.*** Since God is and the evidence and facts point this out, we are left with a weighty obligation. *"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"* (I Corinthians 9:16). The world needs to know what we know! God has forewarned us of a universal judgment and a never-ending eternity to come. Since we are all sinners and cannot save ourselves, we need God's help. He gave us Christ, and that is His answer. An atheist in a well-known tract once contended that if He believed in God, it would be his every thought and effort to share it with everyone he met. He was making a stinging rebuke of the lukewarm, feeble, and sickly faith of many who

"...then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel..." (Amos 7:8)

**MAKING THE CHURCH STRONG**

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Fill it with \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

II. Fill it with \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

III. Fill it with \_\_\_\_\_

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IV. Fill it with \_\_\_\_\_

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V. Fill it with \_\_\_\_\_

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**GROWTH IN CHRIST**

Text: \_\_\_\_\_

I. \_\_\_\_\_ for Growth

Notes:

II. \_\_\_\_\_ of Growth

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III. \_\_\_\_\_ for Growth

Notes:

profess to believe in God. They seem so ashamed of Him that they keep their mouths closed and are too embarrassed to share Him with their lost and dying coworkers, friends, and family. If God is, then He is to be shared—courageously, convictedly, and compassionately.

*Because God is, let us live like we believe it.* Let it show in our praise, our faith, our submission, and our works. There is no more powerful “evidence” of God’s existence than faithful, vibrant Christians.

-Neal Pollard

**PLEASE DADDY, CAN’T WE GO?**

A little girl with shining eyes,  
Her little face aglow,  
Said “Daddy, it is almost time  
For Sunday school, Come on, let’s go!  
They teach us there of Jesus’ love,  
Of how He died for all,  
And saves those who on Him call.”

“Oh, no!” said Daddy, “not today.  
I’ve worked hard all week;  
I’m going to the creek,  
For there I can relax and rest,  
And fishing’s fine they say.  
So run along; don’t bother me.  
We’ll go to church someday.”

Months and years have passed away,  
But Daddy hears that plea no more—  
“Let’s go to Sunday school.”  
Those childish days or o’er.

And no that Daddy’s growing old,  
When life is almost through;  
He finds time to go to church—  
But what does Daughter do?

She says, “Oh, Daddy, not today—  
I stayed up almost all night;  
I’ve just go to get some sleep.  
Besides, I look a fright.”

Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand  
To brush away the tears,  
As again he heard the pleading voice  
Distinctly through the years.

He sees a small girl’s shining face  
Upturned with eyes aglow,  
She says, “It’s time for Sunday School—  
Please, Daddy, won’t you go?”

**THE BOOK OF GOD'S INFINITE KNOWLEDGE**

Previously, the apostle Peter had written to his brethren scattered abroad who were facing persecution at the hand of heathen people. They were facing fiery trials by people that recognized no authoritative standard for living, and Peter encouraged them to withstand because Jesus Christ was worth it. Now, as he writes to apparently many of the same people, Peter builds on his previous point by proclaiming the superior knowledge and wisdom of God to which they were privy and upon which they could rely. Man in and of himself is unable to direct his own steps righteously, thus God made provision by which proper direction could be provided that would give man a pattern so he could live and have his steps directed righteously. And as Peter addresses this infinitely important topic, he had three points to make to further encourage these people to cleave closely to the truth, grow in its grace and knowledge, and allow it to direct them steadfastly toward heaven. What, though, are those points?

Number one, in II Peter 1, the apostle relates to his brethren God's **provision** of truth. Earlier in the New Testament, Paul had told Timothy that the inspired scriptures were given by God "*that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*" (II Timothy 3:17). Seeing the way Paul described the scriptures as the standard of truth by which man can be perfected in the sight of God it seems to be quite obvious that those scriptures pertain to life and godliness. Knowing that, though, it is interesting to see what Peter has to say about the degree to which God provided truth.

*"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust"* (II Peter 1:2-4).

If the scriptures are what can perfect man in all areas of life according to the standard of godliness, and God has provided all things that pertain to life and godliness, it is easily realized that God provided truth completely. There is absolutely nothing that man needs to know in order to direct his the steps of his life righteously that God has not provided, and to everything revealed Peter could testify as an eyewitness to confirm those things so. To a degree, the apostles served an added purpose as a system of "checks and balances" to confirm the reality of all things done by Jesus Christ, and with his testimony well in hand Peter could confidently affirm that "*no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*" (II Peter 1:20-21). Thus to fortify their faith, Peter reminds these brethren that God provided truth.

Number two, in II Peter 2, Peter reveals God's plan to **protect** the truth. The apostle, from verses 1-7, reminds the readers of examples from history in which God punished those who trespassed His will, and concludes in verse 9 by stating that "*the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.*" A very stark warning is thus given to all those who would potentially pervert God's truth to suit their own twisted agendas; God will not stand for it, but will enact destruction upon them all. Such a warning exists to protect the purity of God's truth, and that fact could act to fortify the brethrens' faith.

Then, number three, in II Peter 3, Peter reminds them of God's **promise** by His truth. The gospel exists for one essential purpose—to save the souls of men (Romans 1:16). In order, though, to fully instill an appreciation within a group of people for a standard of truth, it is important to remind them that there will come a day at which time we all will be judged according to this standard (II Peter 3:7). And no matter how much time may pass until that day, it will come beyond the shadow of a doubt. In fact, Peter tells them that they should not look at the passage of time as a breach of God's promise, but as a sign of His longsuffering because His desire is that every single and solitary soul be saved. So what God is doing is providing the time necessary for such to occur. However, that longsuffering will not last forever, because one day it will run out, the judgment will come as a thief in the night (vs. 10), the earth will melt with fervent heat, and we will face trial. And for all those who submitted to God's standard of truth, we will be found without spot and without blemish; wholly innocent according to the promise of God.

Surely the book of II Peter does just as our title suggests, it reveals God's infinite knowledge in saving the souls of man. What remains to be seen is if we have read, studied, appreciated, and obeyed that great truth.

-Andy Brewer