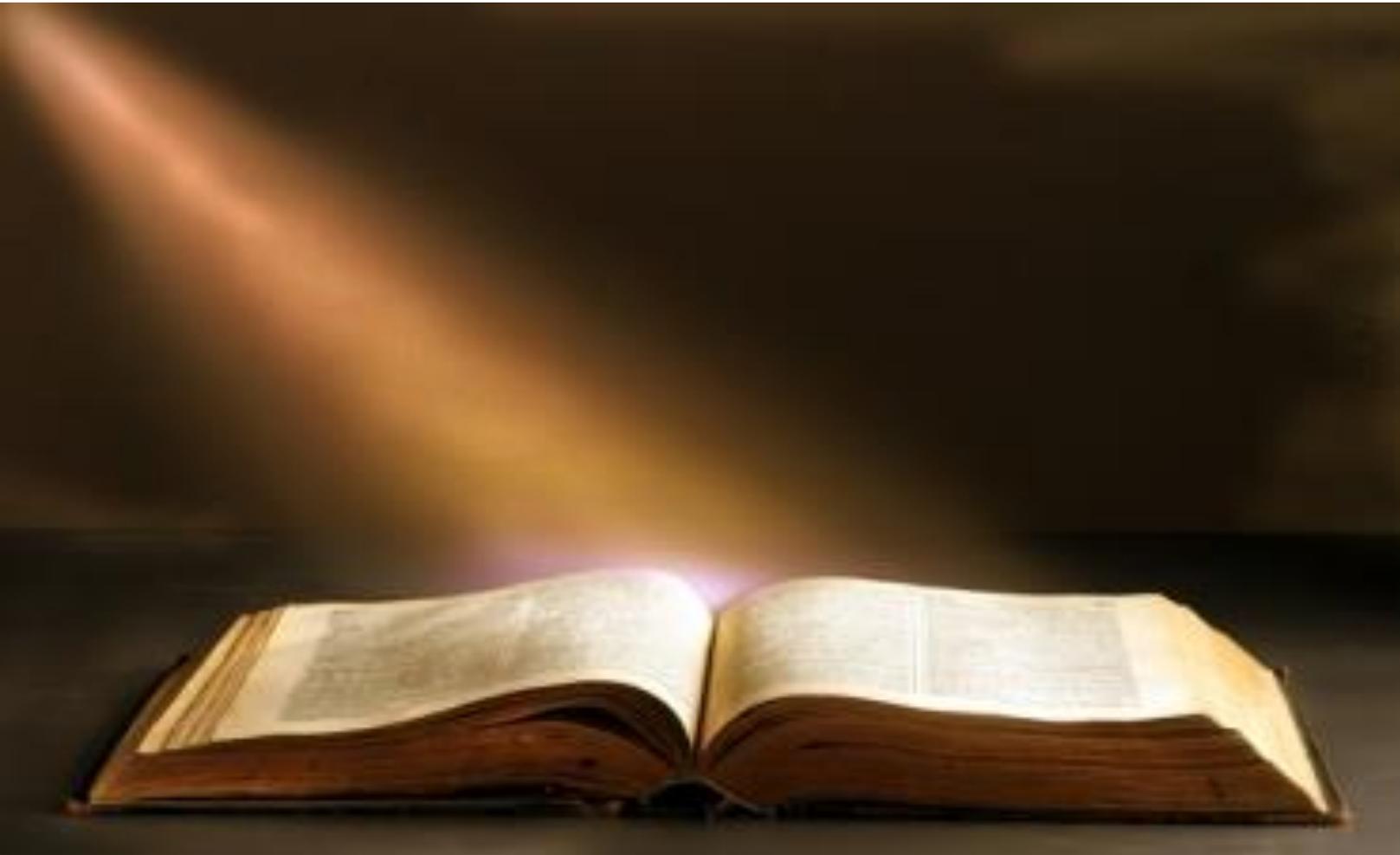


Seeking God

Lesson 1: The God We Should Seek



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

Seeking God

Lesson 1: The God We Should Seek

Learn about the God you should seek from Paul's sermon in Acts 17:24-31

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: DGW93

Written by Eric Krieg

About the author: My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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Lesson 1:

The God We Should Seek?

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Seeking God is central to living a life that is pleasing to God. As Hebrews 11:6 states, it is an impossibility to please God without faith. And, this passage identifies two aspects of faith necessary in order for it to please God. First, we must believe that God is (that He exists). Second, we must believe that He will reward those who diligently seek Him. Now, on this second point, recognize that if we are going to believe that there is a reward for those who will seek God, we must then do whatever is involved in seeking after God. For, the concept of seeking God implies that we have not entirely drawn near to Him and received all of the blessings He has promised to those who seek Him.

Sadly, as God looks upon the world, consider what He sees. Psalm 14:1-3 says, “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.”

God does not see anyone who has perfectly sought after Him during the course of their lives. He sees that everyone has turned aside from seeking Him in order to pursue their own selfish endeavors at some point. Yet, God is searching for those who will seek after Him – and will reward those who do.

So, this all introduces a number of questions as we consider the subject of seeking God. Who is this God we should be seeking after? Why should we seek after Him? What does it mean to seek after Him? How do you seek Him? These are some of the fundamental questions we will be investigating during the course of this eight-lesson study that strives to encourage us to seek God.

This first lesson aims to identify the God we should be seeking in our lives. For, if we do not know whether there is a God or who He is, we will not have the desire to seek Him. And, as we prepare to learn about the God we should seek, perhaps there is no better Bible text to consider than Acts 17:16-34. This passage describes Paul while he was in the city of Athens (Greece). This was a place that was known at that time for great learning and wisdom (from a human standpoint). Yet, it was a city that was full of idols. Verse 16 says that the city was “given over to idols.”

So, whenever the apostle Paul visited this city and saw that there were people who were “very religious” (verse 22) in seeking after these idols, Paul began trying to reason with them about the gods they were seeking. And, among all of the idols that were in the city, there was one that stood out to Paul. He told the people of Athens, “I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you” (verses 22-23).

Here was this “UNKNOWN GOD” they were worshiping – just in case they had missed a god among all of their other idols. Yet, Paul recognized that there truly was a God they did not know – the one true and living God. And, Paul introduces the people of Athens to this UNKNOWN GOD in Acts 17:24-31. Similarly, there are many people today

who do not really know the God they should be seeking. So, let's consider this passage in Acts as a basis for helping us all get to know the "UNKNOWN GOD." For, it is not possible to truly seek a God we do not know.

He Is Lord Of Heaven And Earth (Acts 17:24a)

This "UNKNOWN GOD" is truly different from any of the gods the Athenians had learned about. In fact, as we study this passage in Acts 17, recognize how Paul is describing a God who was much greater than all of their gods combined! In verse 24, he begins to identify this God, saying, "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth..." Therefore, let us all be introduced to the God who created the world and is Master of all.

He is the Almighty Creator

Remember back to Hebrews 11:6. In order to please this God, we must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. So, although most of this study will be focused on the latter part of this verse (seeking God), we must begin with believing that God exists. Obviously, we will not seek God unless we are first absolutely convinced that God exists.

Listen to how Paul began identifying God to those who were confused about religion in Acts 17. They believed in a system of many different gods. Now, Paul was introducing them to the one true and living God. And, in order to do so, he directed their minds to consider the origin of the world they were living in and everything they could observe around them.

In the same way, you must seriously consider the origin of the world you are living in and everything that is around you. Ultimately, there is only a very small set of answers to this very large question. Either everything has evolved and came into being by itself, a plurality of gods all contributed to the creation and order that is in the world, or there

is a single and All-Powerful God who is the cause of it all.

Those who lived in Athens primarily seemed to believe that there were multiple gods behind the creation of the world. However, you *must* decide how you will choose to believe all of this world and the universe came into being. Popular belief today is to claim that a massive explosion (i.e. the "Big Bang") gave this universe its start. Then, it is claimed that evolution took over from that point. Now, according to these theories, we are experiencing the result of billions and billions of years of these kinds of phenomena. Yet, if this is the basis of how you explain the origin of the universe, you must consider a few major questions.

First, where did it all come from? Science has still never explained the actual origin of it all. Though some scientists claim that it all began with an explosion with one particle or a collision between two particles, they still have not explained how those particles have come into existence. Recognize a basic **law** of science. The first law of thermodynamics states that matter and energy cannot be created or destroyed. So, the obvious question is: How can something come from nothing? How could one or two small particles get their origins from absolutely nothing? This scientific law means they could not! Recognize then, that scientific **theories** (i.e. the "Big Bang Theory" – which cannot be proven by science) should not be more trusted than the scientific **laws** (i.e. the first law of thermodynamics – which can be proven by science). This world simply did not originate from nothing!

Second, how did so much order happen by chance? Even if we would ignore the fact that it is contrary to science for something to come from nothing and choose to believe that an explosion or collision of some tiny particle(s) began this world, there is still a problem. The problem is the need to explain how all the beauty, splendor, and order that can be observed in every aspect of this universe happened accidentally. How did order result from chaos (i.e. an explosion or a collision)? Imagine if there was an explosion in a factory that makes watches. Do you suppose that this explosion could cause all of the watch parts and pieces in the factory to come together perfectly to make working

watches? If not, why not? How is it possible to then believe that a random explosion or collision of gases or particles traveling in the expanse of space could ever result in the world and universe you can observe around you?

Third, how did one species evolve into an entirely new species? Again, even if we ignore these problems with the explanations that are offered for the origin of the universe, what about the problems involved with evolution. Particularly, the issue of how entirely new species of plants and animals could evolve from separate species? Think about it. Science has never observed one species evolving into an entirely different kind. Yes, there are evolutionary processes at work in this world. For instance, new breeds of dogs have been developed for various purposes. But, there has never been a frog that evolved into a dog (i.e. into an entirely different kind of species). Yet, that is the basis of the evolution many scientists speak of when they try to explain the origin of the world and everything we see around us. However, do you suppose that if you lived for millions of years that you would ever witness a worm become bird? Or, a cow become a monkey? Or, any other kind of movement across the lines of species/kind?

You see, no matter how anyone ever tries to explain the origins of this world, what we are able to observe in the world and universe that is around us will always be the greatest evidence for the existence of an All-Powerful God who created it all! Listen to Romans 1:19-22. Paul wrote that “what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools.”

It is through His creation (the universe, the world, and everything in them) that God provides us with all of the evidence we need to recognize that He is God and that He possesses limitless power. To ignore this truth makes you a fool. Remember, Psalm

14:1 said that it is the “fool” who says in his heart, “There is no God.” The reason this individual is called a “fool” is because he/she chooses to reject the obvious in order to listen to man’s own ideas that are entirely inconsistent with what is observable! So, look around and observe the beauty, splendor, and order in everything that you see and recognize that these things could not have happened accidentally or by chance. The only reasonable explanation is that there is an All-Powerful God who created it all!

He is Master of all

Then, since we can know that there is an All-Powerful God who created this world and everything in it, we can also understand that this makes Him “Lord of heaven and earth.” The Creator is, therefore, the Master. Since He is the only one who possesses limitless power, He is only one with the right to control all things. And, He has demonstrated that He is Lord of heaven and earth on many occasions throughout the history of this world – even doing things that mankind would not believe to be possible.

For instance, consider the following Biblical examples. (1) It was God who was able to bring the flood waters upon the earth to destroy the evil that then existed in the world (Genesis 6-8). (2) It was God who brought the plagues upon the Egyptians (Exodus 7-12). He was able to turn water to blood; bring frogs, lice, and flies upon the land of Egypt; cause the death of cattle; cause boils to appear on the Egyptians; cause hail, locusts, and darkness to come upon the land of Egypt; and, cause all the firstborn of the Egyptians to die. (3) It was God who parted the Red Sea so that the Israelites could cross on dry ground (Exodus 14). (4) It was God who caused the earth to open up and swallow Korah and those who rebelled against God with him (Numbers 16). (5) It was God who was able to make the sun stand still for about an entire day while Israel was in battle (Joshua 10). (6) It was God who caused the sun dial to go back ten degrees as proof that He was going to extend King Hezekiah’s life (Isaiah 38). And, it was God who was able to extend this man’s life. (7) It was God who caused King Nebuchadnezzar (king of Babylon) to dwell among the beasts of the field and to eat grass like oxen (Daniel 4). (8) It was God who spared

Daniel's life when he was put into the den of lions (Daniel 6). (9) It was God who caused the great fish to swallow Jonah, preserve Jonah's life while he was in the belly of the great fish, and release Jonah at the appointed time (Jonah 1-2). (10) It was Jesus Christ (who was God manifested in the flesh) who commanded the winds and the waves to cease (Matthew 8) and who walked on the water (Matthew 14). And, (11) It was God who caused King Herod to be eaten by worms and die (Acts 12).

While other examples could certainly be provided (even from our own observance of God's world), these certainly demonstrate that God is Master (Lord) of heaven and earth. He is the one with full authority to control the things that happen. And, whenever He chooses to exercise that authority, there is nothing and no one who can withstand the will of this God!

He Cannot Be Contained In Any Temple (Acts 17:24b)

As Paul continued helping the people in Athens get to know the God they did not know, He identifies the fact that this God who created the world and everything in it (who is Lord of heaven and earth) is very different from the gods they had been seeking. Within ancient Greece and Athens, there were many temples that had been constructed for their various gods. Many remnants remain of these temples to this very day. And, their gods were generally believed to have dwelled in these ornate temples made by man (though there were some who believed otherwise). Yet, the apostle Paul wanted the Athenians to recognize that the true God they did not know "does not dwell in temples made with hands" (verse 24).

The tabernacle and temple

"But, what about the tabernacle and temple?" – you may be asking. "Didn't the Israelites build these marvelous structures for God to dwell in?" Let's take a moment to evaluate this question. And, as we consider this, we will actually discover the

truth of what the apostle Paul told the Athenians and should be even more in awe of the one true and living God.

First, consider the tabernacle. The tabernacle was God's tent (during the time the Israelites moved from Sinai to the land of Canaan). This structure was designed to be portable so that it could be erected each place God's people went. And, as you read in Exodus 25-31, Moses was given very detailed and specific instructions regarding how this tabernacle was to be constructed. Then, Exodus 35-40 details the actual construction of it. You would do well to take some time to read these chapters. For, as you do, you should discover how spectacular this structure was – particularly the furnishings and most holy place in the tabernacle.

You should notice the kinds of material that were used in constructing this tabernacle for God. Offerings were taken from the Israelites of gold, silver, and bronze – along with blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, goats' hair, ram skins dyed red, badger skins, acacia wood, oil, spices, sweet incense, and onyx stones (see Exodus 25:3-7). These all had various purposes, according to the pattern God revealed for the tabernacle. In addition, very gifted artisans were selected to do much of the work that needed to be done (see Exodus 31). The end result was an absolutely magnificent structure that was filled with some of the most precious material available to mankind!

Second, consider the temple. With the Israelites now settled in the land of Canaan, it was the desire of King David to erect a more permanent structure for God in Jerusalem. However, it is worth considering the fact that David was not permitted to build the temple of God because he had been a man of war (see 1 Chronicles 22:8-10). Therefore, this task would be accomplished by David's son, King Solomon. However, during the end of David's life, he worked to gather material that would be used to construct the temple of God. And, as you read in 1 Chronicles 29, David recognized the need for this temple to be absolutely magnificent (since it was not for man – but for God, see verse 1). So, David instructed the people of Israel to bring gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, onyx stones, glistening stones,

He Is Not In Need Of Our Service (Acts 17:25)

precious stones, and marble slabs to be used in the construction of this temple for the Almighty Creator.

Then, after David's death, Solomon commenced with the actual building of this magnificent structure. Take some time to read 1 Kings 6 and 2 Chronicles 3-7 to see the description of this temple that was constructed (a project with took seven years to complete).

The fullness of God cannot be contained in any man-made structure

Certainly, mankind would be amazed to see these glorious structures filled with the most precious materials known to exist. Yet, despite the magnificence of these two structures, neither of them could contain the fullness of God (though they did serve a temporary purpose in the observance of the Law of Moses)! Consider what King Solomon recognized after he had built the temple. 1 Kings 8:27 says, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!" Solomon simply never believed that he could ever construct a temple that was marvelous enough for the Lord of heaven and earth to fully dwell in!

Similarly, consider what the preacher Stephen said to those who were Jews in Acts 7. After reminding them of the fact that the Jewish fathers had built the tabernacle according to the pattern given to Moses and that Solomon built God a house, he said, "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: 'Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? Says the Lord, Or what is the place of My rest? Has My hand not made all these things?'" (Acts 7:48-50). Simply put, how could man (who God has created) possibly use the things God has created to build Him a temple that would be magnificent enough for Him to dwell in? As Paul told the Athenians, this God simply "does not dwell in temples made with hands" (Acts 17:24).

Not only is this true and living God more magnificent than the gods of the Athenians in that He does not dwell in temples made with hands, but Paul continues and says, "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things" (verse 25). While you do read about God having priests who would serve Him and His desire for all people to serve and worship Him, there is a big difference between this and the priests, worshipers, and servants of other gods. Namely, other gods are in *need* of people to serve and worship them. The Lord of heaven and earth is not!

We cannot give God anything He cannot have for Himself

What does the Almighty Creator of this world need from us? Who are we that we would have anything to give to God that He could not have for Himself? Listen to Romans 11:33-36: "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?' 'Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?' For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen." Particularly focus on the question, "who has first given to [God]" and will be repaid by Him? The answer, of course, is no one!

You see, it is not God who is in need of mankind. Instead, it is mankind who desperately needs God. Though God does desire for man to worship and serve Him, it is man who is in desperate need of serving and worshiping the Lord of heaven and earth. This is a major difference between the one true and living God and all other gods. You see, as Psalm 115 describes, "our God is in heaven" and "does whatever He pleases" (verse 3). But, their idols "are silver and gold, The work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; Eyes they have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not

hear; Noses they have, but they do not smell; They have hands, but they do not handle; Feet they have, but they do not walk; Nor do they mutter through their throat” (verses 4-7). These gods *need* the worship and service of man – because they are inferior to man (since they are lifeless things that are made out of physical materials). But, the Lord of heaven and earth is far superior to man!

He is the one who gives to all

To continue, Paul said that God is the one who “gives to all life, breath, and all things” (Acts 17:25). These necessary things and everything that is good comes from Him. James 1:17 says that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

Just imagine. What could we possibly offer to God that He is incapable of having for Himself? For, even the best sacrifices that we could possibly offer to God come from Him! The Israelites (as we have seen) brought gold, silver, bronze, precious stones, etc. to God to build the tabernacle and temple. But, God was the one who provided those things! The Israelites were to sacrifice the best from their herds and crops. But, God was the one who provided those things! Today, God wants people to give their entire lives as living sacrifices to Him in order to serve Him in their lives (see Romans 12:1). But, God is the one who has given us life! So, yes, God does want us to serve and worship Him (as we will explore further in other lessons). But, He is not dependent upon our service and worship!

He Is The One Who Created Us (Acts 17:26-28)

After identifying God’s sovereignty through His power and independence, Paul then turned His attention specifically to God’s creation of mankind. Unlike the gods the Athenians had commonly worshiped and served, this one true God is responsible for mankind’s existence. “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell

on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring’” (verses 26-28).

We exist because of God

This God did not need a creator. But, man did. And, it is this God who gives life, breath, and all things to everyone who has created all mankind. There are not different gods for different people. All mankind has descended from Adam (the man God first created) and Eve (the woman God first created). And, it is this God who providentially intervenes in the affairs of mankind.

No, various species did not evolve over millions and billions of years to form mankind (as briefly discussed earlier in this lesson). Instead, this Almighty God who created the world and everything in it formed man from the dust of the ground which God had made and “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7). Then, when God saw that it was not good for man to be alone, He caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man and “took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man” (Genesis 2:21-22). Yes, even as you look at the magnificent way the human body works manifests the fact that there is an intelligent Designer and Creator. And, manifests that we all come from the same God (see Malachi 2:10)! Therefore, we are truly His offspring!

We exist to seek God

But, why did God create mankind if He does not need us? Why did He create the universe in the marvelous ways He has created it? Listen carefully to what Paul told the Athenians. He said that God has made mankind “so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us” (verse 27)!

First, recognize that God has created us with the ability to seek Him (as we will discuss further in lesson 2). Two things are important to recognize this truth: God created us in His image and we have been created with free will. Genesis 1:26-27 identifies the fact that mankind has been created in the image of our Creator. This means that mankind has been created with a spiritual existence (since God is Spirit, John 4:24) – not just a physical existence. Then, to have been created with free will means that this Sovereign God has given mankind the ability and opportunity to either choose to seek Him during their earthly lives or not to seek Him. He has not forced His will upon mankind (so as to force man to seek God).

Second, recognize that God has created us in His image and given us free will so that we will make the decision to seek after Him. He wants us to seek Him. He wants us to search and feel our ways toward Him – promising us that we can find Him because He is not far from us! So, He wants every decision that we make to be guided by His will. He wants us to choose Him rather than choose to live for ourselves. In fact, the Scriptures teach that seeking after God is the only thing that really matters in life (see Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)!

He Is The One Who Possesses Divine Nature (Acts 17:29)

As Paul has stated, even some of the poets who were known to those in Athens had said, “For we are also His offspring” (verse 28). Now, the Stoic poet Aratus was speaking of Zeus whenever he made this claim. But, Paul is going to apply the conclusion of their own poets to make an essential point about the nature of the true God. Listen to verse 29. “Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising.”

Such a God could not be represented by an image formed by man’s imagination

The Athenians believed that they were the offspring of a god – just not the God who is Lord of heaven and earth. So, Paul encouraged them to think about themselves. They needed to realize how spectacular the human body is and how it functions in just the right way. The question, then, becomes: How could a god who can be accurately represented by a statue made of gold, silver, stone, or anything man could devise and make possibly be responsible for man’s existence?

The simple answer is that it is unreasonable to conclude that a living and intelligent being like mankind could be the offspring of a such a god! Such a God would be far too great and magnificent to be represented by something mankind could devise or make – even if he used the most precious materials available!

God is Divine

Instead of thinking about the God mankind is the offspring of in this kind of way, Paul encouraged them to recognize that this God is Divine! The Psalmist recognized this truth and expressed his praise to God in connection with how God had made him in Psalm 139:14. “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.”

Again, remember that seeing the things God has made plainly reveals that there is a God and that God possesses eternal (limitless) power and is Divine (Romans 1:19-22). So, not only can you know these truths by looking to the things in this world; but, also by considering how wonderfully God has designed you (and all mankind). Particularly (for the purposes of this point), allow yourself to recognize that you are the offspring of a God who possesses Divine nature!

What does it mean for God to possess Divine nature? It means that God had no creator. It means that God is eternal – having no beginning and no end. It means that God is capable of doing whatever He desires to do. It means that God is capable of knowing anything He desires to know. It means that

God is capable of seeing anything He desires to see. And, it means that there is no place that mankind can hide from this God!

He Is The Judge Of The World (Acts 17:30-31)

As Paul concludes his teaching to the people in Athens, he does so by pointing them to the ramifications of the truths he has just identified about this God who is Lord of heaven and earth. Consider verses 30 and 31. “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

God’s authority over the world will allow Him to judge it

Remember that this God is Lord of heaven and earth. He created it and everything on it – including mankind. Therefore, He is the only one who has the authority to judge it! And, He has promised that He will do exactly that. Furthermore, since He has all authority, He can use whatever standard/criteria He so chooses whenever He judges the world. Fortunately for mankind, He has revealed this standard to mankind so that we can prepare ourselves for this Day of Judgment. This standard, as we will discover in a later lesson, is revealed in the pages of His word (the Bible).

Particularly, Paul states that God will judge the world in righteousness (fairly). And, He will carry out this Judgment through the one He has appointed – Jesus Christ (compare with Matthew 25:31-46, Romans 14:10-12, and 2 Corinthians 5:10). Paul states that God has “given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” We will consider the sacrifice made by this one who will judge us further in lesson 2. For now, recognize that this God was able to raise Jesus Christ from the dead

and He did so in order to provide us the victory over sin and death!

He commands all mankind to repent

But, as you contemplate the reality of standing before the God who has been described in Acts 17, you should certainly have the burning desire to seek after Him during the course of your life. Now, as you consider all of this, you should recognize that none have perfectly sought after God in their lives (Psalm 14:1-3). Therefore, God now “commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30).

To “repent” is to turn away from the sin you have committed during the course of your lifetime. You must recognize that you have made decisions in your life that have not pleased God. Therefore, you must determine that you will not practice those wicked things any longer so that you might seek God in your life by doing His will! Turning to God and seeking Him is the only hope we have for salvation from sin! Remember, we must believe that God is and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Conclusion

Surely the God Paul has described is the God we should seek! No other god is worthy to be sought! However, as Paul experienced in Acts 17, not everyone will make the decision to seek this God. After people had listened to what Paul said, some mocked, some wanted to hear more, and some believed (see verses 32-34).

So, how will you respond to this message about God? Will you mock it, claiming that there is no such God? Will you remain undecided, failing to act upon these truths? Or, will you believe it, choosing to seek God?

Study Questions

What two aspects of faith is necessary to please God, according to Hebrews 11:6?

What is the context of Acts 17:16-31?

1. He Is Lord Of Heaven And Earth (17:24a)

How can you know that God exists and that He is the Almighty Creator?

List some Bible examples that demonstrate God's authority over all things.

2. He Cannot Be Contained In Any Temple (17:24b)

Briefly describe the magnificence of the tabernacle and the temple.

Despite the magnificence of these structures, what does 1 Kings 8:27, Acts 7:44-50, and Acts 17:24 teach? Draw conclusions from this fact.

3. He Is Not In Need Of Our Service (17:25)

Can we give God anything that He cannot have for Himself?

What does God give to all?

4. He Is The One Who Created Us (17:26-28)

Did God need a creator? Explain how God created mankind.

Why did God create us if He did not need us?

5. He Is The One Who Possesses Divine Nature (17:29)

Could this God (as has been described in this study) be represented by an image formed by man's imagination? Why or why not?

What did the Psalmist recognize about how he had been created (Psalm 139:14)? What conclusion, then, should we come to about God's nature?

6. He Is The Judge Of The World (17:30-31)

Does God have the authority to judge the world? Who will God judge the world through?

What does God command of everyone?