

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Ms. Dannels, Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Dowling (test results), Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Sowder, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

Out of Town: Mr. and Mrs. Dowling; Angela, Connie, and Violet Law.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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Defining God

By Derek Long

The question, "Who is God?" is really not a new question. In Exodus 5:1, Moses and Aaron tell Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness'" (NKJV). Pharaoh's response was, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go" (Exodus 5:2, NKJV). On this occasion, God would use the Ten Plagues which He brought upon the land of Egypt as a means to teach Pharaoh and Egypt who He is (Exodus 7:5). God was trying to help Pharaoh see why he needed to obey Him.

People may ask the question, "Who is God?" for various reasons. Some people may genuinely be ignorant of who God is and need to be taught. Little children may ask about God because they do not yet grasp the concept of who God is. People who have not had exposure to Bible teaching may be ignorant about who God is and need to be taught. Others may ask, "Who is God?" simply as a way to try to test the knowledge of a Christian who professes to believe in God. Certain atheists seem to take delight in seeing those who believe in God

struggle to define the God they believe in. Others may ask, “Who is God?” because they want to have an accurate picture of Him and His character, etc. When people ask us the question, “Who is God?” we cannot know their motivation unless they reveal it. It is best to think the best about their motives behind the question rather than to think the worse about their motives (1 Corinthians 13:7).

As one contemplates how to define God, it may seem like an overwhelming task. How can one define God when His love is said to pass knowledge (Ephesians 3:17-19)? How can one define God when His power is capable of doing more than we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20-21)? How can one define God when His thoughts are far greater than our thoughts and His ways are greater than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9)? How can one define God when His judgments and ways are unsearchable and past finding out (Romans 11:33)? In some ways, our definition of God may fall short of giving a complete picture of everything about God. Our knowledge of God is limited to what He has revealed about Himself. Our attempts to define God must admit our knowledge of Him may not always be complete. A person who attempts to define God may not even fully understand everything God has revealed about Himself through His written word, the Bible.

Realizing our definition may not do God justice in every respect, what are some ways we can help explain to others who God is? God has revealed some things about Himself which give us our understanding of who He is. First, God is the Creator (Genesis 1:1; Acts 17:24). Since God is the Creator, He has authority over the creation. Since God is the Creator, He cannot be contained by what He has created. Second, God is

eternal and self-sufficient (Isaiah 40:28; Acts 17:25). God’s existence is not reliant upon us. God will continue to exist whether man believes in Him and serves Him or not. However, we rely upon God for our existence as, “He gives to all life, breath, and all things (Acts 17:25, NKJV). Third, God rules over every nation (Daniel 4:32; Acts 17:26). God created and thus rules over men of every nation. God is still active in history though He has not chosen to reveal to us the details of His activity within history today. Fourth, God is capable of being found by those who seek Him (2 Chronicles 15:2; Acts 17:27). Fifth, since we are the offspring of God, God cannot be made into the image we desire Him to be (Acts 17:28-29). We cannot sit back and decide what kind of God we want to exist. We must accept the God who does exist as He is. Sixth, God, “commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30, NKJV). God may at times delay bringing punishment upon the wicked and some may interpret this as a sign of God’s indifference (Psalm 50:18-21) and fail to repent. A failure to repent though is a failure to utilize the opportunity God is giving a person to be saved (Romans 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9). Seventh, God, “has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness” (Acts 17:31, NKJV). There is coming a day when we will all be judged by God and will have to give an account of the things we have done in the body (Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10). How can we be sure God will judge the world by Jesus one day? “He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him (Jesus - DNL) from the dead” (Acts 17:31, NKJV). Perhaps something else we could learn about God from this last statement is He has the ability to raise the dead.