

## ***John Newlin Ministries, Inc.***

*- realizing the power of a life in Christ-*

### **WHO IS GOD?**

I am amazed, aren't you, at how flippant some people refer to God, to Jesus. Even some who say they are Christians do this. Just offhand comments. It all indicates a complete lack of knowledge of who God is.

Well, then, who is he?

A being way beyond our level of comprehension who has created all there is. He is all powerful, all knowing, all seeing. Nothing exists that he did not create.

It is astounding that he takes interest in any people at all, but for some inexplicable reason he does. He is interested in each one. So much so that he listens to your prayers and responds. So much so that he sent his son Jesus to earth to establish a way to reconcile the lost human race back to God.

Let's look back a second. After the flood, when God in essence was starting again with the human race, he picked Abraham through whose descendants he would reveal himself more and more, sharing his truths of existence. Yes, his very truths of how they could best live, how they could thrive and survive and have victory over all sorts of things.

Eventually down through Abraham we come to the time of Moses, and God specifically begins to give out direct guidance. Moses was a man with whom God met face to face. God has guided many, but this relationship with Moses was special. As Moses led the entire group of Abraham descendants – known as Hebrews, or Israelites, or Jews – through the desert on the way to the promised land of Israel, God spoke to him and gave all sorts of guidance. Moses wrote it all down (or maybe somehow God wrote it all down for Moses). Somehow this all came to be the first five books of the Bible. Here we have the history of humankind, the flood, the patriarchs, and the specific guidance God set up for the Jews.

Let's think a minute. On earth were all sorts of lost people. Tribes, nations, groups. They were living in various ways, lost ways. It would be a horror for any of us to have had to live in those tribes. God decided to clear up the situation, to establish principles, guidelines, laws for the people to get them in shape, moral shape.

So we have all those many rules about how to live, all those penalties for terrible behavior like murdering someone or living in a homosexual relationship which is an abomination to God. All those procedures setting up worship in the temple. And so on. All this came from God through Moses.

You might wonder what the Israelites thought, watching Moses go to his meetings with God, hearing what he brought to them, seeing the presence of God come upon the tent where Moses went to hear. Through this period God protected the Israelites, won battles with them over terrible evil tribes of people that God did not want to touch his people. Are you aware there was the opportunity for the people to have God speak directly to them? He gave them this chance, and there was a meeting with God held between the Israelites and him. They gathered, and they all heard God talk to them. And they were absolutely terrified. They asked – they pleaded – with Moses to handle all that, for him to speak with God and then tell them. They didn't want to get in God's presence again. Imagine. What an opportunity for them all. But they couldn't handle it.

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***Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!***

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Well, we move on through time. We see God's guidance to the Jews as they settle in Israel and centuries go by. Good times and bad times. Eventually God realizes – of course he already knew – that something had to be done to open a way for people to be reconciled to him. So somehow – we surely don't know – he sent his only son to earth in human form, Jesus. And you know the story from here on, how the law had come into the world through Moses but truth and grace came through Jesus Christ. Jesus was God in human form, and through him the human race learned a great deal more about God. Jesus went about teaching and preaching and healing for a very short period and then he took upon himself everything that separated people from God (sickness and disease, pain, iniquities, curses of the law, death, more) and carried all that to the cross, where he achieved victory over all that in the beatings he suffered there and his death and subsequent resurrection. Jesus opened the way to God. He is the way, the only way.

With Jesus we saw more and more the heart of God. Not that he hadn't revealed himself more before. Way back in Exodus he had described himself as compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin, not leaving the guilty unpunished. But now we saw his understanding of how people should live. And we saw that he was not just a rule giver that cracked the whip over people who did not follow the rules. No, he forgave bad behavior whenever people realized their error and asked for his forgiveness! He opened the way for life eternal with him and Jesus.

It is all so amazing. Eventually those of us who believe and follow the Lord and read and pray and study realize that Jesus was and is God. One of the three forms, we like to say – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus as much said so to Philip when he said if you have seen me you have seen the Father.

Notice how Jesus lived. That is our model for life. He did not live as one constricted by rules. He lived with full knowledge of God of course, guided on earth by the Holy Spirit. He had great compassion for people, and at times healed people because of that, like the time he raised a dead son of a mother he saw. He taught about faith and healed people who had that serious true faith. Like healing the woman with the flow of blood or healing others when he said be it done to you according to your faith. We all should know, faith is serious and powerful and real. Faith believes and knows that Jesus conquered death. Faith does not doubt. Faith knows God loves us and will always act in our best interests, realizing he knows those interests far better than we do.

Jesus made decisions and took actions. Others, including the church authorities then (the Pharisees), were shocked and appalled at him. He would not tolerate bad behavior by the religious leaders. Remember when he actively destroyed the operations of the money changers and animal sellers at the temple, boldly criticizing the Pharisees right to their faces? Remember when he called the pharisees white-washed tombs? We have a lot of churches today that operate like that, following their own doctrine and orderly procedures and missing entirely the power and life and love of God in their midst, missing the truths of God.

Remember when he heard Lazarus was sick and he decided to wait a few days before going to see him, by which time Lazarus was dead? Remember when he ate in the homes of sinners, not just the official religious leaders? Look at who he picked for his top staff! Look at how he talked to the woman at the well when convention would have had him not do so.

Jesus was free. He knew the truth and he lived in it. Believers today are free too! Real believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. Not limited by any rules and procedures set up by churches but rather focusing on the truths of God. Believers go forward with freedom, knowing they can speak truth wherever. Believers know that the CHURCH, Jesus' CHURCH, is that body of people called out from the world into a new society that has Jesus as its head. That is what the word CHURCH means. That is what the Greek word for CHURCH – ekklesia - means. A believer may be sitting right now on a hill in Africa or in a board meeting room in NYC or on a boat in the Indian Ocean or in a room like where I am now or anywhere. God's CHURCH. Jesus' CHURCH. The CHURCH.

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To help us operate in true freedom, Jesus taught us basic truths, like how we should always have God at the top of our priority list, and other people a close second. He focused on matters of the heart. He was not form over substance, but the other way around. So many ice cold churches today focus on procedures, their own procedures and doctrines, and do not teach the fullness of Jesus, the gospel, the authority he has for us, the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit fully operational today, the imminent return of Jesus, and more. Ice cold. Jesus would not tolerate that. He said so in the first chapters of Revelation when he described many of the churches of today.

It is for freedom that we have been set free. Paul boldly declared that. It is true. We are free. Don't let institutions or people tied to cold, lost doctrines fence you in. Keep your eyes on the Lord. Especially now you must every moment keep your eyes on Jesus, for he is coming soon.

When the Lord comes, he will take those who truly know him to be with him in his Kingdom, in Heaven. A few years later they will all come back with him when he wins the battle at Armageddon and establishes Kingdom rule on earth from Jerusalem. And what will we do in that Kingdom? We don't know. We do get to go to the marriage supper of the Lamb before we and he come back. We will be rulers with him. Read those first chapters of Revelation to see what he has said awaits those who persevere to the end, who overcome.

I want to emphasize again the truth and grace, the freedom that Jesus has brought us all. We are free in Christ. We are not limited by institutions or anything that seems impossible. If God is calling us to something he will make it happen. God certainly does not lie, as the Bible makes clear. But of course he has free will himself. One time he says he will have mercy on whom he will have mercy. That is his answer as to why he acts one way toward one person and another toward another. God. We know his truths. But we do never know precisely how he will respond to our prayers or requests. He is always surprising me, and I expect that is true for you too.

God knows our hearts. He knows what is best. He hears us praying in our words, and he knows better what we should be praying. Remember, Jesus will do whatever we ask in his name. God will give us whatever we ask in Jesus' name. In Jesus' name! That means lining up with what Jesus and his Father intend for us, what they know best. Remember too Jesus said we can do the same things he did, even greater! So few realize that or act like that. In all those we have healed in his name, we were doing just that.

We live in a time when a great number of the visible leaders in government, media, business, education, and other areas have lost their way. Apparently they do not know God - Father, son Jesus, the Holy Spirit - and are godless people. Their actions often are irrational, evil, nonsensical, bizarre, and dangerous to the functioning of a good, safe, godly society. And that is where we are in time. But you, ah, you know who you are in Christ. You are free in the Lord, free to go forward and act in line with his truths and grace. It is sometimes indeed lonely when you may realize you have no one around to talk to about the wonders of the Lord and your faith and what is coming soon. But of course you do have Jesus. You have the Holy Spirit; when he left earth, Jesus asked the Father and God sent believers the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not leave us alone.

Soon we will be joining Jesus and his father. Keep your eyes on Jesus at all times. Don't let today's pharisees limit what you do. Beware of today's foxes, like Herod. Stay true to your calling. Do not let yourself be distracted. Take all thoughts captive to the Lord Jesus Christ. Exercise your authority in Christ to cast out evil spirits wherever you encounter them, to heal the sick, to do all that you are led to. And ask the Holy Spirit daily to arrange all encounters he would have you have. Represent Jesus everywhere you are. Acknowledge him in all situations. Be the good Samaritan to anyone you encounter, and all that entails.

And watch, as Jesus warned. Watch.

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**NEVER FORGET THE GREAT TRUTH OF OUR TIME:** Everything is secondary right now to the fact that Jesus is coming soon and that to be in the Kingdom, to go with him, you must be a true believer in him. You must be born anew. Jesus must be your Lord. (For more guidance on what it takes to be in the Kingdom, read our October 2021 newsletter, see Chapter 11 in our book **WAKE UP AMERICA!**, or watch our two television programs titled “Getting into Heaven” on our website and YOUTUBE.

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***May you live in the blessings of God always.***

**John**

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