



Wednesday nights
Country Bible Church
God Who Cannot Change

Lesson Schedule:

- February 19 — Introductory Lesson
Feb 26 — ~~Welcome to the Weight of Majesty (video)~~
March 4 — ~~Knowing the God Who is Incomprehensible (video)~~
Mar 11 — ~~Discussion and Review — some teaching~~
August 5 — ~~Introductory Lesson (redone – same lesson as February 19)~~
August 12 — Knowing the God Who Cannot Change (video)
Aug 19 — Knowing the God Who is Infinite & Eternal (video)
Aug 26 — Knowing the God Who is Everywhere (video)
September 2 — Knowing the God Who is Almighty (video)
Sept 9 — Discussion and Review – some teaching
Sept 16 — Knowing the God Who is Knows All (video)
Sept 23 — Knowing the God Who is Rules All (video)
Sept. 30 — Knowing the God Who is Holy (video)
October 7 — Knowing the God Who of Wrath (video)
Oct 14 — Discussion and Review – some teaching
Oct 21 — Knowing the God Who is Good (video)
Oct 28 — Knowing the God Who is Love (video)
November 4 — Knowing the God Who is Patient and Zealous (video)
Nov 11 — Make up day

“The world becomes a strange, mad, painful place, and life in it a disappointing and unpleasant business, for those who do not know about God.”¹

Jeremiah 9:23–24

Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”

¹ J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 19

NOTES FROM THE VIDEO²

Biographical sketch – John Knox (10 ½ minutes)

Teaching

God's Immutability – the fact that God alone is subject to no change in the manner of His being, His perfections, His thoughts, His desires, His purposes, or His determinations. God has no capacity for change or alteration or modification or adjustment. God can never be amended or adapted or revised by anyone in His creation. He will always continue to be exactly what He has always been.

If this were true of us... it would be a character flaw – we would be stuck. This would bring us despair.

But since this is true of God, it fills us with hope. It means the believer can get up today and study the God who is.

This is not a God who was or will be – but about our Lord who does not change.

Psalm 102:1–2 (NASB95)

¹Hear my prayer, O LORD! And let my cry for help come to You.

²Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress; Incline Your ear to me; In the day when I call answer me quickly.

This is a man in the grip of something that creates a desperate earnestness in his soul.

What is it?

- The condition of God's people (setting – after the Babylonian exile – God's discipline)
 - Capital city – in ruins; the Temple is destroyed
 - This is not just a national issue
 - This is also a religious issue
 - Contemporary examples
 - Missionary coming home – seeing spiritual decline
 - An adult going back to home church – seeing the church dying
 - This moves the Psalmists to please... “God, you must hear this prayer!”
- The Psalmist's awareness of the character of God
 - Because we believe what God says about Himself, that we are no longer able to be happy with the spiritual status quo
 - Psalm 77:1–3 (NASB95)

² Media Gratiae, *Behold Your God: The Weight of Majesty*, Week 2 – “Knowing the God Who Cannot Change”

- Psalm 102:25–27 (NASB95)
 - Why does this “bother” the Psalmist?
 - How could a man/woman who believe these things to be true of God, and remembered the promises God had made to Abraham/Isaac/Jacob/David/prophets, and then see the ruins of Jerusalem and the moral decline of God’s people and not cry out to God and wrestle with God and ask him for a solution to the problem?
 - He has to plead!
 - It is a spiritual fact that it is an unbeliever (not a believer) who walks into a church and sees evidence of terrible spiritual drift and goes home unaffected. But the believer cries out.
- One response of the Psalmist – Grief
 - The grief is laid out in verses 3-11 (Psalm 102)
 - Because of the decline of God’s people, and the immutable character of God
 - This is a good test of our faith and our love for the church!
 - Do you grieve like this man for the state of the church?
 - Do you feel the weight of the sin in the church?
 - And does that collide with the reality of God’s unchangeableness and unchangeable purposes?
 - God has purposed to give His son a bride that is clean
 - God has purposed to give His son a kingdom that is made up of people that are gathered from every corner of the globe
 - God has purposed to make every single Christian like Jesus Christ in the end
 - Look around... does this look like it’s happening?
 - If God’s great purposes are immutable (and can’t be adapted/changed/altered), then there is a contradiction between what we are seeing and what we are believing about God that drives us to cry out
- Another response of the Psalmist – Hope
 - There is hope!
 - In verse 12, the tone shifts
 - Psalm 102:12 (NASB95)
¹²But You, O LORD, abide forever, And Your name to all generations.
 - God is judging His people, yet the unchangeable God is the hope of His people
 - See verses 23-27 (a contrast between man and God)
 - “But you...” (v. 27)
 - God will outlast creation and in the new creation He will be no different than He is now
 - Where do you go when you tire of man’s fickle allegiance to God?
 - We don’t go to humanity!
 - The immutability of God drives us to the one big Being who doesn’t shift

- And all our hope is in Him
- What does we ask the Immutable God to do when things are this bad?
 - The great focus of his prayer is in verses 13-22
 - That's a prayer worth pleading!
 - Is this how you plead?
 - Or, to only relieve us of the consequences of our sins?
 - Or, better, as the Psalmist does here?
 - Pray God works His grace in us and for generations to come!
 - Don't just rescue US, but do something great that can be reported for generations. Not just in the church, but will spread in all the land
 - When did such a thing last occur in your church?
- Another response of the Psalmist – to see God glorified
 - The effect of the immutability on the Psalmist is that he wanted to see God receive glory from generation to generation
 - This is a particularly sweet passage
 - We have more to work with than this Psalmist
 - Book of Hebrews – tempted to leave Christ
 - One of the cures – picture after picture of the Supremacy of Christ
 - One of those pictures = Psalm 102
 - God created all things and will one day bring one thing to an end, but Jesus Christ will endure forever and never be altered
 - We take confidence that Jesus will not leave us alone and will close the gap between what we know to be true and what is happening in the church is closed
 - So, we come to God and plead to Him and give Him no rest until the weight of His glory starts to be made visible in His people.

Interviews