



Wednesday nights
Country Bible Church
God Who is Everywhere

Lesson Schedule:

- August 5 — Introductory Lesson (Also done on February 19)
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 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 – Hudson Taylor (8 minutes)

Some quotes from Hudson Taylor (from the video biographical sketch):

- “If we are obeying the Lord, the responsibility rests with Him and not with us.”
- “I have not known what anxiety is, since the Lord taught me that the work is His.”
- “My great business in life is to please God. Walking with Him in the light, I never feel a burden.”
- “It is easy to say, ‘I give up all for God’. Yet there are times that God teaches us how terribly comprehensive is that little word, ‘all’.”
- “I cannot conceive how we shall be helped. Though I fully expect that we shall be. The Lord cannot and will not fail us.”
- “It is not great faith you need, but faith in a great God.”

Teaching

Where does God live? (where is He located right now?)

- “God dwells in throughout the known universe and the uninhabited regions of immensity.” Timothy Dwight
- Jeremiah 23:24

God is in all places at once.

He never travels. He fills all of creation. He cannot be contained. He cannot be excluded. God is not limited by distance.

He is not an impersonal force, but personal – observing, guiding, comforting, ruling, comforting, judging.

He is our one unchanging environment.

See Acts 17:28

This demands more than agreement. This will affect how you live.

Can the nearness of God be a reality that the church can experience today?

AND, is it possible for God to be nearer at times than at other times.

² Media Gratiae, *Behold Your God: The Weight of Majesty*, Video 4 – “Knowing the God Who is Everywhere”

Consider the “**covenanted presence of God**” (as opposed to the essential presence of God, that He is everywhere)

- This is based on fulfilled conditions of the covenant by Jesus Christ
 - o He has removed the offense between us and God
 - o He has also provided a perfect righteousness for His people
- It is a mediated presence
 - o We enjoy the experience of the nearness of God unlike the world could not
 - o It is God near us through the mediated work of the Son
 - o Because of this, it is a life giving event
- It is experiential, not positional
 - o It is relational
- It can fluctuate

Christianity – God for us, God in us, God with us

- God for us and in us does not fluctuate
- God with us (intimacy) can fluctuate
- Our position with God is unalterable
- The enjoyment of that relationship (intimacy/nearness) fluctuates
- Consider Hosea 5:15 – “I will go away... until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.”
- Consider Isaiah 63:11 – “...they asked, ‘where is He?’.”
- Consider Revelation 3:19 – “...I will come into Him and eat with him...”
- Consider James 4:8 – “draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

The “conditionality” of these promises (what conditions are there?):

- Amos 3:2 – must have agreement (God will not follow us or be adjusted by us)
 - o We must be following God or adjust your life to fit God
 - o When we stop this, we part ways with Go
- 1 John 1:5 – you must come into the light (abiding in the light)
 - o This is based on who God is – He is light; He exists in a pure place
 - o He does not leave purity to dive into impurity
 - o 1 John 1:9 – cleansing and restoration comes with confession of sin
- Isaiah 57:15 – must be contrite/lowly in spirit
 - o God draws near to those who are lowly and contrite
 - o There’s only room for one King!
 - o If you humble yourself, the most High will draw near to you!
- James 4:4, 5 – must not be a life “full of other lovers”

Wait... why do these condition exist for Christians who are in a covenant of grace?

That is, if God is love and He is gracious, why would He sometimes be near and other times far away?

- These conditions are not earned! Don’t forget this! You can’t earn His intimacy and presence no matter how obedient you are
- These conditions are not a test of how serious you are in your faith

- The condition is clearly based on the character of God
 - o What kind of person God is determines where He lives and who He lives near
 - o Recall the verses above (Isaiah 57:15 – God is the High and Holy One; 1 John 1:5 – God is light and lives in the light)
- The condition is based on nature of a Christian’s relationship with God
 - o Recall the verses above (Revelation 3:19 – God is a loving Savior that disciplines those that drift; James 4 – God is “jealously yearning” for His people)
- If we ignore who God is, or the nature of our relationship with Him, we will have a “fictional relationship” with Him and God will not draw near to us (this is important!)

What practical value does this have for us today?

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

- Corinthian church – thought obedience and holiness were optional (oh, no!!)
 - o Grace causes a believer to HOLD HIGH obedience and holiness
- Paul handles this by:
 - o 5 absurdities (crazy, right?!)
 - These are loving warnings given by Paul (loving!) – showing them how they can have the most of the best
 - When you read commands like in this passage... do you think you’re being treated cruelly?
 - OR, do you realize that this is love – written for your benefit?
 - A spiritual yoke – don’t harness yourself to your old life!
 - When we link ourselves to selfish actions of our culture, we are yoked “unequally”
 - We are going back to a life before Christ
 - o The five absurdities (to help us feel how foolish this is)
 - What fellowship has Christ with lawlessness?
 - Lawlessness = a law unto themselves
 - A Christian = fundamentally different – we have God’s law written on our heart
 - We have a yearning to obey
 - What fellowship has Christ with darkness
 - Light and darkness cannot mix
 - It’s either light or darkness
 - What fellowship has Christ with Belial
 - Belial = Satan
 - Two different (completely!) rulers
 - Christ won’t “cuddle up” with Satan and reach some sort of agreement

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- What portion do believers have in common with unbelievers
 - There are two different parents (God and Satan)
 - Two different inheritances
 - Satan gives death; God gives life
 - Satan brings guilt; God brings justification
 - Satan gives emptiness; God gives fullness
 - What agreement does the Temple (the Holy of Holies) have with idols
 - Super offensive if we brought idols into the Holy of Holies!
 - That's the agreement, here are the enticements:
 - Identity – we are the Temple of the living God
 - Promises
 - “I will dwell with you”
 - “I will walk with you”
 - “I will be your God”
 - “You will be my people”
 - Call – come out and be separate (with further promises)
 - “I will welcome you”
 - “I will be a father to you”
 - “You will be sons and daughters to me”
 - Point: Christ freed you, yet you are in danger of captivity... you are toying with sin...
 - do you want to be exiled from God?
 - do you want to lose the nearness of God?
 - do you want to be like Israel – far from the Lord
 - do you want to be under the tyranny of your old masters?
 - Run to Christ... don't look back!!!!
 - Conclusion – 2 Corinthians 7:1 – clean up!
 - What is happening outside of you that is polluting you? Get rid of it!
 - What about what is happening inside of you – your heart? Deal with that too!
 - How?????
 - In the fear of the Lord – with the awareness of the immense worth of God; with reverence for Him filling your soul

You can have the covenanted presence of God!
 Take seriously who He is and your relationship with Him.
 Run from the old life to God (again and again!!!)

Interviews