



Wednesday nights
Country Bible Church
God Who is Almighty

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 – Ann Judson (8 minutes)

Teaching

Genesis 17:1-2

All of the covenant hopes (promises God gave) were built on the promises of a God who is all-powerful.

Abraham (age 99) believed – even though it was just “words” at that time.

All God is “Almighty” or “Omnipotent” (He possess all power).

Definition: The power of God is the ability and strength whereby He can bring to pass whatever He pleases.

God’s power is infinite, eternal, incomprehensible.

It cannot be checked, restrained, nor frustrated by us mere humans (or anything in all of creation).

We are faced with a decision ----- will we have a life of faith or doubt in response to God’s character as Almighty/All-Powerful??

Faith = seeing what God reveals to be true and then giving Him a whole-hearted response.

Doubt = can look a lot like faith (may have religious language) – in practical daily choices, the Christian lives as though God is NOT how He has described Himself.

Two ways (paths) to live: faith and doubt

- Both paths are “religious”
- Both paths are full of people who “believe that God is Almighty” but there is a distinction between those who truly believe that God is Almighty and those who don’t

The way of doubt

Matthew 22:23-33 (“you know neither the Scriptures, nor the power of God)

- The real problem... they don’t understand God (specifically the power of God)
- This was a “willful ignorance” (may that not be us!!) – they denied the Scriptures
- This was a “practical ignorance” – they would have disagreed with Jesus – with their lips they would have said that God was Almighty, but their lives (attitudes/actions/motives) would have denied this

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

- Some examples on how we might do this:
 - Your salvation – you feel the weight of your sin (long lasting, hurting others, deep regrets) and so you wonder if He fully accepts you or could use you
 - Your sin – I’ve sinned so often, so deeply... I don’t know if He could really save me (so I doubt all the time)
 - Evangelism – sharing Christ with loved ones... and they continue to reject and are bored to this... so far from God... I begin to think they are too far from God
 - Your understanding of what is a Christian – when someone is born again... can they live their lives backslidden and still be saved? (this assumes that God’s power is incapable of changing them, and therefore they can live far from Him and still be a Christian)
 - Another on “what is a Christian” – does salvation really change people (new life with new affections and new desires and new behaviors)? Does there have to be fruit? (this assumes, again, that God’s power cannot do the “impossible” of truly changing people with a new life)
 - What about church outreach programs? Should we adjust the church methods to reflect the world so we can be more effective? (this assumes that God needs our help to reach unbelievers)
- 2 Timothy 3:1-6
 - “Perilous times” – certainly this can swirl around us... but the list is how this swirls inside of people
 - The last “vice” on the list = denying the power of godliness (sourced in God’s power)
 - These people had a “form of” Christianity – but a fundamental problem (perhaps at the root of all those other bad things mentioned) – a denial of the power of Christ
 - Good point – not one of the listed sins in this passage can live PEACEFULLY (that is, without your conscience bothering you) along with a life of form and substance (that is, with the power of Christ abiding – and being trusted in)
 - Ask yourself:
 - Do you have the “form” of Christianity (outer expressions):
 - Gathering with other believers
 - Read your bible
 - Christian beliefs
 - Lord’s Supper
 - Baptism
 - Morality – following Christ in what you do and don’t do
 - BUT... do you also have the “power” of godliness
 - Is there a life-altering quality you experience when you come into contact with the God of the Bible
 - God’s Word is a hammer and fire
 - God breaking through in your life... old sins, cold heartedness healed and changed?

- When you pray and sing – do you find these effective to warm your heart to God
- We need to be careful... other powers are at work
 - Like pride
 - Do you have only enough power to make outward changes, but not be changed within?
 - Do you have only enough power for public duties but not enough to motivate you to private devotions
 - Faithful to come to a church event and pray there, but not too much on my home?
 - Do I talk about Jesus at church, but not so much away from church?
 - Do you only have enough power to deal with embarrassing sins, but not enough for “acceptable sins”?
 - Spiritual pride has polished up people, but only the power of God remakes people

The Way of Faith

Christianity should reflect God.

It should reflect the power of God.

Consider Paul the apostle – who read about God’s power AND believed in it.

The “power of God” is at the heart of how Paul lives.

Three examples:

- Paul was freed from the temptation to be clever or manipulative to people when he talked with them about God (as if, God needed his help)
 - This is because He believed in the power of God
 - 1 Corinthians 1:17-18
 - “Christ sent me to preach, but not in a manipulative way because the gospel is the power of God... I don’t have to do that work”
 - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
 - This is freeing!!!
 - Are you as convinced of this as Paul was?
 - Do we witness?
 - Do you tell people of the simple truths of the glorious work of Jesus?
 - You may know you are weak... but you know the Almighty uses His people to bring people to Him.
- Paul was able to spot false teachers
 - False teachers come quoting Jesus – so they are hard to spot
 - One way to spot a false teacher – the false teacher will not have power
 - 1 Corinthians 4:19-20

- Paul knows that a false teacher does not represent the Almighty God, so his words will not change people
- Paul's grasp of the power of God affects all of his expectations of a Christian
 - What do you expect of a professing Christian?
 - Are these large expectations?
 - Do you expect to see some change/transformation?
 - Colossians 1:9-10
 - Paul's prayer reveals His expectation – a life rescued by God and transformed by Him
 - See also Ephesians 1:19; Colossians 1:10-11

Good news – it is not our job to make God powerful! This is who He is and who He always will be.

You've been brought near Him.

Your job is to get the dust and cloudiness out of your eyes.

Please with Him, "Lord, open my eyes... help me to rest in and trust in your power."

Interviews