

# MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT GOD

**INTRODUCTION:** Many try to make the character of God conform to their likes and dislikes. They assume that He feels like they do. They believe that whatever seems right to them must be right in the sight of God. This concept has produced many false ideas concerning the nature and character of God. (Isa. 56:8,9; Lk. 16:16)

It may be that we have allowed some of these false ideas to give us a corrupt concept of the true and living God. Let us make sure that our thoughts and ideas about God are founded upon the truth of His word. Our concept of God is the most important concept we possess. "What a man thinks in his heart of God is the turning-point of life and character." (*Pulpit Commentary, Vol. 8, p. 387*)

Many mistakenly think that God:

## I. IS A RACIAL GOD

- A. Some think of God as being white, black, red, etc.
- B. God does not possess any color
  - 1. "God is Spirit" (Jn. 4:24)
  - 2. He does not possess flesh and bones (Lk. 24:39)
- C. There is a translation that refers to God as "She" instead of "He"
- D. He does not possess any racial prejudice (Acts 10:34,35; Rom. 2:11)
- E. He is the Creator of every person (Gen. 1:26,27; Acts 17:24-28)
- F. He loves all and desires their souls' salvation (Jn. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:3,4)
  - 1. To be like God, we must not show respect of persons (Jas. 2:1-10)
  - 2. Jonah was angry because God didn't destroy the Assyrians (Jonah 3:10-4:3)

## II. IS DEAD

- A. Since "God is Spirit", He is not subject to death (Jn. 4:24)
- B. God is eternal for He is "from everlasting to everlasting" (Psa. 90:2)
- C. Jesus put on a body of flesh so He could die on a cross (Phil. 2:6-8)
  - 1. Mary gave birth to Jesus so He could be incarnate (Matt 1:23)
  - 2. The word "incarnate" means "endowed with a human body" (*Webster's New World Dictionary*)
- D. God is not dead! He is not even sick!

## III. GROWING OLD AND FEEBLE

- A. Since God is eternal, He does not grow old and feeble!
  - 1. God is timeless (2 Pet 3:8)
  - 2. He doesn't have birthdays for He was never born
- B. The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary." (Isa. 40:28)
- C. "He rested on the seventh day from all His work" because He had ceased His work of creation (Gen. 2:1-3)
- D. It is very irreverent to refer to the Almighty God as "the old man upstairs"!

## IV. FORGETS HIS PROMISES (2 Pet. 3:1-7)

- A. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise..." (2 Pet. 3:8,9)
  - 1. "He who promised is faithful" (Heb. 10:23)
  - 2. Joshua said God had kept all His promises to Israel (Josh. 23:14,16)
- B. We may fail to keep our promises because:
  - 1. We have made promises beyond our ability to keep as politicians do

2. Circumstances may change making it impossible for us to keep them
  3. We may decide it is too much effort, or expense, to keep them
  4. We forgot our promises
- C. God's promises are not affected by any of these things; therefore, we can stand upon His promises

#### V. CAN LIE

- A. "...in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began" (Titus 1:2)
- B. God cannot lie for it is contrary to His holy nature
  1. God hates lying! (Prov. 6:16-19)
  2. "God is not a man, that He should lie" (Num. 23:19)
- C. Since God cannot lie, His word is truth (Jn. 17:17)
- D. Lying has become a way of life with many (Psa. 116:11; 2 Tim. 3:13)
- E. If we are guilty of lying, we must repent! (Rev. 21:8)

#### VI. CAN BE DECEIVED

- A. God cannot be deceived! (Gal. 6:7)
- B. God knows and sees everything (Prov. 16:3; Heb. 4:13)
- C. We can be deceived (1 Cor. 15:33; Gal. 6:3; Jas. 1:26)
  1. If we believe we can deceive God, we are deceived
  2. Achan could not hide his sin from God and neither can we (Josh. 7)
  3. If we are pretending to be a faithful Christian, God knows it
- D. "For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is evil." (Eccl. 12:14)

#### VII. CAN BE BRIBED

- A. Since God is "a just God", He cannot be bribed (Isa. 46:21; Rev. 16:3)
- B. God asked the wicked Jews, who had rebelled against Him, "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?" (Isa. 1:11)
  1. He despised their sacrifices, worship services, and prayers (Isa. 1:11-16)
  2. To please Him, they must "cease to do evil" (Isa. 1:16,17)
- C. Justice has often been perverted by the taking of bribes (Amos 6:12)
  1. The prophet, Samuel, didn't take bribes, but his sons did (1 Sam. 8:3; 12:3)
  2. We must prove the saying, "Everyone has their price", to be false!
- D. God will not overlook our sins because we:
  1. Often come to worship services
  2. Do some good deeds
  3. Give liberally into the treasury of His church
- E. To receive God's forgiveness, one must repent (cease to do evil) and confess his sins to God with a "broken and contrite heart" (Acts 17:30; 1 Jn. 1:9; Psa. 61:17)

**CONCLUSION:** Are you prepared to stand before the just and holy God in the judgment? You are not if you have not been baptized for the remission of your sins. (Acts 2:38)