

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT GOD [3]

INTRODUCTION: Idols are man's vain attempt to make their gods conform to their way of thinking. Idolaters ascribed to their imaginary gods nature and powers. Idolaters made their gods in their own Image by attributing their own sinful ways to them, such as: lying, adultery, murder, jealousy, greed, etc. "The Greeks made their gods in their own image... He {Zeus drh} is represented as falling in love with one woman after another and descending to all manner of tricks to hide his infidelity from his wife." (*Mythology, by Edith Hamilton, pp. 16, 27*) They often offered human sacrifices in order to obtain the favor of their gods.

While we do not worship material idols, our concept of God may be just as distorted as theirs. We must be sure that our beliefs about our Creator are based upon His holy word. (Review first two sermons.)

Many foolishly believe that God:

I. DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THEIR SECRET SINS

A. They mistakenly think, that since they have successfully hidden their wickedness from men, they have hidden their sins from God

1. Achan hid his theft from men, but not God (Josh. 7:11)

2. God knew that Ananias and Sapphira lied (Acts 5:3,4)

B. God sees everything (Prov. 15:3; Heb. 4:13)

C. God can see as well in the darkness as in the light (Psa. 139:7-12; Jn. 3:19)

D. He even knows what you are thinking (Psa. 94:11; Matt. 9:4)

E. "*For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing...*". (Eccl. 12:14)

II. WILL FORGET ABOUT THEIR SINS (PSA. 10:3-4,11)

A. The passing of time often causes us to forget things, such as: names, places, dates, things we have said or done that were wrong, etc.

B. It has been said that there are two things which prove you are getting old: The first one is, you lose your memory; the second one is, "I can't remember it"

C. Many have forgotten God! (Psa. 60:22)

1. Many are like the Gentiles of old who "*did not like to retain God in their knowledge*" (Rom. 1:28)

2. The Jews were warned, "*Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God...*" (Deut. 8:11-20)

3. They did forget God (Judg. 3:7; Jer. 2:32; 3:21)

D. Forgetting God shows great ingratitude for His love and blessings (Jn. 3:16)

E. Forgetting to worship God is fatal to our soul's eternal life! (Psa. 9:17)

F. Is your memory of God fading?

G. Do you think God will forget your sins?

H. God will not forget any of our sins unless we meet His conditions of forgiveness! (Psa. 50:21; Heb. 8:12)

III. WILL ALLOW ONE TO DISOBEY HIM IF IT MAKES ONE HAPPY

- A. Some foolishly reason, "Since God wants me to be happy, I can disregard His laws which keep me from enjoying this life."
 - 1. Some think this way when they want to remarry, but don't have scriptural grounds for remarriage – Wrong! (Matt. 19:9)
 - 2. Some think that God doesn't care if they find pleasure in sexually provocative movies, books, TV programs, parties, etc. – Wrong! (Matt. 6:8, 27-28; 1 Pet 1: 15-16)
- B. Those, who attempt to justify their sins by this faulty reasoning, will not repent of their sins; therefore, they are doomed to eternal torment! (2 Thess. 1:7-9)

IV. APPROVES OF ALL DENOMINATIONS AND ACCEPTS ALL WORSHIP

- A. Many thank God for establishing so many different denominations so one may choose the church of their choice
 - 1. They believe that one church is as good as another so it doesn't matter which one you choose to become a member
 - 2. They believe that there are saved people in all churches for all churches are leading people to heaven
- B. Where is the Scripture upon which this belief is founded?
- C. The Bible clearly teaches that God does not approve of denominationalism which is religious division
 - 1. Jesus said, "*I will build My church*" and "*there will be one flock and one shepherd*" (Matt. 16:18; Jn. 10:16)
 - 2. Jesus prayed for unity among His followers (Jn. 17:20-23)
 - 3. Religious division is condemned by God (1 Cor. 1:10-13)
 - 4. All Christians should be united in one body and have one faith (Eph. 4:4-5)
- D. God strongly disapproves of denominational churches because: these churches were built by men; they teach false doctrines; they offer vain worship; and they lead people into a false sense of security about the salvation of their souls! (Matt. 16:7-9,13-14)
- E. Wouldn't it be wonderful, as God desires it to be, if all who claimed to believe in Jesus as the Son of God: were united in the Lord's church; possessed one faith; had one heart; and fervently loved the Lord and one another?

CONCLUSION: The Bible gives an accurate description of our Creator and Redeemer. Get to genuinely know Him. Don't make the serious mistake of making up your mind what God is like without first reading about Him in the Bible! God will not change for He is perfect (Matt 6:48) A true knowledge of God should cause us to fear, reverence, love, and obey Him. Do you feel this way about the Most High God?

~ Don Hastings ~