

God and You

Second Corinthians 6.18

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • September 15, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2024

Scripture Reader and Reading: Scott Henshall – Isaiah 49.13–16

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – Songs on God

Prelude:

I. There is something very special that God wants with you.

- A. Listen to this as though spoken to you, for surely
- B. it was meant for you!

**18 “I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the LORD Almighty.”**

– 2 Corinthians 6.18

II. Let us think about this One who wants to be your Father.

Persuasion:

I. Does God Exist?

- A. Consider an idea on God's existence that is not often used.
 - 1. Most arguments use science or logic or both.
 - 2. The one I propose may use both, but in a secondary sense.
- B. We know God exists because beauty exists:

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time.

– Ecclesiastes 3.11

- 1. Do you agree that all of nature is beautiful in its time?
- 2. How did it get that beauty?
 - a) Do you think it happened by accident, or
 - b) do you see an Artist at work?

C. Even as a tear is more than

1. salt, carbon, and water, but
2. is sadness, sorrow, or love,
 - a) so, beauty in nature is more than
 - b) laws, objects, and scientific explanations.
3. Beauty in nature appeals to the heart.
 - a) What does the beauty tell your heart?
 - b) Does it say that it came from an explosion or from an Artist?

D. Consider the rose.

1. Its
 - a) symmetrical shape,
 - b) bold colors, and
 - c) pleasing aroma say something.
2. Does it not say that its Maker loves beauty?
 - a) Are there only natural and scientific explanations for such beauty?
 - b) A few items of beauty might be an accident, but a whole universe?
 - (1) Beauty is no accident.
 - (2) Try to paint something beautiful or write a beautiful song?
 - (a) You will soon discover
 - (b) that beauty is no accident.
 - i) Beauty comes from a master artist.

E. Beauty is the extras in life.

1. God made what was needed for life.
2. Then he threw in countless extras!

**1 The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork.**

– Psalm 19.1

Likewise:

**The flowers declare the glory of God;
And the forest shows His handiwork.**

F. Artwork requires an Artist.

II. What Is God Like?

A. His appearance is gloriously beautiful:

27 Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around.

– Ezekiel 1.27

B. His nature is gloriously holy:

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. 2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one cried to another and said:

**“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
The whole earth is full of His glory!”**

4 And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

– Isaiah 6.1–4

C. Here is the best way to know what God is like:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were

made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

– John 1.1–3, 14, 18

1. What this reveals to us is
2. you can know what God is like by looking to Jesus.

D. He is our Father.

III. Can I Know God?

- A. Would an artist create so that you would not notice?
 1. If the artist is kind and knows what you admire in beauty,
 2. would such an artist remain silent?
- B. God created artwork to get our attention.
 1. Then he communicated to us in a clear message.
 2. That is what the Bible is.
- C. He gave us
 1. his work in nature, and
 2. his word in the Bible
 - a) so that we can know him.
 - b) Therefore, it is more of a question do I want to know him?
- D. Perhaps he seems distant to you because you cannot see him, but
 1. when you contemplate his works in creation and
 2. when you meditate in his words in the Bible,

- a) you will discover that not only does he exist, but
- b) that you can know him.

IV. Does God Know Me?

A. I know him because

- 1. he is one, but
- 2. does he know me,
 - a) who am I,
 - b) one among eight billion?

B. Here is the way that I look at it.

- 1. What was involved
 - a) in creating the universe
 - b) with all things working intricately with one another?
- 2. What is involved
 - a) in coordinating all the details
 - b) of the universe and the earth right now?

C. The simultaneous details with which God is able to work stuns me.

- 1. Can he then know me
 - a) among the hundreds of millions
 - b) who live on the earth?
- 2. Yes, and he even knows me
 - a) in ways that show
 - b) just how intimate he knows me:

7 “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered...”

– Luke 12.7

1 O LORD, You have searched me and known me.

2 **You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.**

3 **You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.**

4 **For there is not a word on my tongue,
But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.**

15 **My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ...**

16 **Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.**

– Psalm 139.1–4, 15–16

V. Is God Involved in My Life?

A. If everything I have shown you today is true, and

1. I believe it is,
2. then the question becomes:
 - a) How can he from his perspective,
 - b) not be involved in my life?

B. He has been involved even before I knew him:

17 “Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

– Acts 14.17

23 “And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.”

– Daniel 5.23

4 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

**5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
Before you were born I sanctified you;
I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”**

– Jeremiah 1.4–5

Exhortation:

I. He wants you involved in his life!

A. Think again on the first passage I read to you today:

**18 “I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the LORD Almighty.”**

– 2 Corinthians 6.18

B. This is what I call, The Family Promise of God.

1. It is spread throughout the entire Bible.
2. It says that God wants you in his family.

II. Revelation 21,

A. which gives a little glimpse of heaven,

B. uses this Family Promise of God,

1. showing just how wonderful heaven will be:

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

– Revelation 21.3

2. Dwell upon every clause of that sentence:

- a) The tabernacle of God is with men,
- b) He will dwell with them,
- c) they shall be His people.

3. And it continues:

- a) God Himself will be with them and
- b) be their God.

III. However, sin will keep a person out.