

## THE REALNESS OF GOD

### Ephesians 1:3

**Introduction:** As you read the letter to the Ephesians, you move into a different world, for here where we are we live in a secular, materialistic world, increasingly finding no place for God in one's life, work or play.

Paul introduces us to a world beginning with God and closes with God. (*Ephesians 6:23*). Our world says "we do not need God" and we have no place for faith, the Sermon on the Mount, the Golden Rule. Enough, already! God is unnecessary.

Morality, ethics, righteousness, goodness are always the same and are grounded in God and God never changes. Science and Faith contradict for all science can do is observe and write down what it sees, for example, the law of gravity, see it, write it down, can't explain it. The moon has an effect on earth, the ocean tides, the surfs, can't explain it, only observe it and write it down. Water expands when heated, turns to steam, but cool it and it contracts, freeze it and it expands again. Why? Explain it? Can only observe and write it down.

Where are all the answers? Why are we born? What is our purpose in life? What is the meaning to existence? Where did everything come from? The world says "here is reality and points to a rock, the stars, but Faith does not do that.

Faith is more powerful than any "reality." Leave God out and the world would be different. Paul introduces us to another world. There are really TWO worlds in a sense.

### I. HOW CAN I BLESS GOD? (*Hebrews 7:7*)

1. God is great beyond our ability to grasp and we are small beyond our wish to acknowledge. So how does anyone as small as we are compared to God, bless God?
  - God blesses us with wealth, etc. but how do/can we bless God?
  - Nothing can be added to God. (*Psalms 50:10, 12*) So how can anyone bless God?
2. We can bless God in three ways:
  - We can bless God by praise and prayer. (*Psalms 103:1-4*)
    - We can praise God in thanksgiving and gratitude.
    - We can praise God by remembering His gracious hand in our lives.
  - We can bless God by "love" (*philos*). (*Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 22:37*)
    - We know about brotherly love, that's the kind of love we express to and for one another.
    - We can bless God by loving Him with all our HUMAN love.
      - God is so great, yet He is still our "heavenly" FATHER.
  - We can bless God by serving God's people. (*Matthew 25:40*)
    - We bless God by our service, ministry and compassion to His Children, His Family, loving those Jesus died for, our brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus.

### II. WE ARE BLESSED BY GOD, THE FATHER, THROUGH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

1. What is the "Father" like? Moses saw God, Saul saw God, Jesus said "*...to see Me is to see the Father...*"
  - Jesus and God are two, yet they are one and this we cannot understand.

2. The Bible speaks of three: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit and they know each other.
  - Jesus trusted God, prayed to the Father, sang to the Father, cried out on the cross, "**...my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?**" Also from the cross Jesus committed His Spirit into the hands of the Father and later ascended back to His Father.
3. Once people argued over the humanity of Jesus, later, today people argue over Jesus' deity. Thomas declared "**...my Lord and my God...**" Some so called "Christian faiths" have a problem with the deity of Jesus.
4. Who are we looking for? God! Who shall make all things new? God!

### **III. ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS ARE IN JESUS CHRIST**

1. Blessings are not only in some far off future time, but are right NOW.
  - We are rich NOW. We are encouraged NOW. There is not reason to be discouraged, blue or pessimistic.
  - A little girl noticed a cross on top of a church for the first time and remarked, "look at the big plus." The cross is indeed a "plus" sign.
2. In Jesus Christ God has given us riches.
  - It is better to sit at the Lord's table than at any man's feast.
  - We are richer as heirs to God than to any human heir.
  - All answers are in Jesus Christ. (**1 Corinthians 13:8-12**)
  - All human things are fuzzy, unclear and uncertain.
  - It is in Jesus Christ where all answers are found.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Our Christian lives ought to display the blessings of God.
2. When we suffer, are sick, in agony, we need to be up and singing.
  - Remember the Christian martyrs, how so many of them suffered and died feeling no pain?
  - Remember Paul and Silas, beaten thrown in jail but were up at midnight singing praises.
  - That's what it is to be in Jesus Christ
3. We can bless God by living as best we can like His Son, Jesus Christ.