

## WHO IS "GOD" TO YOU?

**Romans 1:21-28**

**Psalms 9:10**

**Introduction:** Before all life, space and time there is God. God is the source of all morality and goodness. Most people say they "believe" in God but without a pure heart and a surrendered mind and soul, no person can ever know God. It is absolutely, critically necessary that God be known, for mankind came from Him. As long as man trusted God, all was well but when Satan came along and caused man to question God, every person since then has been born separated from God.

### I. THOSE WHO KNOW WHAT KIND OF GOD GOD IS, WILL TRUST HIM

1. If one does not know what kind of God God is, then one can't trust Him.
  - One hears of the faith of others in God and struggle for that same faith, but it doesn't come.
  - Faith will come when one knows what kind of God God is.
2. Today's generation needs a restored knowledge of God more than anything else.
  - There are many translations of the Bible, gospel literature, Church schools, mission programs, evangelistic campaigns.
  - More has been lost than gained: **the correct concept of God has been lost.**
  - For centuries the Church lived on the character of God, preached God, prayed to God, declared God, honored God, elevated God and witnessed about God.
  - Today that high concept of God has been lost. God is now a partner, the "man upstairs," a quarterback, a good fellow. Prayer is going into a huddle with God as the coach and calling the signals. Where is the high concept of God in all this?
    - No Muslim would ever dare dishonor his god by calling Allah, a "good fellow."
    - No devout Jew would dare refer to Yahweh as "the man upstairs."
  - Today in Churches, God has been dragged down and turned into a cheap Santa Claus that one uses to get what he/she wants.

### II. TODAY'S CHRISTIANITY HAS LOST IT'S DIGNITY

1. The Church has lost the concept of majesty and the art of worship.
  - Where is respect, silence, prayerful attitude, humility, submission in Church services?
  - The Church has gotten away from the real God.

### III. CHRISTIANITY TODAY HAS LOST IT'S INWARDNESS

1. Jesus said to worship in spirit and in truth.
  - Churches vary in translations of the Bible, have their Statements of Faith but where is the awe, the wonder, the fear and delight that once prevailed in Churches?
  - The high and lofty concept of God is lost.
2. There have been external "gains" such as Bible translations, Christian Schools, spiritual magazines, radio/television programs, missions, evangelism, increases in numbers of Churches.

3. There have been internal "loses" such as dignity, worship, majesty, inwardness of God's presence, fear, spiritual delight to name a few.

#### **IV. THIS GENERATION NEEDS REFORMATION FIRST, THEN REVIVAL**

1. Compare the preaching of today with that of the Hebrew Prophets and even the preachers of a century ago.
  - Moses coming down from the mountain with shining face and the 10 commandments.
    - Remember the Old Testament prophets, serious, solemn, loft, Godly men.
  - Today's preaching is usually cheap, frivolous, coarse, shallow and entertaining. People of today want to be entertained, not preached to.
    - Seriousness has become silliness, Solemnity has become fearless, Loftiness has become coarse and shallow and Substance has become entertainment.
  - Compare the Christian reading material of today and of years gone by.
  - Compare the music of today and that of just a generation ago.
    - "Oh, God, Our Help in Ages Past; There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood..."
      - Sung by all ages, uneducated, educated, slaves, slave owners, carpenters, blacksmiths, ranchers, coal miners, cotton pickers, Presidents, Congress.
    - What is heard today? A few words sung over and over 10 or 11 times with ear piercing sounds from instruments once found in places where "God" was used in profanity.
  - What is happening today in the Churches is a result of people forgetting what kind of God God is.

#### **V. THE VISION OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH HAS BEEN LOST**

1. In the Revelation, John tried to write about seeing the throne of God and the breathtaking awesomeness of the One on the throne.
  - Isaiah wrote about seeing God on His Throne and Ezekiel wrote about the Shekinah, the shining presence of God that surrounded the altar.
  - Jesus sent seven letters to seven Churches in the Revelation and all but one had lost their proper vision of what the Church was all about.
    - Churches of today have grieved the Holy Spirit by their frivolousness, shallowness, coarseness and worldliness until the Holy Spirit has withdrawn.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. One hour with the majesty of God would be worth more than all the "religious" services of today put together.
2. Sadly, Christians and their Churches have tried to drag God down to their mediocre level.
3. What today's Churches and Christians need more than anything is the correct concept of God.
4. Christians and their Churches need to go back to the Bible and find WHO God really is.