

Rom. 14:19
So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

August
7
2022

AN AMAZING QUALITY OF GOD

by David McClister

God is beyond our comprehension, and that is just the fact of the matter. This does not mean that God is completely incomprehensible, nor does it mean that we can never have certainty concerning what we know about God. It means, instead, that we will never be able to understand God fully. As amazing as the human mind is, it can never fully grasp him. We can understand, in limited ways, the things he has told us in his word, but even in the Bible we are told things about God that are too deep for us to know or understand completely.

A good example is God's providential activity by which he causes all things to accomplish his purpose, even those things that people do that are meant to oppose God and thwart his plans. Management of that order would be difficult to imagine even if we had in mind a small, limited set of things, but when we understand that God controls and works everything in the universe, and every human action, for the accomplishment of his will, the concept is too much for us to comprehend. It is no wonder that Paul remarked "*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*" (Rom 11.33). In a similar vein, he said "*Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift*" (2 Cor 9.15).

Other examples would be the power of God, the knowledge and wisdom of God, the holiness of God, the eternity and unchangeableness of God, and other such attributes. It would be silly for any human to think that he/she could understand any one of these in all of their depth and profundity, let alone all of them. In fact, there are several scenes in the Bible where God became angry at people for thinking that they had God "all figured out." What we know about God from the

Bible is a small part of a tiny fraction of the whole truth about him. The entire truth about him cannot be contained in our limited minds.

It may be that the most mysterious and the most difficult-to-comprehend quality of God is his love. God's love for us is unconquerable and unconditional. We can see imperfect examples of this in our world, but to know this truth absolutely, to know this truth about God in all its depth, is beyond us. Allow me to explain what I mean.

The love that a mother or father has for their children is a marvelous thing. It is ingrained and natural, and it is one of the strongest bonds and forces in this world. All kinds of heroic things have been done and all kinds of tremendous sacrifices have been made by parents for their children, all because of love. What other force on this earth is comparable to it? One of the strange things about love is that it both empties us and fills us at the same time. A mother spends herself for years for the good of her children, and in the process she becomes drained physically, emotionally, and in other ways too. But that same love also fills a mother with joy, purpose, satisfaction, and peace. A couple may be perfectly happy in their love for each other, but that love is expanded tremendously when children come into the picture. Parents realize that they experienced more of love after they had children than before. Their children, and the relationship of love between them, fills parents up in a way that they could not have known, predicted, or foreseen.

I mention all of this as an analogy to God. I believe that our capacity to love is a direct reflection of our Maker's image. We are able to love because we are made in the image of God who is love. If we can

understand something of how marvelous human love is, then we can begin to understand something of God's love too.

The Bible is clear: God loves us, he loves his children dearly (in fact, he loves the entire world of people). Like little children, we need God for everything, and what a wonderful blessing it is that God gives us all we need physically and spiritually, and that he guides us and cares for us. It is easy to think of all the reasons we love God, and why we should love him more all the time.

What is difficult to comprehend is that God, as our spiritual Father, is somehow "fulfilled" by our relationship with him, by our love for him. Just as parents are fulfilled by the loving relationship they have with their children, there seems to be some mysterious sense in which even God himself is fulfilled by the relationship between us and him. Just as human couples without children are lacking a great dimension of the experience of love, there seems to be some mysterious sense in which God himself is unfulfilled and, in a sense, lacking, without us, his children. Not only do we need our Father, but in some way, God our Father needs us. God dwells in us, but we also dwell in Him (**John 6:56; 14:20; 15:4; 1 John 4:13**). In the end, not only are we going to inherit what the Father has stored up for us, but the Bible also says that God will inherit us (**Eph 1:18**). And there is a sense that things are not completely right – either with us or with God – until that happens. When the saints are home in heaven, not only will we be filled up with all the glory and love of God in a way that we cannot begin to imagine here, but also God will be filled up too.

Of course, it is almost impossible to imagine any sense in which God could be said to be incomplete or lacking anything. By his very nature God has every good quality in infinite measure. And yet, in some strange way, he desires us, he loves us, and we fill him up. How that can be, I will not pretend to understand. The very fact of it alone is almost unimaginable. But it is there in the Bible. I don't understand how it could be this way with God, but I rejoice that it is because it gives us hope and security to know that, in some strange way, God wants and needs us just as much as we want and need him. I think it provides us with one more reason to believe that God will not fail to save his people in the end.

Passages where His inheritance means God's people
1 Sam. 10:1; Psalms 78:62,71; 94:14; 106:40; Jeremiah 10:16; 51:19;

SLEEPING SHEPHERDS

"Your shepherds are sleeping, O king of Assyria; Your nobles are lying down. Your people are scattered on the mountains and there is no one to gather them" (**Nahum 3:18 NASB**). Nahum's prophecy was an oracle, a burden, a pronouncement, not against God's own people, but against the nation of Assyria, whose capital Nineveh is singled out for destruction.

Oracles of judgment are common in the Old Testament (**Isaiah 13:1; 15:1; Zechariah 12:1; Malachi 1:1**). Nineveh was eventually destroyed by the Babylonians in 612 BC. The downfall of these two nations, Assyria and Babylon, are not unique among those who refused to listen to God's oracles. Men think they are ruling in their own kingdoms; in fact, God is ruling in the kingdoms of men (**Daniel 4:17**). God's oracles warned of impending judgment; they also could help those so inclined to repent and return to the Lord.

When the time came for Assyria to fall into the hands of the Babylonians, the people found no help from their leaders. Nahum said their shepherds were sleeping; their nobles would soon be asleep. When their enemies came, the inhabitants of Nineveh would be scattered as lost sheep. Their protectors were gone. Those who were supposed to lead, guide, and instruct provided no help. Jeremiah points out the stark contrast between what men are supposed to do but don't do, and the faithfulness of Jehovah. *"But as for me, I have not hurried away from being a shepherd after You, nor have I longed for the woeful day; You Yourself know that the utterance of my lips was in Your presence"* (**Jeremiah 17:6**). Sadly, even though the Lord had not abandoned His people, they still fell away.

What is Nahum saying to us today? Obvious parallels would include an abundance of material blessings—riches, houses, power, security—all the "cares and riches" of this world continue to undermine faithfulness to the Lord. The pride of Nineveh and our pride can only lead us away from our Creator. Have we become wandering sheep? Zechariah said: *"For the teraphim speak iniquity, and the diviners see lying visions and tell false dreams; they comfort in vain. Therefore, the people wander like sheep, they are afflicted, because there is no shepherd"* (**10:2**). Yes, sheep need guidance. In the Lord's church today, we have been given pastors or shepherds, who watch on behalf of Christ's flock. Shepherds in the Lord's church today can follow the example of Christ, the Chief Shepherd (**1 Peter 5:1-4**).

Let none of us excuse ourselves. Brotherly love says that we care about the welfare of each other; we

show that care; the strength of God's will must be applied. Too many sheep have wandered away, seemingly without any notice of their journey away from the Lord. Thankfully, God's patience has not run out. But it will run out some day. Now, where did those sheep go?

Randy Harshbarger

At Home With Christ

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is much better (Philippians 1:21-23).

In **2 Corinthians 5:1-2**, Paul tells us, *"For we know that if the earthly tent which is our home is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven."* The desire to fold up this earthly tent and go home to be with the Lord should be the earnest desire and expectation of each one of us as we often struggle with the difficulties of our earthly existence (**2 Corinthians 5:6-9**).

My friends, whatever burden we must bear, whatever it is that causes us to groan during our brief sojourn on planet earth fades into insignificance when we consider the blessed hope that resides in our hearts because of the unfailing promise of our Lord in **John 14:1-3**, *"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."*

Our hearts should be set on that building from God, the house not made with hands (**Phil. 3:20**). Our eternal soul dwells in a human frame that at best is weak and fragile. As we grow older the strength of younger days diminishes considerably. Growing older does not bother me and it shouldn't bother you either. For the faithful child of God, growing older may sometimes be a burden but it will never be a hindrance in our walk with God. Through the eye of faith we can see that land where there will be no death, no mourning, crying or pain; we can see the home where all things are made new (**Rev. 21:3-5**). With eager anticipation we press forward with our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith, and

I am human, I am imperfect, I am weak and fragile and so are you! All of us are now on an earthly journey that will one day come to an end (**Psalms 90:10; Hebrews 9:27**). Our major concern should not be on when that day will come. It should be on whether or not we are ready to exit this world and enter the world that will never end.

The life we now live is nothing more than a dressing room for eternity. What a glorious journey this will be for us with our affections set on the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting and confiding in Him, living every moment of every day as if we knew it would be our last on planet earth.

Charles Hicks, White House Tennessee

"We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.

Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

Something the Bible does not teach, yet is taught by some church leaders:

Only certain ones can understand what the Bible teaches and the remainder must learn from them.

*Paul says on more than one occasion we are not only capable of understanding the mystery of the gospel (**Ephesians 3:4**) but bear the responsibility to understand and express that understanding to others - **Ephesians 5:15-17; 1 Peter 3:15.***

"While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!" (Matthew 17:5 NAS95)

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-620-0563

Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders:

Ron Peck

Jim Stauffer

Deacons:

Bill Miller

Joe Hurd

Troy Armstrong

NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER: JAN PATRICK, ALMA BAUMGARTNER. DENESE GORING, BROOKLYN BOYER, TRACY RICHARDSON, PAT GAINES, MATT BASSFORD, DAVID, JOANNE BECKLEY, MARK WALKER, STEVE WIMP, ERNESTINE BYERS, NICK COOPER, RUTH ANN SIMCOSKY, PAIGE COPE AND KEN KLING - LARRY RAMSEY PASSED AWAY AUGUST 4, 2022.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS
MARRIAGE DIVORCE REMARRIAGE
- JIM STAUFFER

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS -
EXODUS TO SINAI - JIM STAUFFER
SUNDAY SERMON: **ABRAHAM'S FAITH**



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10