

# Thinking Correctly About God

Lesson for Sunday, May 4, 2025

## Introduction:

- ⇒ AW Tozer famously wrote, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”
  - Why does this quote seem to resonate with our hearts as true?
  - Discuss how you would explain this statement to someone else.
- ⇒ Tozer went on to write, “I believe there is scarcely an error in doctrine or a failure in applying Christian ethics that cannot be traced finally to imperfect and ignoble thoughts about God.”
  - This emphasizes the importance of having a correct view of God for our own spiritual growth and for the health of the church.
- ⇒ Over the next several lessons, we are going to investigate God’s Word to learn about Who God is. It is important to remember:
  - The Bible does not tell us everything about God.
  - We cannot comprehend everything there is about God.
- ⇒ What we can do is stay true to what God’s Word tells us and then live accordingly.

## Bible Study:

1. The Necessity of Knowing God
  - a. Re-read Tozer’s quote we used in the introduction. Why is thinking rightly about God important? Consider these two reasons that Scripture mentions.
  - b. First, humanity’s failure to honor God leads to idolatry and distorted worship.
    - i. See Romans 1:19-23
    - ii. Romans 1 describes the awful descent of humankind. Where does it begin? With a failure to understand Who God is.
    - iii. God has given us ample evidence of His existence and Person, but most have rejected Him.
    - iv. The result is people worship either a distorted god they have created in their own minds, or they turn their attention to aspects of the creation instead of focusing on the Creator (21, 23).
    - v. The ultimate result: they become fools (22).
  - c. Second, God commands exclusive worship, and our understanding of Who God is will greatly impact our worship.
    - i. See Exodus 20:3-5; John 4:24
    - ii. We all worship something. One of the primary sins that the Bible repeatedly addresses is idolatry. God demands that we worship Him and He determines how we are to worship Him (John 4).
    - iii. If not careful, good-meaning Christians can create an idea of what God is like in their mind, but if that picture is not correct, they have created an idol – a false representation of God.
    - iv. Worship is pure or base depending on the worshiper’s thoughts about God. True worship requires spirit and truth, grounded in a proper understanding of who God is. If we don’t know God (and Who He is) we cannot worship Him properly.
  - d. Man’s greatest goal is to know God. We need Him! But we must meet God on His terms and not on our own.

## 2. The Proper Attitude to Approach God

- a. Seeing how important it is for us to know God truthfully, there are attitudes that must accompany our study. These attitudes should guide our thinking as we go through the next weeks together.
- b. First is an attitude of humility.
  - i. The Christian is commanded to be “clothed in humility” (1 Peter 5:5-6). One of the main reasons we are to be humble is the fact that God “resists the proud.” We don’t want our pride to keep us from knowing Him.
  - ii. We are also humble because we recognize the transcendence of God. This is a reference to His majesty and superiority, being utterly distinct from His creation. See Isaiah 55:8-9 & Psalm 113:4-6.
  - iii. In a very real way, we cannot understand God. We can only begin to grasp what He has revealed about Himself in His Word.
- c. Second is a willingness to be transformed.
  - i. Romans 12:1-2 speaks to our need to be transformed more into the likeness of God.
  - ii. How does this transformation occur? By the renewing of our minds. As we learn more about God we will be transformed. The key: Are we willing to be changed?
- d. Third is a willingness to obey.
  - i. Over and over in God’s Word we are commanded to be holy.
  - ii. See: Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:14.
  - iii. A true knowledge of God will motivate believers to reflect His character in their lives.
  - iv. Many Christians do not worship well because they do not live well.

### DISCUSS/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ No people ever rise above their idea of God. How do we see this in our culture?
  - Consider our disregard for human life and the breakdown of morality.
- ⇒ What application can you take away from today’s study? Are you able to see the connection between theology and practical Christian living?
- ⇒ Consider your own worship (especially as we are about to go to the service). Does what you believe about God show itself in the way you worship?
- ⇒ What are common misconceptions about God?

### CONCLUSION:

- ⇒ Close with Tozer’s prayer: “Enlighten our minds that we may know Thee as Thou art, so that we may perfectly love Thee and worthily praise Thee.”