

UNIT 1: Getting to Know God the Father
 LESSON 3: "Our Great God"
 DATE: September 27, 2015
 NEXT WEEK: "The Omni God"
 (Psalm 139:1-10; Matthew 19:23-26)

INTRODUCTION

"How may we form a right idea of God's greatness? The Bible teaches us two steps that we must take. The first is to *remove from our thoughts of God limits that would make him small*. The second is to *compare him with powers and forces we regard as great*." - J. I. Packer

**GOD IS _____ AND _____-KEEPER
 (1 TIMOTHY 1:17; EXODUS 3:13-15).**

- A. *His greatness is seen in _____ He is (King).*
- B. *His greatness is seen in _____ He does (Covenant-Keeper).*

Application: The names of God reveal the nature of God. He is King because He is Creator and rules with power and glory in truth and righteousness. He is Yahweh, the covenant-making and covenant-keeping God.

**GOD IS _____ AND _____
 (1 TIMOTHY 1:17; EXODUS 3:13-15).**

- A. *His greatness is demonstrated through His _____ (eternality).*
 - "God is outside of time, yet He can enter and control it whenever He wishes." - Christian George
- B. *His greatness is demonstrated through His _____ (immortality).*

Application: God's eternal nature crushes any sense that God owes us something, yet God's attributes are great confidence builders. Mark Galli said, "To know an everlasting God is to know that nothing truly good will ever pass away." God is self-existent and self-sufficient, therefore, His purposes cannot fail.

GOD IS _____ (1 TIMOTHY 1:17; JOHN 4:24).

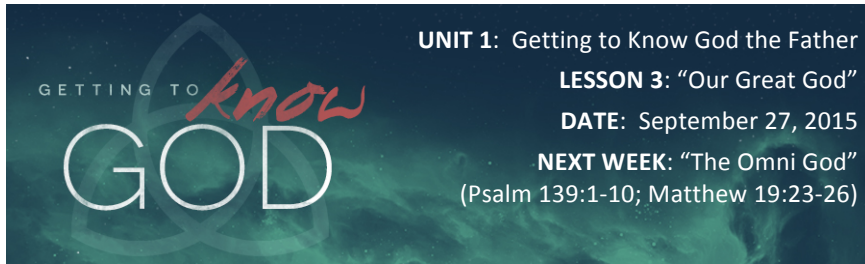
- A. *God is spirit and therefore not _____.*
 - "God's spirituality means that God exists as a being that is not made of any matter, has no parts or dimensions, is unable to be perceived by our bodily senses, and is more excellent than any other kind of existence." - Wayne Grudem
- B. *God is spirit and therefore not _____.*
- C. *God is spirit and therefore not _____.*
 - "Who can gaze upon God? It's like gazing upon the sun that blinds. Then how are we to know God? We know God in His self-revelation in Christ. This is God." - W. A. Criswell

Application: John Stott reminds us that "our greatest claim to nobility is our created capacity to know God, to be in personal relationship with him, to love him and to worship him. Indeed, we are most truly human when we are on our knees before our Creator." Therefore, we must worship God is spirit and in truth (John 4:23).

CONCLUSION

Each of God's attributes of His greatness calls us to respond in some way:

- He is King. We are therefore His subjects (and He would have us as willing citizens, not as rebels to be subdued).
- He is covenant-keeper. We are therefore in a binding relationship to Him as the One who has made sure promises.
- He is eternal, existing outside of time. We are therefore His time-bound creatures, dependent on Him to unfold His plan.
- He is immortal, with life in Himself. We are therefore mortal, and if by faith we receive eternal life, we still utterly depend on Him for our life.
- He is spirit; He is invisible and not material at all. We are therefore able to worship Him rightly only when we worship Him through the spirit He has given each one of us.



GETTING TO *know* GOD

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