

SEMINAR: SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND GOD

By Bob Young

Note: the following themes can serve as lesson or sermon topics. The points listed for each sermon come from the suggested text. A secondary focus on the problems may face and how God chooses to provide a solution can be followed through the supplementary note in each sermon.

#1 Genesis 1-3, GOD CREATES

The God of action—acting consistent with who he is

The God who creates, calls, and recreates

1. He made us, image of God, living being
2. He calls us, unique to Christianity, he calls us, he calls us back in Christ
3. He unites us, making possible re-creation in our transformation, re-establishing vertical relationship which makes possible horizontal relationship.

Problem: After the fall, humankind has a sin problem, a legal problem, and a relational problem. Mankind faces the challenge of how to live in the world, separated from God and outside the protection God originally intended.

#2 Genesis 4-11, GOD'S INTENT TO BLESS

The God both transcendent and immanent—revealing his holiness

The God who names and blesses

1. When God names, he claims and gives identity
2. God blesses
3. God plans future blessings

Problem: God develops a plan for dealing with the problems that have entered through man's sin and disobedience.

#3 Genesis 12-50, GOD PROMISES

The God of purpose—sharing his nature

The loving God commits to bless through covenant

1. The person of God, his nature, how we are like him
2. The promises of God, his covenant commitment to us
3. The purpose of God, he desires to bless us, he claims us so that he can bless us

Problem: this section of Scripture makes clear that one of the greatest human problems is the problem of self.

#4 Exodus 1-19, 32-34, GOD DELIVERS

The God of action—revealing his nature

The faithful God delivers and gives new identity to his people—a new covenant creation

1. God's actions
2. God reveals his name, his nature
3. God delivers his people
4. God gives his people a new identity

Problem: God will resolve the human dilemma by making it possible that his people be like him. Unfortunately the rest of the (Old Testament) story is the inability of humans to become like God on the basis of knowing him, his dwelling among them, and being guided (by the Law) in how to be like God.

#5 Isaiah, Matthew 1, John, GOD COMES TO BE PRESENT

The God again present—revealing his love

The Emmanuel God who is and will be “with us”

1. He lived in heaven
2. He lived on earth
3. He lives in heaven
4. He lives within us by faith
 - To sustain us, to provide
 - To protect
 - To unite in community

Problem: Jesus comes to show us how to live (life problem)

#6 Mark 10; Luke 15, 19; GOD GIVES HIMSELF TO RESCUE

The giving God—sharing to bless and re-bless

The extravagant God gives himself to reclaim and deliver

1. The extravagant God, prodigal, showing the cost/price/value
2. The sacrificing God, giving himself, giving his life
3. The saving God, who rescues, delivers

Problem: God in Christ resolve the sin problem, self-esteem problem, and death problem

#7 Acts 1; 1 Thess 4; Tit 2; GOD WILL COME AGAIN

The Returning God—fulfilling the promise to bless

The coming God will claim and deliver

1. He lived in heaven
2. He lived on earth
3. He lives within us by faith

Conclusion: He is coming again

Problem: the promises of God resolve our grave problem, and the problem of the future