

Monday, JANUARY 11, 2010

A few days ago the world welcomed 2010, time zone by time zone around our planet. Time, as measured by earth's rotation and orbit is an amazing phenomenon, would you agree? Yet few revelers in NY Times Square or elsewhere in the world were giving much thought to the God who created those planets and holds time and their lives in His hands. Were you?

Remember the "spiritual continuum"? Where do you stand between "*the fool says in his heart, 'there is no God.'*" (Ps. 14:1) and "*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...*" (Ps. 46:1)? I invite you to declare your position and actually write a brief statement which articulates it as you live this first month of the second decade of the third millennium since that first Christmas, the incarnation of God on planet earth. Your statement: *Here I stand...*

"Discover God"...is the cornerstone of life. Once you do, everything else in life is built upon that discovery. Until you do, everything in life seeks a framework of legitimacy that is bigger than you and will outlive you. (Think that one through.)

The Bible makes no attempt to explain the origination of God, for He is the Eternal Creator and Genesis 1:1 assumes every person is aware of the God who created them. John 1:1 and Isaiah 40:28 assume everyone has a degree of understanding about this unique God. Romans 1:18-20, gives a strong warning about pretending ignorance..."so that men are without excuse"! Read all of Romans 1:18-32 and answer this: How do you respond to God's assessment of our rejection of truth as you consider your friends or family who are living life with total disregard for God?

It's one thing to consider God's assessment of distant people whom you've never met, it's quite another when you apply it to those you care deeply about...or even to yourself! Spend some serious time today filtering your life through Romans 1:18-32! What does the Holy Spirit of God speak into your heart?

Tuesday, JANUARY 12, 2010

How do you begin each day? What information focuses your brain at the start of a new day...your overnight emails / an internet site which posts global news or financial market movement while you slept / the weather or sports report / breakfast??

I invite you to read Psalm 19 as you begin this day. What do you see, what does the Holy Spirit speak into your mind?

Now add Psalm 16 and what do you sense God saying to you?

This past weekend I began a journey with you of "Discovering God". We built an acrostic G O D. I wonder what words and supporting Scripture you have written for your "G"? You'll remember I gave you two words...GOOD and GLORIOUS. Many "gods" worshipped around the world are not GOOD or GLORIOUS. Billions of people worship arrogant, angry, volatile, unpredictable, impersonal, "gods" represented by idols which must be maintained by painters or sculptors. Many others make pilgrimages to "holy sites" which claim an event which has little verification and nothing living. Consider Jeremiah 10:1-16. What does the true and living God say about this?

The Bible portrays God as GOOD in many ways. Holy is God's essence. Perfection, purity, sacred, no flaw, would be some words I think of. We declare one thing or person better than another on the basis of comparing degree of "goodness appeal". But in truth, isn't personal opinion very subjective? You drive a Ford, I drive a Toyota...and likely it wasn't only price that led us both to choose our automobile. Probably our satisfaction with our car has more to do with performance, durability, ride, re-sale value, even color and style. We like one more than others. But with God, "goodness" is objective! God defines GOOD by who He is, and as we come into relationship with this GOOD God, HE changes us at the very core of our being (2 Corinthians 5:17) and God's goodness should begin to take root in us! Consider Paul's life change (1 Tim. 1:12-16)!!

Wednesday, JANUARY 13, 2010

There will be NO time today when you are not surrounded by evidence of the existence and character of God!! Everywhere you look, every person with whom you come in contact, every thought you think, everything which interfaces with one of your five senses...it all is a constant reminder of GOD. I like to call it "God fingerprints" which challenge you and me to know Him by the evidence of His existence and work!

Acts 17:16-31 is Paul's strong statement of explanation of God when in Athens in the first century, seeing the proliferation of idols and the priority of philosophical debate of the day. You likely won't see too many "idols" in statue form today, but you will probably be surrounded by idols, no matter where your day takes you, even if you don't leave your home today! God defines "idols" as "*you shall not have any other gods before Me.*" (Exodus 20:3) It means, nothing shall have priority in your life over God. So...what are the top five things to which you will give your "priority attention" today? What holds your heart captive by drawing your interest even when you really shouldn't take the time to ponder or involve yourself with it? What holds your money captive as measured by the ease, even joy with which you reach for your wallet? With what is your mind enamored most...as measured by that which you think about most? So...do you have some idols in your life??

In our acrostic for GOD, I gave you two words for O. ORIGIN and OMNI. ORIGIN speaks of God being the eternal, creator God from whom all things have come. Remember: "*everything which exists either God created, has evolved from something God created, or was fabricated by man from something God created.*" Do you agree with that statement? John 1:3 and Colossians 1:16 are two verses which claim that clearly.

OMNI is a "prefix" which declares "unlimited", "all inclusive" etc. OMNIpotent means "all powerful". OMNIpresent means "everywhere present at one time". OMNIscient means "all knowing". Only God has all three of those attributes. Right? Now which words and Scripture have you chosen for your letter "O" in your GOD acrostic?

Thursday, JANUARY 14, 2010

The world's tallest building, 'Burj Dubai', opened last week in Dubai, UAE. It stands 2717 ft tall and cost over \$1.5 Billion to construct. It is an architectural amazement. It is both a residential and office building in downtown Dubai which will dwarf NY's '1 World Trade Center', now under construction (1776 ft) replacing the "Twin Towers" which fell on 9.11.

In our acrostic for GOD last weekend, I gave you two words, DESIGN and DEPENDABLE, for the letter D in our journey of "Discovering God". Isaiah chapters 40-46 offer a flurry of declarations which God makes to our world describing Himself, His character, His nature and His achievements. The people of 700BC were struggling greatly in their confusion with so many "gods" worshipped by the nations of the world. Jehovah God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of Israel, spoke through His prophet Isaiah to 'set the record straight' for all humanity!

"To whom will you compare Me? Lift your eyes to the heavens: who created all these?" (Is. 40:25,26)

"This is what GOD the LORD says – He who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth...who gives breath to its people and life to those who walk on it..." (Is. 42:5)

"Before Me no god was formed, nor will there be one after Me." (Is. 43:10)

"...you whom I have upheld since you were conceived and carried you since your birth. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He who will sustain you..." (Is. 46:4) "I am God and there is no other. I make known the end from the beginning and I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please." (Is. 46:10,11)

"I the LORD do not change" (Mal. 3:6)

Is the God you worship the Grand Designer of all that exists...including you? Is your God dependable in all situations? What word and Scripture have you selected for your "D" in your God acrostic? And when you lay out your completed GOD acrostic, how does it align with the six words I gave you from God's Word? Here's the more important question: how well do you know this God?? How familiar are you with this God? Who is He in your DAILY life? Can you write a declarative statement? I declare God is _____.

Friday, JANUARY 15, 2010

Many things distinguish the "Christian God" from all other "gods" worshipped around the world. May I offer these?

- No other religion claims a "Tri-une" God. Three personalities, one single God. God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), God the Holy Spirit...one God, three personalities. Christianity does! (Matt. 3:16,17; Eph. 1:3-14)
- No other religion claims God came here to earth in human form (incarnation), lived among humanity proclaiming God's truth and performing miracles to prove His divinity and His love for humanity. Christianity does...Jesus Christ is that God. (John 1:1-14; 10:24-30; 14:10,11)
- No other religion claims God came here and allowed humanity to reject Him to the point of death and then rose again from the dead! The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the centerpiece of Christianity! (1 Corinthians 15:17-26)
- No other religion claims God took the initiative, in His love for sinful humanity, to provide a way of salvation from sin's condemnation which required not work toward perfection by mankind, but work of atonement sacrifice by God as Jesus paid the full sin penalty, death, so mankind can be pardoned for sin and restored into relationship with Holy God! That is the Gospel of Christianity!! (Ephesians 2:1-10; Col. 1:21-23; Romans 3:9-30)

Have you really "discovered God", the One True God? Do you feel you are well informed about Him? Would you declare you have a relationship with God? How would you define it? How have you found "discovering God" to be genuine, life-changing, authentic? I give you Psalm 119 today! It's powerful.



Pastor Doug Anderson

JANUARY 11 - 15, 2010

Discover God



A Disciplemaking Tool
DIGGING
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