

# PART TWO

## WORSHIPPING GOD FOR WHO HE IS AND WHAT HE'S DONE

The god of pagan mysticism is an undefined entity. One modern representation of this god is the force in Star Wars that lacks personality, attributes or moral preference. Like the mystic's Yin and Yang, the force of Star Wars could be used for both good and evil

According to pagan theology, man is at the center of his own universe. Because, to the pagan mystic, God is all, then all men are gods themselves. Hence, God is made in man's image and God is defined according to the characteristics of man.

Worship to the mystic, therefore, is man centered and focused on an undefined and non-absolute god who, like a chameleon, changes according to the dictates of each worshipper. The worship liturgy of this group of worshippers, therefore, needs to be very generic and undefined in its portrayal of god so that each worshipper can adapt the text to his/her own view of God. Because mystical worship is centered on man, it focuses on man's needs rather than God's nature. Because the foundation of truth to paganism is based upon what each individual "feels" is right (existentialism), mystical worship is founded on emotionalism.

The true and living God whom Christians worship has specific attributes and represents specific truths and moral principles that are external to man and unalterable. God also has a distinct personality and acts in specific ways based upon His nature.

According to the Bible, man has been fashioned in God's image. Therefore, to understand man and where he stands in relation to eternity, one must know who God is. Rather than conforming God to his image, the Christian is shaped according to God's will.

Since the Christian maintains a God-centered theology, worship is centered around God who has specific attributes and embodies absolute truth. Christian worship, therefore, is founded upon external absolutes determined by God's nature rather than individual feelings and opinions. Hence the text of Christian praise, in order to distinguish itself from pagan ritual, must reflect the nature and works of God as defined according to how He has revealed Himself in His holy Word. Otherwise, too much about who the God is who is being worshipped will be left to individual imagination and personal beliefs.

Christian worship must call on worshippers to respond intelligently to the God of the Bible.

**Romans 12:1-2**

## Lesson One: Worshipping God for who He is and what He has done

**Definition of praise: “A public declaration of God, thus speaking well of Him, extolling the virtues of Him and magnifying Him.”**

- ◆ Though all praise is an expression of worship, there are many other ways that we worship God. Worship is that which we do with our whole lives. Worship it all encompassing. It is living with an “attitude of gratitude” to God according to His will as declared in His Holy Word.
  - ⇒ Thanksgiving is when one lives and breathes thanks to God for His mercy and goodness
- ◆ There are many things we can praise that are ungodly. (**Dan 5:1-4**) God demands that we praise Him rather than idols. (**Psalm 115**)

**Q.** What idols are there in our lives that draw our praise and turn our hearts from God? (**Rom 1:25**) \_\_\_\_\_

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### **God is the center of the praise of the Christian.**

- ◆ The Book of Psalms demonstrates this principle by proclaiming that God is good and therefore we must praise Him.
- ◆ The basic form of the psalms is a call to praise followed by a reason to praise.
  - ⇒ “In the Book of Psalms we find that there are two principal ways in which praise is ‘on target’ as it is directed toward God. We praise Him for *who He is*, and we praise Him for *what He does*.” From: Praise! a Matter of Life and Breath by Ronald Barclay Allen. This is the reason why we praise God. These two reasons for praising God are designated as:
    - \* Descriptive praise: describing the God Whom we praise.
    - \* Declarative praise: emphasizing what God has done for His people.
  - ⇒ **Psalm 113** This is an example from the Psalms of the principle of praising God for who He is (descriptive praise) and what he does (declarative praise).



# Descriptive Praise (Who God Is)

## Defining the God who we praise

### Lesson Two: God is

*In today's atheistic world, just the fact that the believer acknowledges that "God is" is a statement of faith. Though this statement alone is not enough to distinguish the God of the Bible from the god of pagans, considering the modern godless climate, it certainly is an important beginning.*

- ◆ **Gen 1:1** The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God. It merely assumes his existence.
- ◆ **Ex 3:14** God declares to Moses "I Am" as a self-affirming statement affirming His existence.

**Saint Thomas Aquinas** -- Proposed many proofs of God. The most compelling of these arguments relates to the creation. Put simply, Aquinas noted that the creation is not a chaotic mess. Rather, it is full of design. This design could not have happened by itself. Therefore, where there is a design, there is a Designer. This Designer is God.

The Aquinas argument is compelling. For example if one was walking on the beach and sees a watch, he would instantly recognize that it was full of design. He would not assume that the watch just happened by chance. Rather, he would conclude that the watch was designed and constructed by a watchmaker. In reality, the creation demonstrates a greater degree of design than a watch. Consider, for example the complexity of the simplest single-cell organism. The Aquinas argument insists that there had to be an intelligent designing force behind all of it.

Q. Give examples of design in the creation: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Lesson Three: God is Great and Glorious

**Psalm 145:3** God is greater than we could ever fathom.

**Q.** Consider the description of God's greatness in **Psalm 8**. According to this psalm, why is it that God is great? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Eph 1:17** He is called the "Glorious Father" who gives us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that we may know Him better.
- ◆ **Psalm 138:5** The glory of the Lord is great. It is for this reason that we sing to Him.

**Q.** How is the glory of the Lord manifested to us today? (Isa 6:3; Ps 19:1; 63:2-4; 69:30, 86:11-13) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** The glory of the Lord dwells inside every believer. How is this manifested in the Christian life? (Ex 34:29-35; II Cor 3:7-17) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** It is the duty of Christian's to glorify God. (**I Cor 10:31**) Therefore God is glorified through the life of the believer. Why is it, therefore important for the Christian to do offer his best for God? Does mediocrity glorify God? Is it important for people to notice and recognize faithful Christians? How does this reflect in the performing arts? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson Four: God is the Creator of all things

- ◆ **Gen 1** The account of the creation of the world by God.
- ◆ **Rev 4:11** Jesus created the world.
- ◆ **Gen 1:1-2** God's Spirit was present at creation.

**Q.** In what way does God the creator support the doctrine of the Trinity? \_\_\_\_\_

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**I Tim 4:4** Mysticism is founded upon the concept of dualism. Dualists believe that the material world is evil and the spiritual world is good. Therefore, mystics attempt to escape the natural world in the worship to enter into the supernatural world. However, Christianity teaches that everything that God created is good. Christians, therefore, can worship God in the natural world. In fact, the natural world is an inspiration of worship to the Christian.

**Q.** If everything in creation was created good, what is the proper Christian perspective regarding material things? (**Matt 6:25-34**) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** Can the things of creation be enjoyed? Is it wrong to possess things? How should things be possessed? (**I John 3:17; Luke 12:5**) Is it wrong to be angry regarding the possessions of others? (**Rom 13:9-10**) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Col 1:15-18** Because He created the world, Jesus is given supremacy.

**Q.** What role does the creation play in Christian worship? (**Rom 1:25; Heb 12:25-29**) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson Five: God is personal

*Pagan mystics worship a God who is no more than a force. However, Christians worship a personal God with a personality and distinguishable qualities.*

- ◆ **Mal 1:3** God loves and hates.
- ◆ **Ex 33:19** God displays mercy and compassion.
- ◆ **Col 2:13** God forgives.
- ◆ **Num 32:13** God displays anger.
- ◆ **Rom 1:18** God displays wrath.
- ◆ **Heb 12:2** God expresses joy.
- ◆ **Isa 62:5** God rejoices.
- ◆ **II Sam 22:51** God shows kindness.
- ◆ **I Sam 7:13** God displays patience.
- ◆ **Phil 4:6-7** God is at peace.
- ◆ **Gen 2:2** God rests.
- ◆ **Matt 6:10** God has a will.
- ◆ **Gen 1** God speaks (and when He speaks things happen)
- ◆ **John 1:14** God took on human flesh.

**Q.** Man has been created in God's image. (**Gen 1:27**) Thus man has personality traits that reflect God's nature. Is inappropriate, therefore for the believer to express his own personality in worship? Is God glorified through the personality of His worshippers who have been created in His image? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** Christians worship God who has a personality, while pagans worship a force. How would this difference reflect itself in the worship life of the believer? What kind of a worshipper is the believer in comparison to the pagan mystic? \_\_\_\_\_

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**The Articulate Worshipper:** Construct a prayer/praise statement that reflects the dynamics of our personal God. Utilize the information supplied in lesson 5 to formulate your declaration. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson Six: God is True

*According to pagan teachings, truth is dependent upon the opinions and perspective of the individual. Each person is his own truth. Because pagan religions are founded on the concept of "self", truth is relative to each person.*

*God, however, represents on absolute truth embodied in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Hence, Christianity demands that all truth founded upon God and His eternal decrees. There is only one foundational truth. All thinking must be subservient to that truth. If one's thinking conflicts with the truths of God, it is the thinking of that individual that must be adjusted.*

- ◆ **Romans 3:4** God is true.
- ◆ **II Samuel 7:28** God's words are trustworthy and His followers can depend upon His word.
- ◆ **Heb. 6:18** It is impossible for God to lie.
- ◆ **Romans 3:4** God's truth makes man a liar. God is always proved right.

**Q. Jn 8:44** Satan is the father of lies. The Christian faces a multitude of falsities when confronting a pagan world. In light of God's truth, what can the Christian expect God to do in relation to the proclamations of truth in an environment full of lies? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** How does the fact that God is true reflect upon our ability to depend upon the provisions God has given in His word? If the Word of God conflicts with our personal thinking, what must be done? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **John 14:6** Jesus is truth.
- ◆ **John 1:14** Jesus came to earth full of grace and truth.
- ◆ **John 18:37** Jesus came to testify of truth.
- ◆ **John 14:17** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth living in the believer.
- ◆ **John 15:26** The Spirit of Truth testifies of Jesus.
- ◆ **John 16:13** The Holy Spirit guides the believer in all truth.



## Lesson Seven: God is Infinite and Eternal

*God has no beginning or end. He is not bound by time as we are.  
(II Pet 3:8) God sees the past and the future as clearly as the present.  
He sees succession without being bound by succession. To God,  
everything is now.*

- ◆ **Gen 21:33** God is the “Eternal God.”
- ◆ **Psalm 90:20** God is from everlasting to everlasting.
- ◆ **Duet 32:40** God lives forever.
- ◆ **Ps 135:13** God’s name is forever.
- ◆ **Psalm 102:24-27** God’s eternal nature is in sharp contrast to His temporal creation.
- ◆ **Rev 1:8** God is the beginning and the end.
- ◆ **Rev. 22:13** Jesus is the beginning and the end.
- ◆ **Ex 3:14** God referred to Himself as I AM to designate His constant state of being.
- ◆ **John 8:58** Jesus referred to Himself as “I AM” to designate Himself as God.
- ◆ **John 17:5** Jesus had glory with the Father before the world began.
- ◆ **John 17:24** Jesus was loved by the Father before the creation of the world.
- ◆ **Heb 7:3** Jesus is without a beginning.
- ◆ **Heb 9:14** The Holy Spirit is eternal.

Q. How does the eternal nature of God substantiate the doctrine of the Trinity? \_\_

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- ◆ **Duet 33:27** God’s eternal nature carries a promise with it. Since God is eternal He will keep His children in His everlasting arms forever.
- ◆ **Psalm 145:13** Since God is eternal, His kingdom is everlasting. Hence, his children will inherit an eternal home from Him.

Q. Many people behave as if God only recognizes our actions as they occur in time. Therefore, they attempt to justify themselves before God by making up for their sin. However, God is eternal and therefore, both our sin and our good deeds eternally are before Him. What does this say about what we should do with our time? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson Eight: God is Free

*God is independent of all His creatures. He does not need anyone or anything. He did not create or save His chosen out of need. God's eternal act of dying on the cross was accomplished purely as an act of His divine will as motivated by love.*

- ◆ **Isa 40: 13-14** There is nothing we can say to instruct God of anything.
- ◆ **Job 38-39** God is the source of everything. There is nothing that our wisdom, counsel, or presence can add to this. God does because He does based upon His own self-sufficient wisdom. We are the beneficiaries of all of this.

**Q.** Is there any value that can be gained by the one who questions what God has brought upon his/her life? Can the grumblings of man alter the will of God? What should the Christian do when he/she has questions in regards to God's judgments, ways and interactions with mankind? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** Since God is free, He is free not to sin. Have believers inherited the freedom not to sin from God? Explain(**John 8:32; Rom 8:12-14**) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** Since God is self-sufficient, He gives to man without any need to receive. How, then, ought the Christian behave in regards to His/her relationship to God and people? (**Matt 10:8; Acts 20:35**) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson Nine: God is Holy

*Holiness is the absence of evil. It is also the positive state of being all-good (or right). God is the absolute standard of good. All goodness is measured according to His character. Therefore, all moral assessments are made according to God's standards, rather than man's. **Prov 14:12***

- ◆ **Ex 15:11** God's holiness separates Him from all other gods.
- ◆ Holiness is attributed to each person in the Trinity
  - ⇒ **Isa 41:14** God the Father
  - ⇒ **Acts 3:14** God the Son
  - ⇒ **Eph 4:30** God the Holy Spirit
- ◆ **Isa 6:3** All heaven proclaims God's holiness.
- ◆ **Job 34:10** God's holiness means that He does evil or wrong.

Q. What does God's holiness have to do with our ability to trust Him? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **I Sam 6:20** God's holiness separates Him from sinful man.
  - ⇒ **Ex 33: 18-23** No one can see God's face and live.
  - ⇒ **Lev 16:29-3** In the Old Testament tabernacle worship, the High priest would go into the Holy of Holies (where God dwelt) once a year to make atonement for the sins of Israel. This was called the Day of Atonement. However, the High Priest had to make certain that he was properly cleansed before going in lest he die in the attempt. The Israelis would tie a rope around the leg of the High Priest so that they could drag him out of the Holy of holies if that occurred
  - ⇒ **Lev 10:1-3** Because He is holy, God demands reverence from His worshippers.
  - ⇒ **II Sam 6:6-7** The Arc of the Covenant rested in the Holy of Holies. If a man touched it, he would die.

Q. Many worshippers today worship to see the face of God in all its glory. In light of God's holiness, and the experience of Moses in Exodus 33, what would occur if sinful man actually did see the face of God? \_\_\_\_\_

- ◆ **Prov 15:9, 26** The manifestation of God's holiness is the hatred of sin.
  - ⇒ **Isa 59:1-2** God's holiness results in His separation from sinners
  - ⇒ **Prov 15:9** God's holiness results in a love for the righteous.
- ◆ **Isa 57:15-15** The holy God is with those who are lowly and contrite.





## Lesson Eleven: God is Omniscient

*God knows everything -- He is all knowing and is perfect in His knowledge. (1 John 3:20)*

- ◆ **God's knowledge is comprehensive.**
  - ⇒ **Prov 15:3** His eyes are everywhere
  - ⇒ **Hebrews 4:13** Nothing is hidden from God.
  - ⇒ **1 John 3:20b** God knows everything.
- ◆ **God has perfect knowledge of all that is in nature.**
  - ⇒ **Psalms 147:4; Isa 40:26-27** God knows the number of the stars and calls them by name.
  - ⇒ **Matt 10:29** God knows when every sparrow falls.
- ◆ **God has a perfect knowledge of all that transpires in human experience.**
  - ⇒ **Job 31:4; 34:21** God knows every way and He counts every step that each person takes.
  - ⇒ **Prov 5:21** Everything that man does is in full view of the Lord.
  - ⇒ **Psalms 139:2-6** God knows all our thoughts, goings about, and words.
  - ⇒ **Matt 10:30** God numbers our hair
  - ⇒ **Matt 12:25, 22:18** Christ knows all your thoughts.
- ◆ **God has perfect knowledge of all that transpires in human history.**
  - ⇒ **Acts 15:18**
- ◆ **God has a perfect knowledge of all that will take place.**
  - ⇒ **Isa 48:5-8**

**Q.** Many people act as if they can hide things from God. Understanding that God knows everything, is that true? \_\_\_\_\_ Since people only see what is on the outside, it is the tendency for people to act properly as a Christian while harboring unclean thoughts and motives. Knowing that God knows everything, where should the Christian worshipper's thoughts be? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** People tend to act according to a "Christian" though life while in church or around believers while harboring a completely different thought life outside of Christian circles. Does it do any good to worship God in church when one's mind is focused on sin and impurity in daily living? What is the evangelistic danger when the church goer lives two different lives? (**James 3:1-12**) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** Many people “play the game” at church only to see that their life outside church is not blessed by God. Why is this so? (**I Cor 3:20; I Chron 28:9; Jer 17:10**) \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Jeremiah 16:17; Amos 9:3** You cannot hide from God.
- ◆ **I Sam 2:3** Be careful because God knows everything.
- ◆ **Daniel 2:22** God reveals the hidden things.

**Q.** Will the one who attempts to hide his sin succeed? What will happen to the person who tries to cover up his sin? (**Jer 16:17**) \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Jeremiah 16:17** God knew you from the womb.
- ◆ **Romans 9:18** God chooses whom he will have mercy upon.
- ◆ **Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:48** God predestined His chosen to salvation.
- ◆ **I Pet 1:20-21** Before the creation of the world it was determined that Christ would die for the sins of those who had been elected to salvation.
- ◆ **Acts 15:18** God knew all the acts that He would do from the foundation of the world. This means that before you were born, He knew He would die for you in spite of the fact that you would deserve the penalty of sin.

**Q.** What part does God’s foreknowledge play in regards to the salvation of each individual? There is nothing that we have done or will do that is a surprise to God. How is it that the understanding of God’s foreknowledge increases ones understanding of the depth of God’s grace in regards to the salvation of the individual? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson Twelve: God is Omnipresent

*Pantheism contends that God is “in” everything. In contrast, Christianity declares that God is everywhere present. (Psalm 139:7-12) There are varying degrees of the manifestation of His presence and God manifests Himself in various ways. God manifests Himself as He wills, not as man decrees. He is God, not a genie in a lamp.*

- ◆ **Proverbs 15:3** The eyes of the Lord are everywhere.
- ◆ **Isa 66:1** Heaven is God’s throne and the earth is His footstool.
- ◆ **Acts 17:24-27** God is everywhere. Therefore he is easy to find by all.

**Q.** Mystics struggle to see God manifested. They use a multitude of techniques and self-abasments in order to experience the presence of God. In light of God’s constant nearness, is finding God as difficult as the mystics propose? What has God promised in regards to finding Him? (**Matt 7:7-12**) \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Acts 17:24-28** One thing that goes along with God’s omnipresence is the fact that He holds everything together.

**Q.** If it weren’t for God holding creation together, where would creation be? If He holds all creation together, can He make something good out of the most confused life? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Jer 23:24** God fills heaven and earth. One cannot hide from Him.
- ◆ **Psalm 139** Since God is omnipresent, no one can escape Him. He is present with us. He is in everything we do and think. It is to our benefit to ask God to lead us in the way everlasting.

**Q.** Since God’s presence is something that is always with us, and it is He who determines when and how He will manifest Himself, is it necessary to usher in His presence? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** Many act as if God is only present in church services and they worship Him there in a manner that is quite different than how they live in the world. If God is ever-present, where and under what circumstances must He be worshipped.

**(I Cor 10:31)** Give examples: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** Many claim that they cannot worship God because of this or that circumstance. Is the problem with the circumstance or the worshipper? Explain: .

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**The Articulate Worshipper:** Construct a prayer/praise statement that reflects the dynamics of our omnipresent God. Utilize the information supplied in lesson 12 to formulate your declaration. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson Thirteen: God is Omnipotent

*He is all powerful, He has unlimited power (Duet 3:24, Job 42:2)*

- ◆ **Rev 19: 6b** God is the only “Almighty” of the Bible.
- ◆ **Ps 115:3** God can do anything that pleases Him.
- ◆ **God has complete power over nature**
  - ⇒ **Gen 1:1-3** God has the power to create anything that He chooses by His spoken word.
  - ⇒ **Acts 17:24** God is the Creator of all things.
  - ⇒ **Psalms 107:25-29** The creation still responds to His voice.
  - ⇒ **Naham 1:5-6** All the earth trembles in His presence.
- ◆ **God has complete power over men.**
  - ⇒ **James 4:12-15** God’s will is supreme.
- ◆ **God has complete power over heavenly inhabitants.**
  - ⇒ **Daniel 4:34b-35** He does as He pleases in heaven.
- ◆ **God has complete power over Satan**
  - ⇒ **Job 1:12, 2:6** God gave Satan the authority to harm Job.
  - ⇒ **Rev 20:2** God will bind Satan for 1,000 years in the latter days.
- ◆ **Gen 6:6-7** God can destroy as he chooses
- ◆ **Job 42:2** No one can stop God.

**Q.** In light of God’s omnipotence, is there anything or any one who can stop the fulfillment of God’s will? Is there anything to be gained by the one who resists God’s will? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** God has complete authority over heaven and Satan. Is there any reason to fear the enemy? What will be the fate of those who attack God’s elect? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Heb 1:3** God has the power to preserve all things.

**Q.** Does God have the authority to keep us in Christ? In light of God’s omnipotence, is the Christian required to keep his own salvation secure? (**Phil 1:6**) \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Isa 43:13** No one can be delivered out of God's hand. No one can reverse His acts.

**Q.** There are many powerful people who believe that they control the world. Do they really? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** Based on God' omnipotence, what can we expect God to do for us when we face resistance, trouble and attacks from those who hate God? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Matt. 19:26** God's omnipotence carries with it a promise. Nothing is impossible for God.
- ◆ **Rom 1:16** God and God only has the power to save.

**Q.** God's power completely overshadows man's power. God's omnipotence affirms that he chooses to save who He wills and those he has chosen will be saved. Since that is undeniably true, will the omnipotent God who saved us to begin with also keep us secure in our salvation? (**I Pet 1:5**) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** What are the ramifications of God's omnipotence in regards to Christian worship? \_\_\_\_\_

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**The Articulate Worshipper:** Construct a prayer/praise statement that reflects the dynamics of our omnipotent God. Utilize the information supplied in lesson 13, to formulate your declaration. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson Fourteen: God is Immutable

*God is unchanging. He is unchangeable.*

- ◆ **Isa 46:9-10** Even though the will of men fails and the desires of ceasars, kings and presidents will pass away, God's purpose will stand.
- ◆ **James 1:17** God does not change like the shifting shadows. We can depend upon His provisions.

**Q.** God does not change in spite of circumstances. How should we reflect this characteristic? (**James 1:5-7**) \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Q.** Our lives should be directed by God rather than circumstances. Hence, we should stand firm in the midst of the ever-changing circumstances that surround us. (**Matt 7:24-27, 8:23-27, 14:22-33**) What do these scriptures say about worshipping God in the face of diverse circumstances? What areas of our lives demand consistent worship dedication? How can constant day-to-day worship improve one's walk with the Lord in the face of the changing circumstances that surround him/her? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- ◆ **Mal 3:6-7a** Though God never changes, man does. Though man forsakes God's Law, God's decrees never change. (**Matt 5:17-18**)

**Q.** Can any person, no matter how powerful and influential, thwart the will of the unchanging and all-powerful God? When faced with evil leadership, why can we still praise the unchanging God? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Q. I Sam 15:29** God never changes His mind. In what way should we as Christians reflect this attribute? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Lesson Fifteen: God is Sovereign

*God is chief, highest or supreme. He is the ruler of the universe. His authority is total and absolute. God takes all things and works them out according to His plan (**Gen 50:20**) God does what He wants. Though man has been given a free will, ultimately God has authority over man.*

- ◆ **Phil 2:6-11** Everyone will bow before God one day. This even includes those who, during their life, rebel and reject God.
- ◆ **Eph 1; Romans 9:10-18**, God is sovereign over the eternal destiny of each individual. He willed salvation from the beginning, while choosing who He chose and rejecting who He willed to reject.

**Q.** Can a person who has been chosen for salvation effectively resist the call of the all powerful and sovereign God? Since God is sovereign, will He effectively keep us in the salvation that He has called us into? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** In the face of the sovereign God, is there anything to be gained by the one who resists His will? Will God accomplish with us what He has decided to accomplish? What then, should we do with our lives as worshippers? Is happiness found in fighting God or submitting to His sovereign choices for us? Give life examples: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q. Rom 13:1-7; Eph 5:22-33, 6:1-4** Consistent with His sovereign nature, God has appointed authority structures in society that are necessary for order. With that in mind, can the person who rebels against *godly* authority be considered a worshipper of the sovereign God? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson Sixteen: God is Love

“. . .love is that which seeks good for the object loved. . .love is that which seeks the will of God in the object love.” Charles C. Ryrie The will of God is that good will be done in each beleiver’s life. Love seeks to accomplish that end. Some times this requires tough love.

- ◆ **I John 4:8** God is love.
- ◆ **I John 4:9-10; Rom 5:8** All love generates from God. We did not become saved because of our great love for God, but God’s great love for us.

**Q.** If there is no way that we could have ever loved God unless He first loved us, is it possible for people to do anything to gain salvation? (**Eph 2:8-10**) Since worship is an act of loving God, (**Matt 22:34-40**), where does the inspiration of all godly worship come from? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **John 3:16; I John 3:16** Love is laying one’s life down for others as Christ laid His life down for us.

**Q.** What is the motivation of the one who sees himself elevated at the expense of others? Is this love? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Romans 12:9** Love is hating evil and clinging to good.

**Q. Mark 9:45-48** Many believe that because God is love that He will not send people to eternal hell. Those who contend this do not take into account that God is holy and just and cannot allow sin in his sight. Why does the God of love punish sinners who reject His Son? (**Matt 7:23; 13: 40-43; 25:46; II Pet 1:4-22; Mark 9:43-47; Rom 2:7-8; Heb 2:2-3a; Rev 2:15**)\_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson Seventeen: God is Just/Righteous

- ◆ God's righteousness is His holy character expressed in His dealings with men. It is to say that God is equitable or fair.
- ◆ **Psalm 145:17** God's righteousness is related to His holiness.
- ◆ **Psalm 19:7-9; 119:137** God's law and his judgment are always just.
  - ⇒ **Jeremiah 12:1a** God always deals with our case justly.

**Q.** When the world is unfair, God is just. How can we expect God to act in regards to our case when the world has treated us unjustly? What waits for the unjust who deny God? **Psalm 12** Though the world is unfair, will the Christian prevail? Why? (**Rom 8:28**) \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ God's righteousness is manifested an many ways:
  - ⇒ **Ps 11:4-7** The punishment of the wicked.
  - ⇒ **I Jn 1:9** The forgiveness of sins.
  - ⇒ **Neh 9:7-8** The keeping of His promises.
  - ⇒ **Ps 129:1-4** Vindicating His people from their enemies.
  - ⇒ **Heb 6:10, II Tim 4:8** In rewarding the righteous.
- ◆ **Psalm 145:17** God's righteousness is founded on love
  - ⇒ **Psalm 116:5** God is not an ogre. His righteous acts are full of compassion.
  - ⇒ **Acts 17:31** When men stand before God, they will receive full justice. However, all have been warned of the consequences and the propitiation for sin. All have been given a way of escape.
  - ⇒ **Rom 3:21-26** God offered His Son to pay the penalty for sin which was death. This penalty was demanded by God's justice. Hence, those who believe on Christ are free from the penalty for sin that is demanded by the righteous God.

**Q.** We are free from the penalty of sin. Does this give us the license to sin? Explain (**Rom 6:1-2**) \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Rom 5: 18-19** The blood of the Lamb has made all those who will believe on Christ righteous.

**Q.** If Christians have been made righteous by Christ, should they behave righteously? (**Tim 6:11**) \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Q.** In relation to His judgments, God is called a “consuming fire.” (**Heb 12:28-29**) With this in mind, with what attitude must God be worshipped? \_\_\_\_\_  
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**The Articulate Worshipper:** Construct a prayer/praise statement that reflects the dynamics of our just and righteous God. Utilize the information supplied in lesson 17 to formulate your declaration. \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Lesson Twenty One: The Incarnation

*God became flesh and dwelt among us.*

- ◆ **John 1:14** The Word became flesh.
- ◆ **Matt 1:22-23** The incarnation occurred in order to bring God to mankind.
- ◆ **Isa 7:14** The incarnation was a sign to the world that the Savior has come!
- ◆ **Phil 2:6-8** God became flesh to die for people who were dead in their sins.

**Q.** God humbled Himself in order to save men from their sin. What is the reaction of the great majority in the world? (**Jn 1:10-11**) What waits for those who recognize Jesus for who He is? (**Jn 1:12-13**) \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Q.** Worship can be summed up as an attitude of gratitude. It is an act of response of thanksgiving to God. The incarnation was a fulfillment of a long-awaited promise of God. What is it about the celebration of Christmas that should inspire daily worship in the life of the believer? (**Matt 1:2; Rom 8:3; I Tim 3:16; Isa 11:1-9; Isa 9:6-7; Luke 1:46-53, 67-79, 2:4**) \_\_\_\_\_  
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**The Articulate Worshipper:** Construct a prayer/praise statement that reflects the dynamics of God dwelling with us. Utilize the information supplied in lesson 21 to formulate your declaration. \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Lesson Twenty Two: God suffered and died to save us from the penalty of sin

- ◆ **Isa 50:6, 53:5** Christ's suffering for our sin was prophesied.
- ◆ **Isa 53:3** Christ's life on earth brought him much sorrow.
- ◆ **Mk 15:34** Jesus was abandoned by His Father.
- ◆ **Luke 22:44** Blood dripped from Christ's forehead as he agonized over His imitate death.
- ◆ **Mark 15:29-30** Christ suffered for men, yet he was despised by them.
- ◆ **Acts 8:33** Christ was humiliated.
- ◆ **Matt 27:28-29; Mark 15:31-32** Christ was mocked and insulted.
- ◆ **Matt 27:35** Christ was crucified, which was a terrible and agonizing death.
- ◆ **Isa 53:7** Christ was sacrificed like a lamb to the slaughter.

Q. As Christ died, so we, as Christians, die to self. How does this reflect in our worship life? (**Col 3:2-3**) \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **I Peter 3:18** Christ suffered to bring man to God.
- ◆ **Isa 53:4; Matt 8:17** Christ suffered in order to carry our burden.
- ◆ **Isa 53:5; Gal 3:13, Heb 2:9** Christ died to be man's substitute. Man should have died for his own sin. Yet God Himself died and paid the penalty.
- ◆ **John 10:11, Rom 5:6, I Cor 15:3; II Cor 5:15** Christ died to redeem us from our sins.
- ◆ **Heb 9:28** Christ died to bear the sins of many.

Q. From the foundation of the world God knew He would suffer and die for His elect. Since we are that elect, what impact should this fact have on our worship life? How is it that suffering is a part of our worship life? Since Christ died for us, what part should the sufferings of Christ have in our worship life? \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **John 15:13; I John 3:16** Christ died willingly and voluntarily.

Q. Since Christ died willingly for us, what should we therefore do for others? (**I Jn 3:16**) \_\_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Heb 13:12** Jesus suffered to make us holy.
- ◆ **Heb 2:10** Jesus was perfected in His sufferings in order to bring us into glory.
- ◆ **Rom 8:17** Those who share in Christ's sufferings will share in His glory.

**Q.** Jesus suffered, not only to save us but to bring us into glory. He was perfected through His sufferings. Therefore, what should the worshipper's attitude be towards suffering? (**Rom 8:17; I Pet 2:20, 5:10**) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** How does suffering alter the believer? (**James 1:2-4; Rom 5:3-10**) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** The death of Christ for us is the central theme of the Bible. It is the reason for all of human history. With that in mind, what place should the death of Christ have in the worship liturgy of believers? To what extent should the praise of Christians center around Christ's redeeming act on the cross? (**I Cor 1:22-24**) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** In light of the crucifixion of Christ, what is the roll of "self" in the worship life of the believer? (**Gal 2:20**) Who is worship for? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Q.** How might the one who has been redeemed from sin express his gratitude to God in worship? (**I Pet 2:24; Rom 6:11-14**) \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson Twenty Six: God sustains us

*He keeps us in our salvation.*

- ◆ **II Cor 1:21-22; Eph 4:30; Eph 1:13-14** We are sealed by the Holy Spirit. God has put His seal on us and He makes us stand in Christ.
- ◆ **Rom 8:35, 38-39** Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

**Q.** God seals our salvation with the Holy Spirit. He makes us stand firm in Him. Nothing can separate us from His love. Does He, therefore, empower the Christian to persevere with Him till the end? Is it possible to loose salvation that has been secured with the seal of the One who chose us from the foundation of the world? \_\_\_\_\_

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### God protects us

- ◆ **Psalm 91** A psalm depicting the loving care of God for His children.
  - ⇒ **Ver 1-2** Those who dwell in the shelter of God can trust Him.
  - ⇒ **Ver 3-8** God will spare us from the harm that falls on the wicked.
  - ⇒ **Ver 9-13** God sends angels to protect us. Under the shadow of this covering we trample on that which can do us harm.
  - ⇒ **Ver 14-16** God will answer our prayers and lead us to salvation.

**Q.** What instances in your life have demonstrated God's protecting hand? \_\_\_\_\_

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**The Articulate Worshipper:** Construct a prayer/praise statement that reflects the dynamics of God who sustains and protects us. Utilize the information supplied in lesson 26 to formulate your declaration. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Lesson Twenty Seven: There is none who can be compared with our great God!

- ◆ **Psalm 113:5** No being is comparable to God for He is incomparable.
- ◆ **Ps 96:4-5** If there is a comparison between the gods of men and the true God it is this: Men make their gods with their own hands but God made the men who made the gods.

**Q. Psalm 92** describes the goodness of our incomparable God in a great exaltation of declarative praise. Though many refuse to recognize it God works on behalf of His people. Read the psalm and detail the things that God does. \_\_\_\_

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- ◆ **Ps 105:1-5** God has done much for us in the past.
- ◆ **Psalm 105:6-7** God is doing much good for us right now.
- ◆ **Psalm 105:8** God will continue to do good things for us in the future.

**Q.** Read **Phil 4:8** people fail to praise God in their everyday lives because they become so overcome with the negative things in life that they don't acknowledge the great things that God does for His people. Consider your life. Make a list of the negative things that occur. Read **Psalm 13**, then think about how God, according to this study has dealt bountifully with you and how He will bring victory in the situation. Write that down. \_\_\_\_\_

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**The Articulate Worshipper.** Write out a praise to God that describes your situation and your response of gratitude to Him for who He is and what He has done, is doing or will do. \_\_\_\_\_

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