

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Who Art Thou Lord? No 1.

11th March 2003

Who Art Thou Lord?

Key Verse: "And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." Acts 9.5

The 'he' referred to here is Saul. It is part of the story how he met His Saviour personally and his life was turned around, a story he never tired of telling. (See Acts 22.1-21 and Acts 26.1-24). The question seems unnecessary. However it reveals a heart that was searching for reality. Saul knew two things, first the vision was from heaven above. He had no doubt, and second that it was God who spoke. The word 'Lord' tells us that. "I am Jesus . . ." Many ancient texts include the identifier, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth.' This is the identification used by the persecuting Jews against the infant Church. See Acts 6.14. This is what turned Saul around. The Nazarene was the Lord of Hosts.

We too need to ask this question, 'Who art thou Lord?' Our need is different to that of Saul, but a deeper understanding of the nature and way of God can turn us around. When we know 'who' God is, His nature, His essence, His heart, what it is that makes God, God: when we know that then we will be more able to please Him in daily life, and invite others to share in that life too. This series of studies will look at the nature of God, what God is as God and what God is as He relates to His children through the Lord Jesus Christ.

By God's Attributes We Know His Nature.

Just as a husband or wife after living closely for many years, know what makes their spouse tick, so as we read about God's dealings with mankind in the Bible over time, we learn about the His nature.

He has revealed Himself to us in His works of creation and providence. See Psalm 19.1, 97.6, 145:17 and Hebrews 3.9&10.

He has revealed himself by His word. The Bible does not claim to reveal God, it points to His attributes by telling of His intervention in the affairs of men, in the past, through Jesus Christ and in the days to come.

He has revealed Himself to us in

His Son. Jesus said, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet have you not known me, Philip? he that has seen me has seen the Father?" John 14:9. See also Hebrews 1.1-3 and John 1.18 John 5.39.

By reading these things that are true about God we learn of His nature, the person that God is.

There are two kinds of attribute; those that tell us about what God is in Himself, and those that point to what God is in His dealings with His creation. In this series we shall follow the outline provided by Dr. A H Strong as it is logical and progressive in its presentation. Here is a brief summary.

First, the Absolute Attributes; those that tell us about God in His being.

We see that **God is Spirit**

'God is Spirit' John 4.24 He is not corporate as we are with its limitations. He does not depend on matter, nor need He relate to matter. And all things whether material or spirit are subordinate. See also Romans 1.20, 1 Timothy 1.17 & Colossians 1.15 His spirituality is expressed in two attributes, Life and Personality.

We see that **God is Infinite**

We cannot think without measure.

To us even the universe has a limit. What is beyond the margins of creation? But God has no bounds. See 1 Kings 8.27 and Romans 11.33. There are three attributes that point to God's infinity; His self existence, His changelessness and His oneness.

We see that **God is Perfect**

By perfection we mean His absolute excellence as a person. The intelligence, emotion and volition of God is without equal and absolute. See Matthew 5.48 and Colossians 1.28. He is perfection in truth,

It is important to know these things if we wish to please God in our lives, for they teach us what God has revealed about Himself. However important it is to know about God, it is much more important to *know God Himself* through Jesus His son. Look up John 5.29, Philippians 3.8-10 and 1 John 5.11&12.

My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. Psalm 119.171

perfect in love and perfect in holiness.

Second, the Relative Attributes;

those that tell about how He relates to and with His creation.

In relation to **Time and Space**

We find that God is without beginning or end. He has no succession of existence or need of time. Time and space are but part of His creation. He dwells without all bounds or measurement. See Psalm 90.2 and 1 Timothy 1.17. Eternity and immensity are His.

In relation to **His Creation**

He is not diminished, He cannot expand or improve or be bettered. There is no limit, no question or effort in God. We read of His Omnipresence, omniscience and omnipotence. See Isaiah 57.15.

In relation to **Moral Beings**

In this relation we see truth in action in His faithfulness, we see love in action in His goodness and holiness in action in His righteousness. Psalm 138.2 & 1 Corinthians 2.9

Welcome Glen Park Gospel Church
Lower Road, Eltham North
Sundays 10.30 am

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