

Our Relationship with God in 2018: Estranged or Intimate?

A Study of the Character of God as He has Revealed Himself vs.
the Substitute Idols of our Neo-Pagan Culture

Speaker: Charles Clough

www.bibleframework.org

Lesson 6: Monday Early AM, 3 Sep

Introduction & Review

Review of Satan's endlessly repeated lies that deny that special revelation ever occurred, and that fallen man is capable of defining good and evil and bringing about a just society on earth.

[Slide 46 to summarize man's six deep needs supplied by a relationship with God with six of His attributes so far studied]

Two more attributes in this session—divine omnipotence and divine omnipresence

God Alone is OMNIPOTENT

1. Must begin with special revelation of His omnipotence found throughout His historic revelation. [Slide 47 to show His almighty power in creation, the Noahic Covenant, and the future new creation.]
2. Learn our finite analog to His omnipotence because we are made “in His image.” Our daily labor affects the world outside of us. Notice the arm & hand human metaphor throughout Scripture for God's mighty power.
3. Unbelief/Pagan perversions & idols of omnipotence try to create some sort of substitute for God's omnipotence. The classic pagan idol is nature worship. [Slides 48 & 49 depict modern illustrations of nature worship in a so-called “scientific age”.] [Slide 50 shows ancient Baal nature worship seen in the times of Elijah and Elisha by specific stories of their encounters with it.] Simultaneously occurring with modern forms of nature worship is an increasingly powerful global movement to attempt re-creation of the Babel vision. [Slide 51 shows how global leaders are using climate change as a vehicle toward that goal.]
4. Concluding blessings to us
 - Only God has the knowledge and power to bring history to its grand culmination. I don't want to waste my time and energy in schemes that try to change the divine institution of civil government designed to *preserve* society into a tool of global *redemption*.
 - I can trust that God is able to answer my prayer requests
 - I can trust that God is able to empower my daily walk with Him in this world

God Alone is OMNIPRESENT

1. Must begin with special revelation of His omnipresence found throughout His historic revelation. This attribute should not be confused with the spatial idea of “sacred space” we discussed earlier. [Slide 52 citing Ps 139:7–11]
2. Learn our finite analog to His omnipresence because we are made “in His image.” In our imagination we can “travel” to distant places, and with modern communication we can converse with people anywhere on earth.
3. Unbelief/Pagan perversions & idols of space try to create some sort of substitute for God's omnipresence. In the ancient world deities were thought to be limited to local regions. The exile

of Israel out of its location over to Babylon showed Jews that their God was NOT local but reigned in power even there. [*Slide 53 citing Dan 3:29 reports that the Gentle king came to realize that the God of the Jews reigned in every nation and language*] Modern unbelieving man starting with an impersonal cosmos, searches desperately for other personal beings in the universe so as not to be “cosmically lonely.”

4. Concluding blessings to us

- Assures me that God is fully present in my location, sees all the details, and understands by direct observation my prayer requests
- Heightens my ethical sense of nakedness in His Presence as a restraint against sinning