

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

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Lesson 7: Monday Late AM, 3 Sep

Introduction

One more attribute—divine eternity—to cover and then a summary of the weekend lessons

God Alone is ETERNAL

1. Must begin with special revelation of His eternity found throughout His historic revelation. [Slide 54 citing Rev 1:8; John 8:58; Isa 41:22–23] God's perception of time isn't limited to our time scale according to 2 Pet 3:8.
2. Learn our finite analog to His eternity because we are made "in His image". We have memories of past time, choices in present time, and predictions of the future.
3. Unbelief/Pagan perversions & idols of time try to create some sort of substitute for God's eternity. The world system seeks to suppress the sense of eternity that God has placed in our heart (Ecl 3:11): uses "deep time" to suppress sense of a recent creation in the past, provides never-ending distractions to divert attention from the gospel, and seduces mankind with Babel-like schemes to mimic God's prophesied future kingdom.
4. Concluding blessings to us
 - Provides an eternal perspective of my temporal concerns (e.g., how will these concerns appear to me looking back 25,000 years from now?).
 - Assures me that "sudden accidents" have been considered by God forever—no surprises for Him

Summary of Our Weekend Together

1. We've all been created in His image—finite replicas of the triune, personal God—so we have experiences that are analogous to His being.
2. We've all been created in His image—so we have needs that only He can provide for. [Slide 55 and slide 56 show the nine needs we have and the corresponding divine attributes.]
3. The ongoing spiritual battle with the demonic powers over our fallen world.
 - We need daily to view life from the divine viewpoint solidly grounded in God's historic special revelation, which is the Bible.
 - We must be alert to recognize the key lies of the Wicked One: (1) denial of special revelation ("Has God said?") and (2) claim that we can define good and evil to create a perfect unified global society like that of Babel.
4. Three Key Charts (*slides 57, 58, 59*).
The historic difference between the Bible (special revelation) and pagan unbelief (general revelation perverted).

Shall I Bow to My Creator?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YES! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ancient monotheism - ancient Israel - Bible - fundamentalism • CREATOR/creature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God man nature - everlasting distinctions • PERSONAL SOVEREIGN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ultimate responsibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ancient myths - eastern religions - western philosophy - modern theology • Continuity of Being <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - nature > gods > man - transmutation / evolution • IMPERSONAL FATE & CHANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ultimate victimization |
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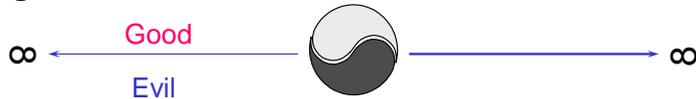
The ethical difference between the Bible (special revelation) and pagan unbelief (general revelation perverted).

Who Has the REAL “Evil Problem”?

Christian: Good/Evil Mix is “Abnormal” & Temporary



Pagan: Good/Evil Mix is Forever “Normal”



The design of society as implied by God’s 10-commandment revelation and pagan unbelief’s assaults upon that design.

God's Design of Society

LIFE (<i>protected</i>)	LIFE (<i>jeopardized</i>)
MARRIAGE & FAMILY (strong & functioning)	MARRIAGE & FAMILY (weak & dysfunctional)
LABOR & PROPERTY (respected & productive)	LABOR & PROPERTY (demeaned & wasted)
INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (consistently states truth)	INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (deceitfully professes truth for agendas)
HEART ALLEGIANCE (to God)	HEART ALLEGIANCE (to self)