

The Biblical Counselor: Our View of God

A heart of worship

Job 38:25-32

Who has cleft a channel for the flood, Or a way for the thunderbolt, ²⁶To bring rain on a land without people, *On* a desert without a man in it, ²⁷To satisfy the waste and desolate land And to make the seeds of grass to sprout? ²⁸“Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew? ²⁹“From whose womb has come the ice? And the frost of heaven, who has given it birth? ³⁰“Water becomes hard like stone, And the surface of the deep is imprisoned. ³¹“Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, Or loose the cords of Orion? ³²“Can you lead forth a constellation in its season, And guide the Bear with her satellites?

God, whom we have the privilege of knowing personally, is extreme in power. He causes thunder and rain. He ordains the boundaries of glaciers and frozen lakes. He put the stars in their places. Many are thousands of years from here, if we could travel at the speed of light. He will one day cause the light of a third of them to cease.

A right view of God is a heart of worship. All glory is His. We are created for this role. It is an honor to bow before Him. To be able to stand alone and look at the wonders of the sky on a clear summer night and be at peace with the Maker of all that stretches out before you, from horizon to horizon, is a good thing. The overwhelming power of the living God causes fear for the sinner. It is a starting point of loving worship for those who know Him.

Psalms 103:1-5

Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name. ²Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; ³Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; ⁴Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with loving kindness and compassion; ⁵Who satisfies your [□]years with good things, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle.

Take time to remember His benefits today. Give thanks for the kindness and compassion of your God. This life He provides is beautiful. Our souls grow in Him until the day He takes us home.

Revelation 5:12-13

saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.” ¹³And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.”

The redeemed soul praises the Son of God. He is our Savior. He laid down His life for us. We have life because of His faithfulness. We believe because of the grace of the Father. We are God's children because the Spirit set us apart. There is much for which to give thanks. Return to the cross again in your mind. Offer your worship to the Lord.

A heart of obedience

Romans 6:10-14

For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, ¹³and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. ¹⁴For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

My purpose is to obey God. There is sin in my life. I am made aware of current sins by the living and active Word. Change must occur. I seek to become more like Christ in these present opportunities.

What thoughts should fill my mind? What is true? I am dead to sin and alive to Christ. I died to the old self with Him. I present myself to God as alive from the dead. I submit myself to obey His will. Sin will not be master over me, because I am His. Even the temptation I have given into a hundred times is not my master. By God's grace, victory will be won. My mission is to obey His Word. I strive to do right, hour by hour.

A heart of love

John 14:15

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

1 Peter 1:6-9

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

What does it mean to love God? To love Him is to obey Him. He is God. It honors Him to refuse temptations to sin. To make progress in sanctification is to grow in holiness. He is Holy.

Difficult times bring great circumstances for loving God. You have the stage to prove your faith. It brings praise and glory and honor to Jesus Christ when a person stands strong in obeying the Word in the face of hard times. The results of such love for Him are growing faith, fulfilling joy and increased assurance of salvation.

The impact on how we counsel

The worshipping counselor speaks the truths of the Bible with confidence and authority. He or she looks the counselee in the eye and assures them that the promises of God are true. This counselor is not uncertain whether God's grace will be powerful enough to enable change. Worship results in the counselor measuring the session based on questions such as, "Did I honor You in how I spoke about Your Word?" "Did I properly exhort this soul to obey You, in light of Your greatness?" and "Did I emulate the care and compassion of Christ?"

The impact on how we view counselees

The heart that worships God sees those who come for help as souls for whom Christ died. For this reason it is a prominent position to be able to serve them. To equip the struggling Christian to overcome problems is a high place. We respect them. We do not wonder, "Do they like me?" but rather, "Did I love and serve them as Jesus did?" Since we are complete in the God that we worship, we do not need affirmation, praise or love from the counselee. We are here to benefit them. We hurt with them, weep with them, pray for them and come alongside to carry their burdens with them. We do so for the honor of our God.

The impact on how we view difficulty

Some cases are more rigorous than others. Many factors may increase the challenge for the counselor. The worshipping advisor sees the challenges in comparison with the power of God. Therefore, there is great confidence. Similarly, counselees often look to the counselor for an example of how to react to the adversity in their lives. How helpful it is when they hear truth of real hope from the Scriptures, spoken by one who believes it wholeheartedly and lives to worship the Lord.

Outline for teaching during class

God is eternal

God is Holy

My sins

The cross

Full of thanksgiving

Living for God

Romans 8.28

Our mission in regard to other people

The adventure of counseling

God doing what only He can do