

A LOOK AT THE NEW TESTAMENT

When you think of God, what aspects of his character do you immediately think of?

A friend says: “The bible says that God is a loving God, not an angry God. The idea that God is angry is *so* Old Testament – we’ve left that all behind now. When we get things wrong, he’s not angry - he knows that we’re weak and loves us just the same.” How would you reply?

// Read Romans 1:18-23

What surprises you about verses 18-21?

What things does Paul say that people, whether Christian or not, do actually know about God?

Paul states that everybody knows about God, but they’ve chosen to actively dismiss him in their lives (‘suppress the truth’). Can we think of examples where we have seen this to be true? How does this change the way we might discuss the gospel with people who aren’t Christians?

// Read Romans 1:24-32

Once people choose to dismiss God, what are some of the inevitable consequences, according to this passage?

Three times in this passage we see the phrase ‘God gave them over’ (v24,26,28), and the entire passage is talking about God’s wrath (v18). In other words, God’s judgment is to let people carry on with their sin. Does talking of God’s wrath shock us? Why? How might we talk of this with people who aren’t Christians?

G. K. Chesterton said, “Every man who knocks on the door of a brothel is looking for God.” In what ways might he be right?

Your friend says to you “I wish I had a faith like yours. It’s so good to have something to believe in, like you do. But I don’t believe in anything.” How would you try and speak to them about Jesus?

study notes
week two

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

WAY IN

Reflection: *Take a moment to think about what one thing you would like God to do during this study. Take some time to pray about this (either on your own or as a group).*

Your friend says to you “I like most of the commandments, like the ones about not murdering people & stealing from others. But, I just don’t see the need for the first few commandments about God. They’re a bit irrelevant today, aren’t they? Why can’t we have the commandments about other people without the ‘God bits’?” What would you say?

Imagine that an alien landed in Surbiton, to take a look at 21st Century British society...as they studied the things we give all our energy, time and money to, what would they conclude that we worshipped?

A LOOK AT EXODUS

// Read Exodus 20:3 and Deuteronomy 10:12-22
Compare Ex 20:3 with Deuteronomy 10:17. Look for any similarities in these verses.

What did the above verses mean for the Hebrew people, fresh out of Egypt, when we consider that they had lived for generations among Egyptians with their range of over 100 gods?

Look at 2 Chronicles 33:1-6 in the light of Exodus 20:3. What had happened to the people of Israel at this stage in their history under the leadership of King Manasseh? (It is worth noting that

they were surrounded and influenced by people groups and nations who had many gods.)

In our secular and increasingly humanistic age where people don’t believe in any “gods” what do we understand Exodus 20:3 to mean for our society in general and for Christian believers in particular?

In Deuteronomy 10:12 we have four statements about the relationship God’s people are to have with him; a) “to fear the LORD your God”; b) “to walk in all his ways”; c) “to love him”; d) “to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul”. What do these statements mean for us? Also consider Deuteronomy 6:4 and Luke 10:27.

What does Deuteronomy 10:15 tell us about the nature and character of God and his relationship with us?
In Deuteronomy 10:18-19 we see further attributes of God. What implications might this have for us? Read Deuteronomy 24:19-22 Leviticus 19:18 and Luke 10:27

In the second half of verse 19 why does the writer remind them of their time in Egypt? What has this to say to us?

QUOTE TO REFLECT ON

‘Failure to believe that God accepts us fully in Christ—and to look to something else for our salvation—is a failure to keep the first commandment; namely, having no other gods before him. To try to earn your own salvation through works-righteousness is breaking the first commandment. Martin Luther writes that we cannot truly keep any of the other laws unless we keep the first commandment—against idolatry and works-righteousness. Thus beneath any particular sin is this sin of rejecting Christ-salvation and indulging in self-salvation.’ (Tim Keller)

Do you agree? How might this change the way you see your life?