

TEXT SERMON

SERIES: *THE GOD WHO IS***“THE GOD WHO IS”****Psalm 48:14**

*“For **this God is** our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to death.”*

A legal document filed in Murphy, N.C., created a puzzling situation for the courts there. An eccentric woman named God in her will to receive part of her estate. To settle the matter, a suit was filed naming God as the Defendant. The local sheriff was appointed to serve the summons on God. After several days he brought in this report: “After due and diligent search, God cannot be found in Cherokee County.”

In April of 1961, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human to travel into space aboard Vostok 1. Peering through the window of his spacecraft, Gagarin made the comment, “I don’t see any God up here.” Later, Russian Premiere Nikita Khrushchev, in an anti-religious propaganda speech before the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party said: ‘Why should you clutch at God? Look, Gagarin flew in space and saw no God.’”

The following Sunday, Dr. W.A. Criswell, the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, TX , made this statement: “If those atheists had stepped out of their space suits, they would have met God!” The Russian astronauts do not hold the patent on unbelief. Atheism is not confined to Russia. Anti-Godism is wide-spread and growing in the United States.

Our United States monetary coins have the words, “In God We Trust” minted on them. There has been a move under way for some time to eliminate those words from our currency in the future. Eliminate them they may but the true and living God will not be affected. An Old Testament King, Nebuchadnezzar, who defied God, learned the hard way that there indeed is a God to whom he was accountable and after his encounter with Him said:

“I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: “What have you done?”” And v.37 -

“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.” (Dan 4:34-35 & 37)

“This God is.” Do you know *this* God or just know about Him? The knowledge of God is the most important knowledge that we can acquire! “This says the LORD: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.” (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Psalm 48 exalts the true God Who is! It begins with the words, “Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised” and concludes with the words, “*this God is* our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to death.” These words confirm God’s existence, His eternity and His eminence.

Let us meditate on these words, “*This God is.....*” Think about that statement as follows:

I. THIS STATEMENT CONFRONTS OUR FOES ABOUT THEIR FALLACY.

“For this God is....” (v.1) This is a positive statement which is met with negative responses from unbelievers. This phrase declares that “God is!” That statement is a powerful declaration, the truth of which confronts those who assail this truth with their fallacy. There are several major classifications of false thought with regard to the existence of the one true and living God to Whom all must eventually give an account. Some of them are:

A. Pantheism.

The word “pantheist” is from the Greek word “pan” meaning “all” and the word “theos” meaning “god.” Together they form the word “pantheist” or “pantheism – “one who believes that all forces, manifestations, all the universe is god.”

B. Polytheism.

The word is from two Greek words, “poly” meaning “many” and “theos” meaning “god”– “The belief in many gods.”

C. Deism.

The words “deist” and “deism” are from the Latin “deus” meaning “god” - and is belief in the existence of God; that He created the world and left it to run itself. He is an absentee landlord, unreachable, untouchable and unknowable.

D. Atheism.

The word is from the Greek “theos” with the negative prefix “A” meaning “without” or “not” and is “one who denies the existence of a god.”

E. Agnosticism.

This word is likewise of Greek origin and is from the word “gignoskein” which means “to know” or “knowledge,” with the negative prefix “A” and is “one who believes it is not possible to know if God exists.”

What does the true and only living God of heaven and earth, “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort” (2 Cor. 1:3) have to say to such about their fallacies? The answer is in Psalm 14:1 and Psalm 53:1 where both verses repeat the same statement: “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.”

The statement in Psalm 48:14 that “*this God is*” confronts the foes of divine revelation with truth that undermines their false assumptions. The statement that “*this God is*”:

- stands as a witness against all non-biblical views about God;
- condemns unbelief;

- denounces false gods;
- will doom them in the day of judgment!

To espouse any other belief is to deny that Jesus was correct when He said, “your word is truth” (John 17:17) and since God’s Word is forever “settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89), it is the only credible authority on the subject. God’s Word “stands like a rock undaunted” though by foes of truth surrounded.

Illust. On one of my trips to Israel, our Jewish guide startled me one day by saying that 20% of the population of that nation was atheistic. Later that day, because of an injury to my hand and the resulting infection, an Israeli doctor called on me at my hotel and cared for my hand. He said he was an atheist and repeated the statistic. He explained that his relatives had been killed by Hitler in the Holocaust. He said, “If there were a God He would not have let the Holocaust happen.”

The presence of evil does not prove the absence of God. Ps. 48:14 says, “This God is”! This statement confronts our foes with the true God before Whom they must bow or against Whom they must battle.

II. THIS STATEMENT CONFIRMS THE FAITH OF THE FAITHFUL.

“This God is”! In this day when faith is waning and some of the faithful are wavering, this statement comes as a confirmation of our faith. Psalm 48:14 is a great statement of faith. Emphasize each word: “THIS God is”; This GOD is”; “This God IS”; “This God is OUR God.” That statement bolsters our faith when we are buffeted by the winds of doubt.

In Psalm 48 Jehovah is declared to be:

- The God Who is the “Great LORD” – v.1
- The God Who is the “Great King” – v.2
- The God Who is the “Lord Almighty” – v.8

Concentrate with me on the single, simple word “*This*” - “*This* God.” Our faith is founded upon *this* God Who has revealed Himself to us in a trilogy of revelations. He has revealed Himself to mankind in the following three marvelous ways:

A. In Creation.

Genesis 1:1 -“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Isaiah 40:28 “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.”

B. In Incarnation.

John 1:1 & 14 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” – “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

I Timothy 3:16 - “God was manifest in the flesh.”

C. In Inscripturation.

II Timothy 3:16 – “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God....”

Our faith is founded and focused upon the Self-revealing God. Throughout the history of the church creeds and confessions of faith have summarized the biblical teachings about God. There have been a number of them, the most well known are the Apostle’s Creed, and the Nicene Creed. These statements begin with a declaration about God.

The Apostle’s Creed dates from very early times, a half century or so from the last writings of the New Testament. It begins with these words: “I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.”

The Nicene Creed was adopted by the [Nicaean](#) Council meeting in Nicea in 325.

It begins with these words: “I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.”

As much as we appreciate these creeds which enunciate what the Bible teaches, our faith does not rest in extra-biblical creeds but in the God of the Word Himself. As Eliza E. Hewitt said in her hymn:

“My faith has found a resting place,
Not in device or creed;
I trust the ever living One,
His wounds for me shall plead.”

The statement in Psalm 48:14 that “this God is” not only confronts our foes and confirms our faith, but it comforts fearful souls.

III. THIS STATEMENT COMFORTS OUR FEARS ABOUT THE FUTURE.

The future is where we will spend our eternity. The entire plot of biblical truth is intended to prepare us for life here and hereafter. The God Who is, is the God for time and eternity!

Psalm 48:14 gives us a partial pen-portrait of God: “this God is our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to death.” He is our Sovereign – “this God is our God”; He is our Shepherd – “he will be our guide”; He is our Security – “even unto death.” What a great God! How comforting to know that on our pilgrimage “through many dangers, toils and snares” on the way to the Father’s house, He is with us every step of the way. To know of a certainty that “this God is” drives away whatever fears we might have. The one who knows the God Who is, knows that He is great enough to handle any problems we may have.

Illust. C. H. Spurgeon said, “How great Jehovah is essentially none can conceive; but we can all see that he is great in the deliverance of his people, great in their esteem who are delivered, and great in the hearts of those enemies whom he scatters by their own fears. Instead of the mad cry of Ephesus, “Great is Diana,” we hear the reasonable, demonstrable, self-evident testimony, “Great is Jehovah.” There is none great in the church but the

Lord. Jesus is “the *great* Shepherd,” He is “Saviour”, and a great one, our great God and Saviour, our great High Priest.”

More than 60 times God says to us in His Word, “Be not afraid” or “Do not fear.” Why would those words cancel out our fears? Because “this God is”! And He cares. Look at Psalm 48:14 again:

- Fear not for “this God” is the preeminent God = “*this* God.”
- Fear not for “this God” is the personal God = “this God is *our* God.”
- Fear not for “this God” is the permanent God = “*forever and ever.*”
- Fear not for “this God” is the present God = “*he will be our guide even to death.*”

Illust. A saintly widow’s faith was put into action: when asked if she feared living alone she answered, “When fear knocks, I let God answer the door!” That is a good example for all of us.

THIS GOD IS OUR GOD!

He is the Architect of the universe and Creator of all.
 He is the Ruler of rulers, the Leader of leaders.
 He always was, He is, and He always will be.
 He is eternal, true, holy, all-powerful and love.
 He is unchanged, unchanging and never unavailable.
 He is sovereign, He is faithful, He is my God!

Furthermore,
 When I fall, He lifts me up!
 When I am weak, He is strong!
 When I am lost, He is the way!
 When I am afraid, He is my courage!
 When I stumble, He steadies me!
 When I am hurt, He heals me!
 When I am broken, He mends me!
 When I am blind, He leads me!
 When I am hungry, He feeds me!
 When I face trials, He is with me!
 When I face persecution, He shields me!
 When I face problems, He comforts me!
 When I face loss, He provides for me!
 When I face death, He carries me home!

CONCLUSION

The God Who is, is “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)

- Are you unemployed? I remind you that “this God is”!
- Do you have cancer? I remind you that “this God is”!
- Are you a widow or a widower? I remind you that “this God is”!
- Are you a single mother? I remind you that “this God is”!
- Are you from a broken home? I remind you that “this God is”!
- Are you a teenager uncertain and insecure? I remind you that “this God is”!
- Are you stressed, oppressed and depressed? I remind you that “this God is”!

Rest in the truth that there is a God in heaven who is too good to be unkind and too wise to make mistakes! If you cannot say, “This God is my God” and “Jesus is my Savior,” trust Him today and you too can say, “This God is *my* God forever and ever; He will be *my* guide even to death.”

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