

God Is Always More

By Mike Riley

When one of my kids was little, I would read her a bedtime story about Jonah and the Big Fish (Jonah 1-4). When I finished reading, I asked her what she knew about God. She said "God lives inside me, but you won't find him there because He's too big!" (He's there but not there). Wow! What a deep theological idea for a little kid!

Yes, God is there but he is also everywhere. He's here, there, and everywhere. He is in our lives but He's also "out there." God is always more than anything we could ever experience, say, or even think.

God is essentially a mystery. He will remain a mystery (in our fleshly state)

1) God Is More Than Our Names For Him.

Just as a person's name doesn't really describe him, the writers of the Bible knew this, so they utilized a variety of names for God, knowing that God could never be completely grasped by a single name.

2) Reverence For God's Name.

Wrongful use of God's name is expressly forbidden in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:7). Because of this, there is an extraordinary reverence for God's name throughout the Testaments. Ancient Hebrew has no vowels hence the sacred name is YHWH. Since "The Name" was so sacred and for fear of using God's name wrongly, the ancient Jews would only call him "the Holy One", or Adonai, which means "my Lord."

3) God Is More Than Images.

Just as in our own lives, images or titles can help us identify someone but really don't tell us about his or her character brother, sister, daughter, mother, etc. These all imply relationships but nothing about personalities. Because God is a mystery, he defies reduction and will always remain somewhat elusive.

The writers of the Bible knew this and so they developed a variety of images for God. These were titles or images that were familiar to people and they could relate God to the character that was being described.

4) God Is More Than Human Experience.

The Bible provides a variety of ways in which people experienced God. Moses encounters God in a burning bush (Exodus 3); God was revealed to Samuel in his dreams (1 Samuel 3); Ezekiel and Daniel in visions (Ezekiel 1:1; Ezekiel 8:1-4; Daniel 2); Mary through an angelic visit (Luke 1); Jesus in the form of a voice from heaven; Paul, in a vision of the Lord himself (Acts 9).

What emerges is the realization that no two people, not even in the Bible, experience God in the same way. No single experience of God could ever completely capture the mystery of God.

God is always more more than any of us can ever imagine!



STERLINGTON
Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82
1095 Highway 2
Sterlington, Louisiana 71280
www.sterlingtoncoc.com

Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

4/23/23

Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshipping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

Elders:

Todd Chapman
Paul Simpson

Deacons:

Wayne Fowler David Garris
Billy Granger Buddy Hollis

Preacher:

Don Delukie

Those to Serve

Today

Announcements- Wayne Fowler **Opening prayer-** Jerry McDonald
Communion- Paul Simpson **Closing Prayer-** Damien Miller

April 30th

Announcements- Rick Cook **Opening Prayer-** Todd Chapman
Communion- Charles Fricke **Closing Prayer-** Luke Chapman

Announcements

—**SCOC Ladies Day:** Our congregation is hosting a Ladies Day on **May 6th**. Save the date! More details will be announced soon.

—**Children's Home Speaker:** Sunday, **May 7**, Micah Brinkley, Head of the Children's Home in Paragould, AR will be speaking. Come hear more about this great work we support. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.

—**Question & Answer Series:** **May 7th** will be our next Question and Answer Series. Please submit your questions via the church email address SCOC2006@att.net or to Don.

—**Potluck & Wedding Shower:** There will be a Wedding Shower for Brandon Rogers & Sydney Leija on Sunday, **May 28th** following the potluck. They are registered at Dillards, The Muffin Tin and Southern Creations (in Rayville) and on theknot.com. They will be getting married in June 2023.

—**Fish Fry:** There will be a Fish Fry on Saturday, **June 3rd** at 5 PM. Everyone is invited!

Please Pray For:

Larry & Elaine Field, Betty Jo Franklin, Gena Granger, Ken White, June Chapman, Joyce Moses, Jonah Scharf, Dwain Flowers, Judy Strickland, Chris Reppond, John Alred, and Steve Torres.

Bereaved: Families of Mike Watkins, Steve Perry, and Teresa Moody.

Continue to Pray For:

Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James & Lorene Johnson, Shirley Goodwin, Bobby Barker, Gail Sewell, Malea Zuber, Bobby Simmons, Max Aubel, Tricia Muse, Elizabeth Hollis, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross, and Charlie McDaniel Jr.



April birthdays

10 - Sydney Scharf
12 - Joanne Fowler
15 - Keith Brister
27 - James Johnson

April anniversaries

4 - Ronnie and Janice Hayes
28 - Larry and Joanne Randolph

