

WHERE DO I STAND WITH GOD? *Lesson 1: Who is God?*

TO THE
UNKNOWN
G O D

Definitions for Lesson 1

Areopagus (eh-ree-OP-uh-gus) - the Latin name for Mars' hill in Athens, Greece

covetousness - a strong desire for the possessions of another; greed

fornication - sexual relationships other than that between husband and wife

repent - to turn from evil to good, from Satan's ways to God's ways

uncleanness - actions, thoughts or things that are not clean or pure in God's eyes

Abbreviations: vs. - verse; vss. - verses

Directions: Read each passage of Scripture and then answer the questions in the space provided.

Acts 17:22-34 (*the context – Paul is telling the people of Athens about God*). What things did God make? (Hint: vs. 24) _____

What are some of the things that God gives us? (vs. 25) _____

Who are we in relation to God? (vss. 28 & 29) _____

In this passage we read of two very important things that God wants mankind to do. What are they? (See vss. 27 & 30) _____

What evidence has God given that there is going to be a day of judgment? (vs. 31) _____

To whom is Paul referring when he says that God has raised a man from the dead? _____

Note about Acts 17:22-34: One of the main points that Paul is trying to get across to the Athenians is that they should stop worshipping idols and worship the Living God instead. God is not like an idol. He doesn't dwell in buildings made by the hands of men, and He isn't made of stone or wood or gold or anything that man uses to make idols. Let me illustrate. I, David Hicks, am adopted. At one point in my life I got to meet my birth mother. When I was about to meet her, I didn't expect that she was made of any of the materials that people use to make statues, but rather that she was made of flesh and blood like me and looked something like me. In the same way, since we are God's children, we know that God looks something like us and is something like us in that He thinks, reasons, has emotions and feelings.

Exodus 20:1-6 (*the context - God is giving the Ten Commandments to Moses to give to the nation of Israel*).

How does God describe Himself in this passage? (vs. 5) _____

Suppose you had a son or daughter whom you deeply loved. One day, they go up to a stranger and say to them "I'm tired of my Mom and Dad. I don't like them. I don't believe they care about me. Instead I want you to be my parent and I will be your child. I'll help you around the house and do whatever you want me to do." Then your child proceeds to move into that person's house. Not only do they live with them, but they help them around the house and serve them in other ways. You see them spending time together and doing family things, as if that stranger actually was their parent. How would this make you feel?

Remember that in Acts 17 we saw that we are God's children. How then do you think God feels when we reject him and worship other things instead? _____

(Exodus 20:1-6 continued) What does God show to those who love Him? (vs. 6) _____

If instead we hate God, how might this effect our children, grandchildren, etc.? (vs. 5) _____

Ephesians 5:1-5 and Colossians 3:1-6 (especially Ephesians 5:5 and Colossians 3:5) There are two types of idolatry - one is literal idolatry like Paul dealt with in talking to the people at Athens. Another is more symbolic - we take certain things and devote ourselves to them as if they were God. What are some of the symbolic forms of idolatry mentioned in these verses?

What other things do people tend to “worship” instead of God? _____

Luke 15:11-24 (the context - Jesus is telling a parable, an earthly story with a spiritual meaning, to explain why He socialized with tax collectors and other well-known sinners). Think about the illustration of the child you deeply loved rejecting you and going to be with a stranger. How would you react if they came back to you and begged forgiveness? Would you take them back? Why or why not? _____

Based on the father of Jesus’ story, how does God react when His children come back to Him? _____

Food for thought: The son who left his father spent all his inheritance living a wild life. Think about your own life for a moment. Do you feel like a child of God who has gone away from Him and even rejected Him? If so, how do you think God would react if you came back to Him? Understand that God would react the **exact** same way *regardless of what you have done!!*

(End of Lesson 1)

If studying by correspondence, mail this lesson to
The South County Church of Christ, PO Box 5486, Wakefield, RI, 02880, USA.

For further reading: Deuteronomy 10:12-22 (*Moses talks to Israel about God*), 1 Timothy 2:3-4, Acts 6:8 - 7:60

Write any other thoughts, comments, or questions you had about the lesson here: _____

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