



July 16, 2020

A Really Big and Joyous God

(18) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, (19) since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. (20) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. (21) For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. **(Romans 1:18-21)**

At the center of ultimate reality is a God, one who is not only all-powerful but also all-loving and personal. We see then that of all reality spirit is the most basic. We know this because "God is Spirit" (John 4:24). He made us to live and to work in the domain of the mind and the spirit. That is why it is imperative to see ourselves as spiritual beings that are having a physical experience not the other way around. And yet physical reality comes at us with such force it can be easy to believe that this is all that exists, to be filled with despair and discouragement based on our circumstances and to forget all about the greatness of God. In contrast to this, Andrew Murray describes humility as being preoccupied with God instead of being preoccupied with self.

In Paul's stunning and staggering claim in the passage above, we begin to grasp the weight of our responsibility before God. We see that this responsibility, and the whole human condition, is based upon our failure to think of God as he is. Paul is telling us something that is still true today. We can know important truths about God by simply paying attention to what he has made. We see statistically that the natural human response to the world which they see around them is to believe in a God, one that is personal. Now, considering the world around us, how big would the God who made that world need to be? Pretty big. Immense. Even today, with all our scientific advancements, the God who made the universe is great beyond our comprehension.

So what we know about God is that he is an invisible being who has great power and dominion over everything he has created. He is also personal. He has personality. He thinks. He wills, He values. One final thing to add, a joyous God fills the universe. Joy is the ultimate word describing God and his world. Creation is an act of joy, of delight in the goodness of what he has done. It is precisely because God is like this, and because we can know he is like this, that a life of full contentment is possible.

Practice: *Take some time, go outside and marvel at what the Lord has created for your enjoyment. Be astonished by the wonder of a sunrise or a sunset, a tree, a single leaf or blade of grass. Consider the joy of a parent with their children, a grandparent with their grandchildren, or a lover with their beloved. Catch a glimpse of the variety of ways that God continues to make known his invisible attributes to you.*