

From Your Pastors *A Study of Shorter Catechism*

Question: What is God? 

Answer: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Scripture memory:

^{ESV} **John 4:24** God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

An explanation:

The Shorter Catechism in question four focuses our attention on the essence of God, or on God's being. God is one in essence, three in Persons as the Triune God. The Father is God; the Son is God; the Spirit is God. "There is one God, in respect of His essence and being, but one in three distinct persons, of Father, Son and Holy Ghost" (*J. Owen's Catechism*). God's essence is considered by listing **God's attributes**. Our forefathers taught correctly that when considering God's attributes, we should remember that God is the most simple being, or is free from all composition and division. His attributes *are not parts of God* (God cannot be divided). **Whatever is in God, is God.** Dividing up God's attributes in this way are to aid us in knowing Him better.

What God is, He is eternally and unchangeably. Though God's attributes are many, yet they are nothing but God's revelation of His single, undivided Essence, or Being. What a Glorious God. Let us meditate upon His attributes, and commune with our Triune God. Let us include God's revelation of Himself in our prayers. Let us meditate silently before God's throne (Hab. 2:20).

God is...infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being. Think of how God is glorious in that He is Almighty, all-powerful, everywhere present, has always existed and always will, and will never change! Take time to reflect on each particular attribute in this way: Say "**God is...infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His...wisdom; ...in His power; ...in His holiness; ...in His justice; ...in His goodness; ...in His truth.**"

Think about this Glorious God who personally loves you and has revealed Himself to you, who possesses in His being, not merely goodness, but **omnipotent goodness**; a God who is powerful, but who is also holy and loves to do good, and never evil; a God who cannot do evil, not merely because He wills not to do evil, but because it isn't "in Him" that is, in His being to do any wrong or evil, rather **there is wisdom, and truth, and goodness**. His justice is perfectly holy. He is kind to all in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the perfect manifestation and revelation of this Glorious God. Let us look in the face of Christ and see the *One who is the radiance of the Glory of God, the exact imprint of His nature, who upholds the universe by the Word of His power, and after making purification for sins, sat down at the right hand of God!* Rejoice! (Heb. 1:3-4).

A prayer: I humble myself quietly before you, O Great and Good God. Thank you for salvation. Help me to walk with you and commune with you personally. Help me to fill my mind full of thoughts of you this day! May I delight in you, and find you to be my portion (Psa. 27:4; 73:28).

In Christ's Love, 

Pastors Biggs and Halley 

"The revelation of the Holy Trinity has been made unto us, not that our minds merely might be possessed with the notions of it, but that we may know aright how to place our trust in Him, how to obey Him, and live unto Him, how to obtain and exercise communion with Him, until we come to the enjoyment of Him" (John Owen, 'Works', 3:158).

THIS LORD'S DAY

Sermon Title: *“The Teacher of Israel”*
– Pastor Charles R. Biggs

Gospel of Mark Series: Act III: *The Desolation and Reconstruction of God’s Holy Temple.*

Theme of Sermon: In the temple, Jesus reveals Himself to be the Teacher of Israel full of wisdom and understanding of God and the Holy Scriptures, and demonstrating His supreme authority as Son of God, and Prophet, Priest and King of Israel.

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 7:24-29; Romans 2:17-24
Scripture Text: Mark 12:13-34

Questions for Family Discussion/ Thoughtful Mediation:

- * **Read Mark 11:13-34.** What rightly belongs to God? What shall we render unto Him? (see Mark 12:17). Start a list now, and see if it will be complete by this Lord’s Day!
- * How does God reveal the resurrection in the Old Covenant? (cf. Luke 24:25-27; 44). Why do the Sadducees not understand? (see Mark 12:24).
- * What is the most important commandment? (see Mark 12:28). How does this show the unity of God’s Word and especially His commands? What does Jesus mean when he says to the scribe: “You are not far from the kingdom of God” (Mark 12:34).
- * How does our Lord Jesus prove Himself to be the authoritative Teacher of Israel in this passage, and the Savior of the world?

“Experience is the food of all grace, which it grows and thrives upon. Every taste that faith obtains of divine love and grace, or how gracious the Lord is, adds to its measure and stature. Two things...must be declared: 1. That the experience of the reality, excellency, power and efficacy of things that are believed, is an effectual means of increasing faith and love. 2. That it is the Holy Spirit which gives us this experience.” – John Owen.

“Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” (Rev. 3:19-20).