

REVELATION OF GOD

By: Bill Richardson Edited By Bill Kelly

It is planned to begin this study by giving some answers to foreseen questions which may come to you and may be asked by someone with whom you are studying now or a study in the future. Thinking of the study of God and His revelation a beginning question could be, “Why study about God’s revelation”? Good question, I could say! And answering, I could say, “Back-at-you, and why not? That is not a good statement on my part and not a good question either. What do you think? Lets see if we can give good and acceptable answers as we put together this study.

In truth, the need and purpose for study on any subject of the Bible is good. It’s needed by all because study we should, however we will never attain all knowledge, and I’m sure that’s known. However, our need and yes with desire, must never be neglected in our study of the Bible and its words and truths which they speak. *Think about it...* we need to gain knowledge to build and strengthen our faith and love. We should have a thirst which can only be quenched by growing in the truth of God’s word.

What is the purpose of that? Answered we could and must say, “It is necessary for our own salvation that I teach and tell others, so they will know. Teaching and telling is done, or must be done, because you love the one(s) to whom you are reading, writing or speaking. Words of Bible truths arranged by a loving heart, spoken or written, communicate the most powerful and beautiful words that are ever to be told. They tell about love, obedience and faithfulness and are what I have called “*heart-cuffs*” secured to a tether that can reach around God’s good earth. By-the-way, when God’s creation was completed, it was perfect. God said that it was good! He then made man and gave man the good earth for stewardship. What is our score on keeping and carrying for that which we have been charged? That issue must be given much thought in love.

Please pray about our study together. I’m excited with joy of heart and my constant prayer is that in some way I arrange the words of this study so the impact (the affect) of the words will cause hearts to respond through faith and love to become a great spiritual dose of desire to give our lives over to God completely. And the affects in all of us will *lighteth* the way of the straight and narrow for all to see and follow. The paragraph headings which we will be considering and applicable scriptures with discussion for motivation and application will be our format.

1. Knowledge of God Is Revealed.
2. The Nature of God Is Revealed.
3. The Moral Requirements of God Are Revealed.

1. KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS REVEALED

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech and night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.” “The line (sound) has gone out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In them He has sent a tabernacle (tent) for the Son...” (Psalm 19:1-4). Note Psalm 8:1 as it relates to the glory of God, “O LORD, our LORD, how excellent is thy name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens!”

LORD God our LORD is LORD of all and over all. There is beauty and glory in His creation as voiced in the cited Psalms and declared the purpose of creation. This knowledge is to be revealed and the apostle Paul echoed the revelation of Psalm 19:4 using this to show that the gospel has been clearly proclaimed (preached/declared/taught all over the world and emphasis was that faith comes by hearing the word of God. Dear ones therein is the beauty. *"For since the creation of the world God's invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made even His eternal power and Godhead..."* (Romans 1:20). The harmonious revelation of God's glory is seen by His world and His word and there is no way (not a single excuse) anyone can use to plea their non-acceptance and unbelief. Belief and acceptance in God's word places one in the right relationship with the LORD. However, unbelief and not accepting the truth, one is in sin and their soul is in danger of eternal damnation. That is true and that is what the Bible teaches. It is prayerfully sad of unbelief in the world, and we need to pray every time there is opportunity to pray for unbelievers and their lost souls.

2. THE NATURE OF GOD IS REVEALED

A. The Nature of God is Revealed Through His Power.

It is right to say that we need to be involved in the nature of God's attributes, and we must be concerned to study learn and know, then manifest His attributes in our lives as much as is possible. You know this, but we must think about it in our actions. God's power is so great that He spoke into existence all His creation, except humankind. If you will, let's think about it as set forth in scripture. The power of God, and man's respect for that power was a theme of the apostle Paul when he said, *"For since the creation of the world His (God's) invisible things are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but because their foolish hearts were darkened"* (Romans 1:20-21).

Can we know God and not know Him? This is the way of a fool, isn't it? That seems to be the way of the world also. Can we answer the charge, the question, to explain the difference, "knowing of God" and knowing God? Romans 1, the cited scripture, speaks to the invisible attributes of God and it says that they are clearly seen. Do we have invisible attributes which are clearly seen? According to scripture (1 John 3:2) when he shall appear we shall be like Him. This is a blessing which seems to escape us sometimes, and if we fail to be able to hold on to the blessed assurance we are in jeopardy. Please read and study the section of scripture in 1 John 3:1-9; and 4:17-21.

The word invisible is used 5 times in the Bible... note Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:15, 16, 1 Timothy 1:17, and Hebrews 11:27). All these warrant (call for) our attention in thought and study, of which there is more, much more.

B. The Nature of God is Revealed Through His Greatness.

God's greatness (His immanence, presence throughout the world) and His transcendence (existing apart from the material universe) are revealed. This attribute of God is made to the Philosophers in Athens who were, because of fear of leaving out a god, including in their worship an "unknown" god. They had given over to idols (Acts 17:16). You can read of this perverted worship in Acts 17:16-34. You will be able to see in your "minds"

eye” as Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious...” (Acts 17-22 ff), Paul continues and he laid it down to them.

Paul’s effort at this occasion was not for naught. The record shows that some believed and as recorded there was a prominent Athenian that was converted. Also, we can be sure that there was celebration and rejoicing, yes, in Heaven because of the sermon Paul preached back in that day in time. This writer stood once upon a time at the ruins of the Areopagus, the time was the mid-forties and I was in the company of U.S. Sailors.

There is power in God’s Word when taught all over the world, “...to the only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen!” (Jude 25). Do you want to be blessed even more? Read John 5:44, its “red” letters as they were words of Jesus. Note also I Timothy 1:17, “To the king of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen! Also we are told, “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen! (Romans 11:36).

C. The Nature of God is Revealed in His Kindness.

We must know and manifest Godliness in our nature. It must be genuine and clearly noticeable, that our kindness must be God and Christ like. Read with me these red letters words which Jesus spoke, “I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in Heaven, for He makes His sunrise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matthew 5:44-45). (Cf. Romans 12:20; Acts 7:59-60; Ephesians 5:1; Philippians 2:5).

There is always the need for the use for kindness and the acts of kindness are very important. Our kindness must be that of ministers of God. Kindness is required in reconciliation, [the reestablishment of a proper or right relationship], in the spirit of love. We must be kind in the spirit of sincere love in exercising patience. Kindness is required even in receiving the grace of God. The bottom line, as we often say today is, “we must use kindness in *all* that we do as Ambassadors for Christ.” It will help as we travel the straight and narrow and will help us to stay the course. And stay we must! Please read and study these scriptures to gain and grow in knowledge of kindness, (Acts 28:2; 2 Corinthians 6:6; Ephesians 2:7, 4:32; Titus 3:4; 2 Peter 1:7; and Proverbs 19:22). If you are blessed to have a good topical reference book or Concordance, see Gentleness, and Beneficence. But don’t neglect to read (I Timothy 6:17, 18, and 19).

3. THE MORAL REQUIREMENTS OF GOD ARE REVEALED

A. Basic Moral Principles are Revealed. They must be revealed and made known to us as we grow into discernment. We are not born into this world with the knowledge of law and understanding. This is true and God knows that...He knew it even before the creation. From the beginning God revealed the truth, the law by which man is obligated to live. Thus, because of the law of procreation and therein involves the biological law or aspect of reproduction, which is the cause to come into existence. That law, if you think about it, eliminates the idea of man and man and women and women marrying. How can the God given obligation be fulfilled which says, “*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over...*” The replenishment principle was given

to everything. That is the biological law of the God given nature to bear fruit of their kind to everything and it was so, thus God said, “*it was very good.*” (See Genesis 1:28-31). You know, this happened on the sixth day of God’s works of creating. Yes! ...you may now say, Amen!

So now in discussing this great moral principle, what can we add to it? Not one thing is the right answer. What we must do and it is true—we must study to know and then after we learn we must say that it is so, it is good, and let it be effective to the good life that we can live in faith, hope and LOVE. Identifying and defining of some words and discussing biblical principles in order is my thinking...right now. The reason I say that is because there are too many different definitions and or interpretations of words and principles and too many scenarios explaining their meanings and applications contrary to God’s teachings. Not to over simplify and certainly not overdo, let us use the good and right words to define any or all of our teaching, instruction and explaining. Here then are the chosen words to define and explain:

MORAL *noun* - The principle taught, such as a rule (law) or habit (act) of conduct with regard to right and wrong or a body of such rules and habits. We have expressed and agreed, that morality must be taught. When teaching, it must be an effective conveying act which has meaning and great significance with importance to the needs of the recipients. Remember a principle taught or advanced for belief, as by a religious doctrine, (God’s word), is of great importance because of the needs of all mankind.

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“To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality God will give eternal life, but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulations and distress, for every human being who does evil. the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality” (Romans 2:6-11).

Take note to this teaching, “*For if you love them which love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what do you more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so”?* (Matthew 5:46-47). It tells me that we must do unto others; love your neighbor and do good to all.

B. The Fact of Judgment is Revealed. In his address to all who are in Rome (Romans 1:7) Paul tells them of their condition, that they are without excuse (Romans 1:20), “*For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, (cf. Ephesians 4:17-18) and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:20) and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles* (cf. Psalm 106:20; Jeremiah 2:11; Deuteronomy 4:16).

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:4) because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie (cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:11) and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever (cf. Romans 9:5) Amen! Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die (cf. Romans 6:21), they not only do them but give approval (cf. Acts 8:1) to those who practice them" (Romans 1:21-25, 32).

C. The Need to Seek God Is Revealed. We "*should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope (fumble about) for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us*" (Acts 17:27). (Cf. Deuteronomy 4:7; Psalm 139:7, 10; Jeremiah 23:23-24; Acts 19:17).

Matthew 6:33, "*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*"

Mathew 7:7, "*...seek and you will find; ...*"

Colossians 3:1, "*Seek those things which are above...*"

I Peter 3:11, "*Let him turn away from evil and do good: Let him seek peace and pursue it.*"

Psalm 37:27, "*Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forevermore.*"

Hebrews 11:6, "*But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*"

Oh my, how beautiful the words of those seven scriptures that we just read. We need to read them again and again. But what ever...more than any thing we need to let the deeds of their words have place in our faith, hope, love, and mind, and never be anyway but in all ways diligently doing all attributes which God has provided us. Then grow them in strength and multiply their energies to HIS glory forever and ever, AMEN!

Do you believe that you are seeking God when you "*diligently add to your faith virtue, to your virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brother kindness love?*" Then the good old bondservant Peter adds this, "*For if these things are yours and abound (abound, that's a good word), you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" Peter then tells or shows us the other side of the coin, the wrong modus operandi saying, "*For he who likes these things is short-sided even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins*" (to quote Paul Harvey, "Now you know the rest of the story").

Do we need to evaluate self? We may want to, well, we need to ask of self, "Do we or have we forgotten, and maybe need to re-ignite and follow more closely the pattern. It is something for us to think about. (See 1 Timothy 1:16; Titus 2:7)

The scriptures and commentary that has been set forth in this study has been of great benefit and it was a good study. These wonderful scriptures and principles which we have studied are conscious (mind) motivating and it is my prayer that you, who read and studied, will accept all truth herein, and that it will be a conscience server to you also.

The well-trained conscience is equal to the knowledge, abiding faith, and love that we submit or expose to our mind. With confidence, I say that you are studying this

lesson with faith and love, and that it will be of great benefit to you. With confidence I also say that you desire to be blessed, to gain more knowledge, (true abiding biblical knowledge), which is associated with responsibilities, creating a desire to seek, to search diligently, to accept when found, to associate with, and be an active part of, and that you will abide faithfully in the Lord's Church until death.

The church, of which I am speaking, cost the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is His Body, His Kingdom—His Church. Please be an obedient dedicated part of the church that you read about in Bible, Christ's church. It is the only church that we read about in the Bible (See Ephesians 4:5) You cannot pass through Heaven's gate if you are not in His Body, (His Church); that is the truth; that is what the Bible teaches.

I invite you to view my Website, and often, www.geocities.com/dubbyt, and please note other consecrated writings. New study writings are added along as completed. There is a writing posted that I am sure you will want to view and copy. The writing title is, "The Church of the Bible, Christ's Church." It has a two-page enclosure, which has the title, "What Must I Do To Be Saved." Please studies both "Biblical-Truth"; study them with an honest and receptive heart for truth and obedience. You will be blessed! God bless you for studying with me on this great subject. God loves you! I do too! Your servant in the Lord...

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PS: There is an enclosure to this study entitled, "SEEKING GOD SUCCESSFULLY." Please notice the author and give him credit, your thanks, and your appreciation.

My Website, www.geocities.com/dubbyt, has a link to: www.hartsellechurch.org, which is the Hartselle Church of Christ, Hartselle, AL, a link to, www.austinvillecoc.org which is the Website of Austinville Church of Christ, Decatur, AL, and a link to www.northcobbchurch.org, which is the Church of Christ at North Cobb, Kennesaw, GA. Please visit those Websites also; you will be blessed.

SEEKING GOD SUCCESSFULLY

By: Wade Webster - Minister
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In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, *“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth and to him that knocketh it shall be opened”* (Matthew 7: 7-8). How many times have we heard these words? No doubt, most of us have heard them hundreds of time. In fact, even many people in the world have heard them.

However, most people know nothing about how to seek God successfully. Many believe that all that a person has to do to find God is to be sincere as they seek him. While sincerity is important, more is involved. In this article, I want us to consider the “sum” of God’s word on the subject (Psalm 139:17). As we do so, three things will stand out.

First, Men Must Seek God COMPLETELY To Find Him. In the long ago Moses instructed the children of Israel that they could find God “if” they sought Him with “all” their heart and soul (Deuteronomy 4:29; cf. 2 Chronicles 15:12, 15; 31: 21). Notice that their finding God was conditioned upon their seeking him completely (all their heart & soul).

The Psalmist echoed Moses inspired statement in the longest chapter of the Bible. We read, *“Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart...with my whole heart have I sought the: O let me not wander from thy commandments”* (Psalms 119:2, 10; Psalms 63:1). Notice that only those who sought God with the whole heart were spoken of as blessed or happy.

In like manner, through Jeremiah, God said, *“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart”* (Jeremiah 29:13). Notice that God said that individuals would find Him “when” they sought Him with “all” their hearts. Doesn’t the same hold true for us today?

In answering the question posed by the lawyer concerning the greatest commandment, Jesus said, *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind”* (Matthew 22:37). Notice the emphasis on “all” the heart, soul and mind. Do you recall how Philip answered the eunuch’s desire to be baptized? He said, *“If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”* (Acts 8:37).

Again, notice the conditional “if”. *Only those who seek God completely (with all the heart, soul, and mind) can hope to find Him.”*

Second, Men Must Seek God CONTINUALLY To Find Him. In a psalm of thanksgiving, David said, *“Glory ye in His Holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the LORD and His strength, seek His face continually”* (1 Chronicles 16:10-11).

Notice that men were to seek God’s face *“continually.”* In like manner Isaiah spoke of seeing God *“daily”* (Isaiah 58:2). Sadly, God’s people in the Old Testament often only sought Him in times of trouble. When things were good, they sought other things instead of Him. Through Hosea, God warned that the day was coming when they would seek Him and not be able to find Him because He had withdrawn from them (Hosea 5:6, 15; cf. Proverbs 1:28). You see, only those who seek God continually can expect to find Him.

In like manner, Isaiah warned his people to seek *“the Lord while He may be found, and to call upon Him while He was near”* (Isaiah 55:6). Don’t you think that the same holds true for us today? On one occasion, Jesus said. *“And he said to them all, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me”* (Luke 9:23). Notice the emphasis on *“daily.”* Those who only take up their crosses on Sunday can’t expect to find him. If we want to find Him, we must search our Bible daily as the Bereans did and offer the sacrifice of praise to Him continually as the Hebrew saints did (Acts 17:11; 13:15).

Do you recall the story of the lost book of the law in the Old Testament (2 Kings 2:8)? How do you suppose that book became to be lost? No doubt, it was because of indifference and neglect on the part of God’s priests. Had they been consulting it on a daily basis, they would not have lost it. Let that be a lesson to us today.

Third, Men Must Seek God CORRECTLY To Find Him. Do you remember the story of David and the new ox cart (1 Chronicles 13)? Do you remember how that Uzzah lost his life because he reached out to stay the ark when the oxen stumbled? Clearly, the people’s retrieval of the ark shows that they were seeking God. After all, the ark represented His presence to them. No doubt, they were very sincere in their actions. However, they did not find God, at least not in the way that they hoped to find Him (peace & favor), because they did not seek Him correctly.

David explained, *“Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought Him not after the due order”* (1 Chronicles 15:12-13).

After the oxcart became a funeral cart, David and the people went back to doing things God's way. They had learned that to find God, they had to seek Him correctly (cf. Lev. 10:1-2). Doesn't that hold true today? If we want to find God we must seek Him after the "due order." We must seek Him in "faith" and with fervor (diligently seek - Heb. 11:6).

Furthermore, we must seek Him and His kingdom first (Mt. 6:33). Sadly, millions seek God every Lord's day in their worship, but do not find Him because they do not seek Him after the due order. To the Samaritan woman, who was asking about worship, Jesus said, "*God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:24). The right attitude (in spirit) isn't enough. We must also have the right actions.

We can be guaranteed of finding God if we seek Him completely, continually, and correctly. However, if we leave out any of these things, we will search in vain.

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