

“The Source of All Good”  
(Acts 17:24-25)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. We’ve been looking at why we should love God.
  - a. We’ve seen that we should love God for what He gives us,
    - (i) But we should also love Him for who and what He is.
    - (ii) In other words,
      - (a) We should not only love the gift,
      - (b) But the Giver of the gift.
      - (c) We should love God Himself.
  - b. By this time we should understand that He is very easy to love.
    - (i) It’s not hard to love One who is love itself – who is infinite love –
    - (ii) One who is patient, kind, merciful, and gracious.
    - (iii) It’s not hard to love One who also has the power,
      - (a) Knowledge and presence
      - (b) Necessary to fulfill everything He promises.
    - (iv) At least it’s not if you’re a believer.
2. Unbelievers don’t love God.
  - a. Their hearts are hard.
  - b. They love the darkness/sin.
  - c. Because of this, they particularly hate His holiness –
    - (i) His infinite love for everything that is good and right –
    - (ii) The very reason the believer loves Him.
    - (iii) Only the Spirit can remove this blindness of sin,
    - (iv) And give them the ability to see God’s true beauty.

B. Preview.

1. This evening, we’re going to look at another reason we should love God – and that is because He is the source of all good.
  - a. We’re going to look at two more attributes in this series,
  - b. Two more reasons we should love God:
    - (i) First, because He doesn’t need anything,
    - (ii) And second, because He never changes.
2. Tonight, we’ll consider the first, and we’ll see two things:
  - a. First, that God has everything He needs in Himself.
  - b. And second, because He does, He can continue to give everything He has promised for all eternity.

## II. Sermon.

A. First, let's consider that God has everything He needs in Himself. Paul says He doesn't "dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything."

1. God is quite a bit different from you and me.

a. He doesn't need anything, while we need everything.

(i) If we are to go on living, there are certain things we need:

(a) We need shelter from the elements: if we get too hot or too cold, we'll die.

(b) We need food: We can go forty days without it, more or less, but that's about it.

(c) We need water: We can last about fourteen days, more or less, without this.

(d) We need air:

(1) We can make it only a few minutes without air before we lose consciousness,

(2) And only about 10 minutes, more or less, before we suffer brain damage.

(ii) We wouldn't make it even that long

(a) If the Lord should withdraw His sustaining power,

(b) Before we would fall into nothingness.

(c) We need His hand to hold us up in being at every moment.

(1) It's true that when we die,

(A) We don't cease to live or exist,

(B) We go on forever – either in heaven or hell,

(C) Depending on whether or not we've trusted Jesus

(D) And turned from our sins.

(2) But that's only because the Lord is holding us up.

(A) If He didn't exert His power to keep us in being,

(B) We wouldn't exist.

b. The point is, God isn't like this.

(i) He doesn't need anything.

(a) He doesn't need shelter.

(b) He doesn't need food, water, or air.

(c) He doesn't depend on anything or anyone for His existence.

(d) He has everything He needs in Himself.

(e) He is self-existent.

(ii) You and I are created.

(a) God is uncreated.

(1) Nothing caused Him to be.

(2) He has always been, and He always will be.

- (b) We need the Lord's power to maintain our existence.
    - (1) He has that power in Himself to maintain His own existence.
    - (2) He has always had that power –
    - (3) It will never increase or decrease.
    - (4) It's infinite, because He is infinite.
    - (5) And so He never has and never will need anything.
- 2. The question has come up in the history of the church
  - a. Whether God created the world
  - b. To meet some need in Himself.
    - (i) Did He need an audience to reveal His glory?
    - (ii) Did He have a need to show His love by redeeming fallen creatures?
    - (iii) Does He need worship?
  - c. The answer is no.
    - (i) God doesn't need anything.
    - (ii) The only ones that really benefit from what the Lord has done is us.
      - (a) We're the ones that receive existence.
      - (b) We're the ones that receive life.
      - (c) Even eternal life.
      - (d) We didn't deserve any of these things.
    - (iii) *God doesn't benefit in any way.*
      - (a) He is a full bucket – nothing can add to Him.
      - (b) He has all the power He needs – He has infinite power.
      - (c) He has all the company He needs – He is three eternal persons.
      - (d) He is as happy as He could possibly be – He has all blessedness in Himself.
      - (e) He has everything – He doesn't need us.
    - (iv) He made us purely out of His good pleasure,
      - (a) Out of His superabundant fullness,
      - (b) Because He is so good.
    - (v) The same is true of Jesus, with regard to His divine nature.
      - (a) He also is a full bucket.
      - (b) But interestingly His human is not.
        - (1) His human nature actually does benefit from this work –
        - (2) He received glory and honor, praise and worship – things He didn't have in His human nature, in His humiliation.
        - (3) He has been exalted to the right hand of God.
        - (4) He is happier when you do what's right,
        - (5) And saddened when you fall into sin.
        - (6) But that's because He is fully man as well as fully God.
        - (7) As God, He couldn't be any happier than He is now.
        - (8) But as man, He can be.

B. Now getting back to our original question, Why is this a reason you should love God?

1. The answer is:
  - a. Because He is infinite and doesn't depend on anything for His own survival, happiness or existence,
  - b. He is perfectly able to do everything He's promised from now to the end of time.
  - c. Paul goes on to say, "He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things."
2. If God depended on something else for His own survival or existence,
  - a. Then if that thing ever failed,
    - (i) He would fail.
    - (ii) He would cease to be.
  - b. Which means that His plan would fail.
    - (i) His promises to you would fail.
    - (ii) You would cease to be.
    - (iii) Along with everything else.
3. But God doesn't depend on anything,
  - a. Which means He can't cease to exist,
  - b. Which means you will never cease to exist,
  - c. And His plans and His promises to you can't fail
    - (i) He will be ready and willing to help you in this life:
    - (ii) He will provide the food He promised, along with the other essentials.
    - (iii) He will continue to work all things together for your good and the good of His church.
    - (iv) He will sustain the work of the Spirit in your heart so that you will always love Him and be willing to serve Him.
    - (v) He will keep you to the end of your days on earth.
  - d. And when your life is over here,
    - (i) He will be there to receive you into heaven,
    - (ii) To perfect and glorify you.
    - (iii) He will acquit you on the Day of Judgment,
    - (iv) And receive you into the New Heavens and New Earth.
    - (v) He will continue to bless you throughout eternity,
    - (vi) As one age turns into another.
    - (vii) He will never fail you.
  - e. Your future
    - (i) Depends not only on the integrity of God's character –
    - (ii) That He doesn't lie and never will –
    - (iii) But also on the integrity of His Being.

- (a) Not only will God's morality not change –
- (b) As we'll see next week –
- (c) But His Being will never change either.
- (d) He will always live to love and care for you.
- (e) *He is the only One who will not fail you.*

4. Can you love a God like this? Do you love Him?

- a. The fact that God will always live is why the wicked fear Him.
  - (i) If there was some hope that the fires of hell
    - (a) Might eventually be extinguished,
    - (b) Then there would be some hope that their sufferings would end one day.
  - (ii) But because God will never cease to be,
    - (a) His wrath will also never cease,
    - (b) And that fire will never go out.
  - (iii) If you haven't trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior here this evening
    - (a) I can't think of a better reason why you should,
    - (b) Than to be saved from His eternal wrath.
  - (iv) But here's another reason:
    - (a) If you trust Him,
    - (b) He will bless you and take care of you
    - (c) Throughout all eternity.
    - (d) He will never fail you.
- b. But this is also another reason you should love Him.
  - (i) That He will always live to bless you.
  - (ii) See that the Lord is worthy of your love,
  - (iii) And love Him with all your soul and strength.
  - (iv) May He give you His Spirit so that you can. Amen.

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