

Welcome to “Learning and Living the God-centered life”



Carmel Baptist Church

www.learningandlivingtheword.com

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"FINALLY THIS YEAR" Lord you have my full and undivided attention. There will be, by Your grace, no competition between recreation, entertainment, business, kids activities or anything else that can so easily distract and entangle me. Though I recognize all these activities will be part of my life, I maintain and cling to the truth that you are my life.

"FINALLY THIS YEAR" I first of all will prepare my heart to hear from God as never before. I will recognize that God is sovereign, and may do with me whatever He pleases. But heavenly Father my prayer will be for You to extend to me a measure of faith as never before, with regards to the reading, devotion and study of Your word.

"FINALLY THIS YEAR" I am praying to trust, depend, rely on Christ as never before. And I am longing to be desperate for You Lord and You alone!!!

Transcendence means that God is far "above" the creation in the sense that He is greater than the creation and is independent of it.

Immanence means His nearness, kind, caring, protection and being close to us

Incommunicable means certain attributes of God that are not communicated to us, this does not mean that they are not revealed to us, but rather we do not share in any part of that attribute, this is distinctively divine

Communicable attributes are those attributes which He communicates and this means shares in kind with His creatures in part.

In the last two weeks;

Transcendence means that God is far "above" the creation in the sense that He is greater than the creation and is independent of it.

Immanence means His nearness, kind, caring, protection and being close to us

➤ Isaiah 57:15

➤ Isaiah 6:1-8

This morning

➤ Isaiah 66:1-2 (Bible reading plan this week)

Is. 66:1 ¶ Thus says the LORD,

“Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool.

Where then is a house you could build for Me?

And where is a place that I may rest?

Is. 66:2 “For My hand made all these things,

Thus all these things came into being,” declares the
LORD.

“But to this one I will look,

To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who
trembles at My word.

The Doctrine of the self-sufficiency of God

Questions for our study in the self-sufficiency of God

Why are we here? What is our purpose?

Why does God demand our obedience?

Why does God enlist our service?

Why does God call us to pray?

Why does God require our worship?

Self sufficiency of God

Definition of the sufficiency of God - God possesses within himself, intrinsically and eternally, every quality in infinite measure.

Another way to say it - God has no need for anything outside of who God is, in and of Himself.

God needs nothing apart from Himself, for He possesses every quality within Himself.

God has this attribute intrinsically but we possess our attributes derivatively in that we had to get them from someone else.

God possesses all His qualities by nature:

It is God's nature to be good, loving, holy, just and glorious

God possesses these qualities eternally – there was never a time in the past and never a time in the future when He won't have these qualities.

God possesses these qualities in infinite measure which means there are no limits or restrictions to His love, wisdom and justice.

Is it redundant for us to ask the question about God possessing these qualities intrinsically?

The answer is that it is NOT redundant and here is why.

Because it is possible to possess something intrinsic within that is not intrinsic to you. Something extrinsic to you but you take it inside of you because you need it.

Example: Breathing air

Well, is this in fact what the Scriptures teach us about God?

Turn to Psalm 50

Background – Israel is on trial and God is acting in the role of both judge and prosecuting attorney who is charging them. God is holding Israel accountable before His bar of justice.

God is talking about the people of Israel and those who have practiced the sacrificial system that God has put in place.

These are what I am calling the set up verses:

God is calling heaven and earth to bear witness

His people are on trial and God is judging them

So we need to know – “What is the charge that God is bringing against His people?”

READ Psalm 50:4-6

Read Psalm 50:7-12

Ask the question – “What in the world is going on here?”

God first tells the people of what they are NOT guilty of. They are not guilty of failing to bring sacrifices before Him because He says that they are doing that.

God says – you are bringing your bulls and male goats from your field

So Israel might ask – “So what are we doing wrong?”

You told us to bring sacrifices and that is exactly what we are doing, we are bringing our sacrifices.

However, Israel is evidently doing this with the same mindset toward sacrificing that we common to those pagan nations that were surrounding them.

The pagan nations around Israel believed that their gods were needy. They thought that the gods got hungry literally and therefore they would bring a sacrifice to their particular god to eat and then be satisfied. When the tummy of this god was full then he would bless those who fed him. This is probably the religion that occupies almost 2/3s of our current world.

Illustration – a person I know went on a missions trip to Madagascar and discovered that those there are big on ancestor worship. People spend time doing whatever the deceased grand father liked to do.

So what picture does this paint for us about God? As we sacrifice these things to Him we are helping Him out and contributing to His needs. It's a good thing that we are here because if we weren't He would lack.

Go back to verse 8 – The problem isn't their sacrificing but their theology about sacrificing
Do you see the problem?

These Israelites are worshipping God as if He were needy, and they are going to give in order to help Him out.

Application for consideration:

How many people in the evangelical church think this exact same way?

In the giving of their tithes and offerings
Going to the mission field
Serving in a particular ministry

There is an underlining thinking that to this degree – poor desperate, poor hungry, poor helpless God and I am going to save the day with my gift, sacrifice, service and life.

And God says to that type of mindset – Don't give it!

Read Psalm 50 verse 13 – Question – Is that what you think I am doing, eating flesh and drinking blood in order to satisfy My hunger?

Did you not understand what I said in verses 10-12?

Verse 14 – What does thanksgiving imply, in terms of relationship to God?

We are the receivers and He is the Giver!

God says you think you are offering in order to help me out?
No, instead offer me a thanksgiving.

God is communicating to us in His word

I am the Giver

You are the receiver

I am the full One

You are the empty one

I am the wise One

You are the foolish one

I am powerful

You are weak

Read Psalm 50:14-15 and get the order right

1. You are to call upon me – God is the rescuer, helper, strong hold, rock, refuge, provider, protector, shield,
2. And then it says – He will rescue you because we are weak, needy and helpless