

Sermon Reflections

Meet the God Who Needs Nothing (Selected Scriptures)

Summary: The LORD God is the independent Creator of all. Lower your view of yourself as you raise your mind to a right, big view of this God. – And start here: God doesn't ever need you, but you always need him.

The Great I AM: The God Who Needs Nothing

1. Doctrine: The Independent, Creator God (Exodus 3:14, John 5:26)

- The Israelites knew God's name was Yahweh, but they needed to relearn his nature and character. As a believer, are you ever prone to forget certain aspects of God's character? How do you ensure you keep all of God's glorious attributes at the front of your mind? What is a way you can encourage a brother or sister in Christ in this area this week?
- We see in John 5:26 that both God the Father and God the Son have life "in Himself". How can you help convey God's eternality to skeptics? What are some other passages in Scripture you can point to that illustrate that God is self-existent, self-sufficient, and eternal?

2. You Can't Define God – He Judges You (Acts 17:22-31)

- What are some ways in which the world tries to define God? What are some examples of the world trying to bend Scripture to fit its own expectations or desires? Even as a believer, are you ever tempted to do this? When is the last time you bent your own actions or beliefs to conform to the standard set by God's word?
- Our culture increasingly disagrees with Scripture and attacks truth. But God, the righteous judge, is the one who defines right and wrong. How can you better remind yourself and others that the only one whose approval you need is God? When you seek the approval of culture, your aim is misguided. Aim to honor the one who will judge you in eternity.

3. You Can't Replace God – He Alone Saves You (Isaiah 45:18-25)

- At the beginning of Isaiah 45, God specifically names Cyrus as the future (Persian) king who he would use for the sake of Israel (and their return from captivity). Meditate on the sheer sovereignty of God over his created world. While we are tempted to worry about what we will eat and what we will wear, God is orchestrating even the nations and kings who "do not know [him]" (45:4).
- We are reminded in Philippians 2 that while Jesus was equal with the infinite, eternal God, he humbled himself and became a servant. Paul tells the Philippian believers to have this same servant attitude (i.e. mind) while striving for a joyous unity in the body. What are some ways you can better emulate Christ in your service of your fellow believers? What does it look like to count others more significant than yourself and look out for the interests of others?