

**JOB SERIES TWELVE**  
**HOW TO FIX THE WRONG VIEW OF GOD**  
**Dr. Roger Barrier**

**PSALM 36:9; JOHN 9:5; JOHN 12:35; JOHN 1:4,5,9; PSALM 119:11,105; JEREMIAH 1:5; PROVERBS 3:32; PSALM 139:3; MATTHEW 5:14; JOHN 8:12; HEBREWS 1:3; JOHN 14; LUKE 15**  
**(Sermon 1592)**

Sleeping out as a boy. Playing guns and war—we were having a great time. Heard noise, big crash down the street. Bruce: “Let’s go see what happened.” Bruce ran, I hesitated and followed. Cockrells lived three houses down: single mom raising 3 daughters and one son. Rounded corner of drive way at Cockrell’s and came to instant stop. There in the flood light by the open garage door stood Bruce with his hands up. Mrs. Cockrell had a pistol trained on him. I froze in the shadows thankful I had not come over as quickly as Bruce. “She thinks Bruce did it and she caught him foraging in her garage. No one need ever know I was there.” Then she swung the pistol in my direction: “Raise your hands and come out of the shadows where I can see you.” I came out of the dark and into the light. Mrs. Cockrell said to the oldest daughter, “Go call the police.” Ebby, the next door neighbor, had heard the commotion and come over. “Wait! You don’t need to call the police. I know these boys. They would never do any thing like this. Besides, after the big crash they would have run far away before you could ever come out here and catch them. Mrs. Cockrell thought that over and said, “That makes sense. OK. But, let’s go call your parents.” Early that morning, around 2:00 a.m. six sets of parents gathered in my back yard. They were not happy. The only boy with an airtight alibi was Mark Russ, he’d been tied up to the mimosa tree for over an hour as a prisoners. I wished I was Mark Russ. Mom put Ronnie and me in our beds for one solid week to deeply impact our psyches about the pain of poor behavior. She brought meals to us. Longest week of my life.

Light exposes darkness. Light brings truth into the open where it can be seen and believed.

Again and again throughout the Bible God affirms that He is the Light. He often uses Light as a metaphor to describe Himself.

This is significant. If we are going to find truth, we will find it in God’s Light.

■ SLIDE #1: Psalm 36:9: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

■ SLIDE #2: John 9:5: “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

■ SLIDE #3: God manifested His glory by light—transfiguration.

■ SLIDE #4: Light of the Resurrection

God never uses an analogy of Himself without it being accurate

■ SLIDE #5: spectrum of electromagnetic spectrum

Father: High energy (decrease wave length, increase energy; gamma waves, ultraviolet)

Son: Visible Light: (Violet to Red, touchable, visible, touchable)

Holy Spirit: Low Energy: (increase wave length, decrease energy; x-rays, radio waves)

■ SLIDE #6: Read Ralph Rohr: *Trinity, Time and Eternity* address from Rhonda

**SLIDE #7:** John 1:4, 5, 9: In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

Notice the relationship between light and life. The light of God produces real life.

**SLIDE #8:** Organic and inorganic chemistry: organic molecules in space rocks, (H<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>, Martian rocks.

Heat and ultraviolet produce life.

Stephen Hawking: God still creating inorganic matter at the event horizon of a black hole.

**SLIDE #9:** John 12:35: Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. *Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you.* The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going.

All we have to do for darkness to set in is to stop walking in the light.

God is light and light is pretty important in understanding Truth.

Several weeks ago in our study in the life of Job we began to focus on our views of God. In Job we discovered that God is large enough to rule the universe and small enough to minister to my heart. He trembles me and He thrills me.

Then two Weeks Ago We Examined Several Prominent Views of God: 3 misshapen, 1 correct.

**SLIDE #10:** Some view God as Distant.

**SLIDE #11:** Some view God as Inspecting.

**SLIDE #12:** Some view God as Disappointed?"

**SLIDE #13:** The Real God is intimately and compassionately involved in my life.

Last Week We Examined How Our View Of God Is Shaped Positively Or Painfully Through:

**SLIDE #14:** Life Events

**SLIDE #15:** Religious Traditions and Experiences

**SLIDE #16:** Growing Up Relationships

**SLIDE #17:** TODAY: HOW TO FIX TWISTED AND MISSHAPENED VIEWS OF GOD.

**SLIDE #18:** Our view of God is reshaped as we walk in the light of God's truth.

**SLIDE #19:** God Has Provided Three Sources of Light to Shape Properly Our Views of God.

1. The light of God's Word
2. The light of God's People
3. The light of God's Son

**SLIDE #20:** "When you become a Christian you must pray (Son), read the Bible (Word), and go to church (God's People)."

But no one ever told me why! Because these are the light.

**SLIDE #21:** 1. THE LIGHT OF THE WORD OF GOD.

**SLIDE #22:** Psalm 119:105: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

The purpose of the Word of God is to give light to reshape our view of God.

- BUILD SLIDE #23A: The three Hebrew words for intimacy enlighten us into the relationship God wants to have with us:

“Yada” = “To Know”: God knows us (Jeremiah 1:5).

- BUILD SLIDE #23B: “Sod” = “To Disclose”: God allows us to know Him (Proverbs 3:32).

By the way, God wants us to know His heart. What does it do to your heart to know that God wants to open His heart and allow us to come in?

- BUILD SLIDE #23C: “Sakan” = “Deep, Caring Involvement”: God wants to know us so that He desires to be caringly involved in our lives (Psalm 139:3).

If His motive were to judge, criticize, and hurt us, we probably wouldn't want a God like that to know us very well after all. I want to let God know me because He wants to do good things for me.

We have to be careful as we approach the Bible. A misshapen view of God can miss the heart of the real God.

SLIDE #24: Is there a doctrine to believe?

Is there a rule to follow?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a sin to renounce or avoid?

Is there a lesson to learn?

*SBC Bible Study for youth on Malachi 1:1-14.*

Making it personal:

SLIDE #25: 1. What do you personally put before your relationship with God?

2. When you get caught doing wrong, how do you respond?

3. How do you show contempt for the Lord's name? Does your life bring glory to God? What sin(s) do you need to confess?

SLIDE #26: If God were to ask you to sacrifice something, what would you be willing to give up for Him?

5. Would you be willing to give up your life to serve God?

6. How is or how has your life grieved God?

7. How would you describe your relationship with God in three words?

They completely omit any reference to or emphasis on verses 2 and 9.

Malachi 1:2: I have loved you," says the LORD. "But you ask, 'How have you loved us?' "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" the LORD says. "Yet I have loved Jacob,

Malachi 1:9: Now implore God to be gracious to us. With such offerings from your hands, will he accept you?"-- says the LORD Almighty.

Examine three questions:

- SLIDE #27: 1. What do these passages reveal about God's heart?

- SLIDE #28: 2. What does it do to your heart when you see what is going on in God's heart? Sadden you? Gladden you? Humble you? Intrigue you? Compassionate you? Anger you?

- SLIDE #29: 3. How am I to respond to God and to His heart and to His response to the people in the text?

Bible gives not just facts to learn but truth to experience.

SLIDE #30: Psalm 119:11: "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

The proper concept of God only comes with hiding the word in our hearts and meditating on it all day long.

Our rational model does not allow for meditation. New Age has taken it over.

Meditation: Psalm 23: The Lord is my Shepherd.

■ SLIDE #31: 2. THE LIGHT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

■ SLIDE #32: Matthew 5:14: "You are the light of the world."

When we interact with the light in God's people it can reshape our view of God.

Let me tell you a story about the Apostle Paul: Hated Christians.

■ SLIDE #33: Paul heard Stephen: "I see the heavens opened and the Jesus standing at the right hand of the father." Stood up because he was interested in what was happening to Stephen. (See the heart of the real God in Jesus Standing.)

■ SLIDE #34: Paul saw the bright light of God's glory. Blinded on road to Damascus to persecute and kill Christians: "Why do you persecute me?"

Sent him to Ananias: Paul's first contact with one of God's People. Love and accepted Paul.

We see the real God reflected in the Light of God's people. Especially when they accept us at the point of our failure.

Dr. Hudson Armerding, president of Wheaton College faced a dilemma brought on by prejudice. Stood before students in packed auditorium.

"Our school is facing the possibility of a financial crunch. Several of the largest financial contributors had recently visited the campus because word had spread that many of the young men on campus were wearing hair long, some even had beards (too many in the 60s, long hair was a sign of rebellion and moral degeneracy, trust me).

The problem was, in the minds of these financial contributors, that this was an indication that the school was sliding morally downhill. They threatened to withdraw their financial support if this immoral trend continued.

Dr. Armerding scanned the student body and finally spotted one especially long-haired, long-bearded young man, called him by name, and asked him to come join him on the platform. Reluctantly, the young man came up on the platform.

Dr. Armerding looked him in the eyes: "Young man, you have long hair and a long beard. You represent the very thing that the financial supporters of this school are against. I want you to know that the administration of this school does not feel the way they do. We accept and love you. We believe that you are here to seek and find the truth as it is in the Lord Jesus Christ."

With that, the president reached out his arms, drew the young man to himself and embraced him strongly. The students stood, many applauded, many wept.

With that one move, one of God's people bathed more light of the real God than 100 classroom lectures could ever have shown.

■ SLIDE #35: 3. THE LIGHT OF THE SON

■ SLIDE #36: John 8:12: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

■ SLIDE #37: Hebrews 1:1-3: "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom

he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."

Jesus is where we really begin.

■ **SLIDE #38:** Start with Jesus to see who the real God is. Don't just study His lessons and know what to believe. What does the real God look like?

We must experience the real God as seen in the gospels in the person of Christ.

John 14: "Philip, if you have seen me you have seen the Father."

We need to teach the light of the Son from the gospels as a foundation for understanding the Epistles and the Old Testament.

■ **SLIDE #39:** Emmaus: We have to have the light of the Son before we can approach the Old Testament.

MEDITATION ON PRODIGAL SON STORY.

SLIDE #40: Very few Bible passages allow us to look right into God's heart like Luke 15: Arms are open, outstretched, welcoming us into His presence.

READ LUKE 15:1: *Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him.*

Who gathered around Jesus?

Tax collectors = rejected outcasts

Sinners = law breakers and behavior breakers

READ LUKE 15:2: But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

● SLIDE #41: READ LUKE 15:3-4: Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"

READ LUKE 15:5-7: "And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

● SLIDE #42: I love this; this story tells me that God looks at us like little lost lambs.

● SLIDE #43: And God's heart aches to find the little lost sheep.

Parable of Lost coin next.

Then Lost Son

● SLIDE #44: LUKE 15:11-12: Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

How do you think the father felt? Father's feelings: "Dad, I wish you were dead." Talk about separation. Now the boy is alone and the dad is very much alone.

● SLIDE #45: LUKE 15: 13-15: "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was

a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

Neediness presented itself so Prodigal handled it with self-reliance. Lost it all, "I will get a job and take care of this."

- **SLIDE #46:** LUKE 15:16-19: He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.'

What is this? Self-condemnation. Slopping pigs: "My father's hired hands do better than this. But I am not worthy..." is self condemnation.

Picture the Prodigal: Selfishness failed. Self-reliance was a disaster. "I am not worthy." Utterly defeated. Completely humiliated. Utterly alone. It doesn't get any lower than this.

- **SLIDE #47:** READ LUKE 15:20a: So he got up and went to his father.

Close eyes and allow the Lord to identify you with the Prodigal in your self-reliance, selfishness, and self-condemnation.

Picture of Prodigal Son walking on dusty roads.

He imagines in his mind his father's response.

Accusations: Where have you been? What have you done?

Endless questions. What happened to the Money?

Comparisons between him and his elder brother.

Scolding and shaming him for all his sins

Punishing him.

Rejecting him? Ignoring him? Despising him? Disappointed in him?

Now, imagine you are the Prodigal. Last turn home.

We have all sinned and done this: self reliance, selfishness, self condemnation

Now, look up here: What sets us free, folks, is the prodigal's next experience.

- **SLIDE #48:** READ LUKE 15:20: "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

Picture the Father with the outstretched arms. Father is filled with compassion, running toward him, not moved with judgment, condemnation, disappointment, but compassion. He comes running off the front porch, arms outstretched, wounded side, nail prints.

Runs toward you to embrace you.

READ LUKE 15:21-24: "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

- **SLIDE #49:** Rembrandt's picture. Stare at it for hours.

Father hardly heard the words: Robe, Ring, Shoes and a Party

Many of us need to meet the God with the outstretched arm. Imagine He is putting His arms around you.

If we see this picture with awe and wonder we can be free from self-reliance, selfishness, and self-condemnation.

Help us to see the real God. He is saddened that our sins hurt us; but, no lecture, judgment or sermons—greet us with restoration. This is the true Lord.