

Huge is a small definition of God

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-5 Larry: VBS. Ladies Summer Series. Family Night. [baby dedication 2nd *Kaylia Marie Suemnick*, Joshua & Kristyn, *Jeremiah*]
- B. Slide6 Children At Risk: Next Sun the 16th. *Birth Choice of Tem* will be sharing about their various outreaches & how we can partner with them.
- C. Slide7 Generate Hope: read
- D. Prayer: Is.46:9,10 *For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure.*

II. Slide8 Intro: *Huge is a small definition of God.* anonymous [How Great Thou Art]

- A. A few weeks ago at our pastors conference, **Paul Tripp** mentioned Psalm 145 as an example of a man who truly had *the awe of God*.
 - 1. He asked, *have you lost your awe of God? You are attracted to whatever is the awe of your heart.*
- B. Each of us as individuals contain a variety of **characteristics** that comprise our **identity** as **human beings**. You may be described as *smart or funny, passionate or driven*.
 - 1. And when we look at Scripture we see that **God** has several **characteristics or attributes** that help us to understand **His nature and identity as God**.
- C. The **unknowable** God, has made Himself **knowable**.
 - 1. Our God is Incomprehensible **yet** Knowable.
 - a) God is known by self-disclosure...by revelation/unveiling.
General Revelation (creation). Specific Revelation (His deeds & Language)
 - b) Slide9 *“God is not an idea or proposition but instead a living & free person who is completely other, or holy.”* Wayne Grudem; Systematic Theology
- D. 2 Categories of attributes: **Unshared**(only belong to Him). **Shared** (found in people in a limited way).
 - 1. **Unshared** - **Omniscient** (all-knowing). **Omnipotent** (all-powerful). **Omnipresent** (everywhere present).
 - 2. **Shared** - Spirit. Holiness. Love/Goodness. Truth. Justice/Righteousness.

- E. Slide10 His attributes are not merely *attributed to Him*, but qualities *inseparable* from His very being.
1. He is Creator so he can't be contained. He is Self-Sufficient so he has no needs. He is Intelligent so He has a plan. He is the Sustainer so we are dependent on Him. He made man to instinctively long for Himself.
- F. All that is transitory, temporary, short lived, momentary, fleeting, here today gone tomorrow...forsakes us. But our God is the **unchanging Rock of Ages** in whom we may shelter.
1. The turning point in our lives is when we stop seeking the God **we want** and start seeking the God **who is!**
- G. Slide11a This is the last of the *alphabetic acrostic Psalms*. (it is missing the *nun* vs.13b is in 1 manuscript & LXX)
1. David is writing & he seems to be reflecting back as an older man now. Looking back on *what God did & what God can do*. (last weeks Psalm *corporate lament*, today *individual praise*) Rendered as a solo.
- H. Slide11b David extols/praises the Lord for His *greatness, goodness, generosity & graciousness*.
1. If you're having a hard time *praising the Lord* today, that list should help you get started.

III. Slide12 GOD'S GREATNESS (1-6)

- A. Because God's people will praise Him *forever and ever* we had better learn to do it *day by day* (2).
- B. (3) This verse just bares repeating. *His greatness is beyond our understanding*.
1. We can't begin to measure it (depth, height or breadth).
 2. Joel Turner, *You're a power-tool in the hand of God. He's the Power & yur the Tool*.
- C. (4) And the greatness of God is *memorable* - *One generation shall praise Your works to another* - *How are you helping to tell the next gen of the greatness of God?* (just tell your story)

IV. Slide13a GOD'S GOODNESS (7-13)

- A. **Slide13b** The Lord is good to **all** - without discrimination. *He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.* Mt.5:45
1. Forgiveness of sins is a treasure from which the wicked have not tapped into, **but** their sin and depravity do not prevent God from showering down His goodness upon them, which they appropriate w/o being at all sensible of it.¹
- B. God is infinitely and unchangeably **good**, and his **goodness** is incomprehensible by the finite mind.
1. Viewed generally, it is **benevolence**; as exercised with respect to the miseries of His creatures it is mercy, pity, compassion. **And** in the case of **impenitent sinners**, long-suffering patience; **as** exercised in communicating **favor** on the unworthy it is **grace**.
 2. **Slide14a** Lam.3:33 msg says, *He takes no pleasure in making life hard, in throwing roadblocks in the way.* See, He doesn't delight in our **sufferings**, **but** He delights in our **development**.
 - a) **Slide14b** Don't see your struggle as an interruption to life **but** as preparation for life. Max Lucado
 - b) **Slide14c** No one said the road would be easy or painless. **But** God will use this mess for something **good**. **This trouble you are in isn't punishment, it's training.**
Max Lucado
- C. (10) **Your works** - sunrise. sunsets. flowers. full moon. watching waves. [**oceanside**]
1. Ps.19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.* Doesn't nature take on new meaning/new beauty when You realize this?
- D. **Your saints** - you!
- E. All of this leads to the **Glory** of God...(11-13).

V. **Slide15 GOD'S GENEROSITY (14-16)**

- A. **Slide16a** (15) I picture baby birds with beaks wide open. **Or** maybe this pic is more what we look like.
- B. **Slide16b** (14) As you live the life of praise, you have the Lord's help in every situation.

¹ Adapted from John Calvin, Heart Aflame, Devotions on the Psalms.

1. If you stumble, He helps you up (14). If you're hungry, He feeds you (15,16).
No wonder David blessed the Lord so much.
2. Sounds like **we will fall...we will bend beneath our load.** [lady passing me & Dan in Burma]
 - a) Paul Tripp, *A flat tire will bring us 75% toward atheism.*

VI. Slide17 **GOD'S GRACIOUSNESS (17-21)**

A. Slide18a (18) If you **call**, He draws **near**.

1. **He is near to those who are stumbling** (14). Have you stumbled? Fallen? Stumbled in your job? Stumbled into sin?
2. Slide18b **He is near to those carrying burdens** (14b). Those who are bowed down with the weight of care can find rest...*if they call upon Him.*
3. Slide18c **He is near to those who are hungry** (15,16). Vs.16 shows how simple it is for God to answer prayer...*He just opens His hand. (He's not the tight-fisted God).* Today, He just needs to **open His hand** to meet our needs today. *The problem is, we often don't **open our hearts & cry out to Him.*** (Warren Wiersbe)
4. Slide18d **He is near to those who call upon Him** (19). He **hears** our cries & will **save** us.
5. Slide18e **He is near to those who love Him** (20). Follow the advice of James: *draw near to God & He will draw near to you* (4:8).
 - a) God is not far from you. He's waiting for you to take the first step, cry out to him say, *Lord, I want to draw close to you here I am.*

B. As finite beings, we cannot comprehend all of God's attributes, **but** we can **praise Him** for **who He is & what He has done** in our lives.

C. *****

D. Paul Tripp gave a methodology for fighting for the Awe of your heart: (4 simple steps)

1. **Gaze** - start every morn **gazing** at the awesome glory of God.
 - a) Use Is.40 or Job 38-40 or Ps.27 or Ps.145.

2. Remember - His glory is *your identity*, by grace.
3. Rest - Teach your heart to **rest** in the glory of your Redeemer.
4. Act - now go out, **not** with *who you are*, but with *who you are in Christ*.

E. *****

F. **Eternality of God:**

1. **Definition:** *God has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all time equally vividly, yet God sees events in time and acts in time.*²
2. Sometimes this doctrine is called the doctrine of **God's infinity with respect to time**. To be **infinite** is to be unlimited, and this doctrine teaches that time does not limit God.
3. This doctrine is also related to God's **unchangeableness**. If it is true that God does not change, then we must say that **time does not change God: it has no effect on his being, perfections, purposes, or promises**.
 - a) e.g. **Time has no effect on God's knowledge**. God never **learns** new things or **forgets** things, **for** that would mean a change in His perfect knowledge.

G. **God Is Both Infinite and Personal:**

1. He is **infinite** in that he is not subject to any of the limitations of humanity, or of creation in general. He is far greater than everything he has made, far greater than anything else that exists.
2. But he is also **personal**: he interacts with us as a person, and we can relate to him as persons. We can pray to him, worship him, obey him, and love him, and he can speak to us, rejoice in us, and love us.

H. **The Importance of God's Unchangeableness:**

1. Stop for a moment to imagine what it would be like if God **could** change. **If God could change** (in his being, perfections, purposes, or promises), **then any change would be either for the better or for the worse**.

² Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

- a) If God changed for the **better**, then He was not the best possible being when we first trusted him. **And** how could we be sure that he is the best possible being now?
- b) If God could change for the **worse** (in his very being), **then** what kind of God might he become? Might he become, for instance, a little bit evil rather than wholly good?