

TAKEAWAY: GOD OUR VISION

Sunday 9th January 2022

On Sunday, we looked at a huge topic: what is God like? We said that whilst visions, plans and strategies are important for both individuals and the whole church, the main thing we should have our eyes on is God Himself. Matt shared 6 core truths about God and their relevance to everyday life for His people.

1. God is Love

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Question: We probably all like the idea that God is love! How often do you experience the love of God in life? Are these things you think you could do to experience it more - or is it just something we have to wait to experience?

1 John 4:7-8 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

2. God is Holy

Isaiah 6:3 Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord, the whole earth is full of His glory.

1 Samuel 2:2 There is no one holy like the Lord, Indeed, there is no one besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

Note: In Jewish thought, having the word 3 times means completeness and stability. Holy = from a Hebrew word, kadosh, which means separate or distinct.

Question: How often do you think about God as 'holy'? What does this word mean when you think about it - is it positive or negative? How can we pursue holiness without straying into thinking of it as becoming harsher with ourselves or even dull?

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

3. God is Powerful

Jeremiah 32:17 Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

Job 42:2 I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Question: If God is all-powerful, relax! What does it mean in practise to rely on God's power than our own?

Isaiah 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

4. God is Present

Psalm 139

- 1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.
- 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.
- 4 Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.
- 5 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.
- 7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

Question: How often do you experience the presence of God? What helps you to do so? What doesn't help? What choices can you make to experience the presence of God better this year?

5. God is Judge

Psalm 7:11 God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.

Psalm 75:7 But it is God who executes judgement, putting down one and lifting up another.

Question: When you think of God as judge, does it concern or scare you? Why might we be glad that God judges? How can God's role as the ultimate judge be a source of encouragement in everyday situations?

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

6. God is our Rescuer

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

Psalm 12:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Question: What would you like God to rescue you from in your own circumstance? If could be anything from an ongoing sin to a hard situation.

Psalm 68:19-20 Praise be to the Lord, to God our Saviour, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death.

Summary Question:

Which of these 6 things about God do you need to take hold of most in 2022? How can the rest of your group support you? Take some time to pray about it now.