

MEMORY VERSE: "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." John 17:3, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

"Having a clear understanding of God's character is foundational to having a strong relationship with Him. That is why, this week, we will look carefully at what the Bible says about the character of God." Q^{tly}, Sab, par 1

1. God wants to be known and to be loved (Sun)

- God's greatness and glory is beyond our comprehension (see Job 11:7-9; Is. 55:9; Rom. 11:33-36).
 - God could have chosen not to communicate with His creation—or not to create at all, for that matter. That fact that He has done both reveals a great deal about Him.
 - Satan recognizes the drawing power of a knowledge of God's true character, so he strives to distort our perception of God (Is. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:14-19; Gen. 3:1-5).

In this place (Ezekiel 28:18) traffick is the emblem of corrupt administration. It denotes the bringing of self-seeking into spiritual offices... It is by the working out of these principles that Satan deceives and corrupts the whole world from the beginning to the ending. Lt 156, 1897, par 10-12

From the opening of the great controversy it has been Satan's purpose to misrepresent God's character and to excite rebellion against His law. PP 338 (Q^{tly}, Sun, par 4)

2. God reveals Himself in His works, Word, and Son (Sun, Tue, Wed)

- Creation is the first revelation to man of God's character (Gen. 1, 2).
 - All the world has the evidence of creation to reflect upon God's love and power (see Ps. 19:1-4; Rom. 1:20; also Rom. 10:18).
- Beyond general revelation (Creation), God reveals Himself through the special revelation of Scripture (see Rom. 3:1,2; Dt. 6:1-9).
- The ultimate manifestation of God's character, however, is Jesus, the living Word, whom the written Word reveals (Jn. 3:16; 5:39).

Jesus said of the Old Testament Scriptures,—and how much more is it true of the New,—“They are they which testify of Me,” the Redeemer, Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. John 5:39. Yes, the whole Bible tells of Christ... If you would become acquainted with the Saviour, study the Holy Scriptures. sc 88

3. “To know God is to love Him” (Mon, Tue, Thu)

- God is Holy (Lev. 20:26; 1 Sam. 2:2; Rev. 4:8).
 - “Only God’s holiness allows and enables us to really love Him, because He is good from beginning to end. This is why holiness is perhaps the most important characteristic to understand about God’s character.” Qtly, Mon, par 3
- God is Love (1 Jn. 4:8, 16).

All the paternal love which has come down from generation to generation through the channel of human hearts, all the springs of tenderness which have opened in the souls of men, are but as a tiny rill to the boundless ocean when compared with the infinite, exhaustless love of God. ST 740 (Qtly, Fri, par 2)
- God is with us (Ex. 25:8; Jn. 1:14; Mt. 28:20).

We may believe that God is with us in every place, and in every trying hour we may hold fast that hand which has all power. ML 336
- In knowing Jesus, we know God—and in knowing God, we have eternal life (see Jn. 14:17-19; Jn 17:3).

CONCLUSION

You may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavor to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond. You may study that love for ages; yet you can never fully comprehend the length and the breadth, the depth and the height, of the love of God in giving His Son to die for the world. Eternity itself can never fully reveal it. Yet as we study the Bible and meditate upon the life of Christ and the plan of redemption, these great themes will open to our understanding more and more. ST 740 (Qtly, Fri, par 2)