

God is Not Who You Think He is

Five Misconceptions About God



“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.” - Ephesians 5:1 (NASB®)

In order to imitate God we must know Him. In order to know God, we must immerse ourselves in His Holy Word... ALL of it!

According to research performed by LifeWay reported in April 2017, only 20% of Americans have read all of the Bible and only 9% of those have read it all more than once. Other studies show that less than 3% of *practicing Christians* have read the entire Bible cover to cover. Because most people have not read the complete Scriptures, many conjure up an image of God that simply isn't true.

The following are five common misconceptions about God and what the Bible reveals as truth:

Misconception	Truth	Scripture
God's love is conditional. If I am not "good" then He won't love me anymore. I have to strive to earn God' love.	God loves you unconditionally. No matter what you have done in your past, He still loves you, it is not something that you have to earn.	John 3:16 Romans 5:8 Titus 3:4-5
God is waiting for me to make a mistake so He can punish me and He takes pleasure in giving me that punishment.	God disciplines you, but it is because He loves you and does it for your own benefit and correction.	Proverbs 3:11-12 Revelation 3:19 Hebrews 12:11 Job 5:17
If I do good deeds, give to the poor and/or go to church on Sunday, then I will go to heaven.	There is nothing you can do to deserve or earn a ticket to heaven. Everyone has sinned and therefore deserves hell, but God sent Jesus to pay the debt for your sin.	Romans 3:23 Romans 3:10-12 Ephesians 2:8-9
I believe Jesus was real so I will go to heaven.	Even Satan believes Jesus is real, and he shudders! Head knowledge of Jesus is not saving knowledge. You must accept Him as Lord of your life to enter heaven.	James 2:19 Romans 10:9-10
God helps those who help themselves.	This is not in the Bible! God's grace covers you because you cannot help yourself.	Proverbs 28:26 Ephesians 2:8-9

One of the first problems in the early church was defending truth because lies had penetrated the congregation. Peter addresses heresy in the church in 2 Peter 2. In Acts 15 we read of some teaching that circumcision is required for salvation.

We face this same problem today. Maybe not that circumcision is a requirement for salvation, but other misconceptions which often appear as if they could be truth. The only way to know the truth is to read and search God's Word. We encourage you to spend time with Him daily and read the ENTIRE Bible so that you will know the truth! "God is not who you think He is, He is who He says He is." - source unknown.

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” - 2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB®)