

Shalom Church Adult's Christian Education Class
God – The Righteous Creator
11th January 2015

The gospel is a message about *God*, about *sinners*, about *Christ*, about *repentance and faith*. A right understanding of the gospel therefore begins with a right understanding of God – that He is the righteous Creator, and we are all accountable to Him.

In **II TIMOTHY 3:15**, we read that “*the Holy Scriptures are able to make us wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*” and the Holy Scriptures begin with God as Creator:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

GENESIS 1:1-3

The rest of **GENESIS 1** tells us how God created the whole world and all its inhabitants. The climax of this creating work of God is found in here:

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

GENESIS 1:26-27

Take some time to read **GENESIS 1**.

What does **GENESIS 1** teach about the whole universe?

What does **GENESIS 1** teach about humankind and what's the implication(s)?

Why is it important for people to understand that God is their Creator? In other words, how is a right understanding of God crucial to a right understanding of the gospel?

Shalom Church Adult's Christian Education Class
God – The Righteous Creator
11th January 2015

If you are called upon to describe God's character using 3-5 sentences, what will you say?

Moses once asked God to show him His glory. In response, this is what God said to Moses *"The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."* (**EXODUS 34:6-7**)

What aspects of God's character do you find in **EXODUS 34:6-7** that people are generally happy to embrace? Why do you think people are generally happy to think about God in these ways?

What aspects of God's character do you find in **EXODUS 34:6-7** that people generally reject or oppose? Why do you think people so often oppose these aspects of God's character?

Countless other passages in Scripture testify that God is perfectly holy and righteous, that He will judge all people according to what they have done. Here is a selection of them:

HABAKKUK 1:13a ~ *You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness.*

ROMANS 2:5-8 ~ *But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,*

Shalom Church Adult's Christian Education Class
God – The Righteous Creator
11th January 2015

HEBREWS 10:30-31 ~ *For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

1 JOHN 1:5 ~ *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

What do these passages teach about God's attitude towards sin? What do they say God will do to people who continue to sin?

Many people today think that morality is entirely determined by one's culture. How would you respond to someone who believed this, in the light of these passages?

Many people today view God as an indulgent, grandfatherly figure who makes no demands on us and is very understanding of the fact that we all make mistakes. How does that view hold up to what these passages teach us?

Why would you say it is important to tell our non-Christian friends that God is our righteous Creator when we attempt to share the gospel with them?

Shalom Church Adult's Christian Education Class
God - The Righteous Creator
11th January 2015

10. What are some ways Shalom Church can testify that God is our righteous Creator:

- (a) In our corporate worship?

- (b) In our expectation of members of Shalom Church?

- (c) As we live our daily life in this world this coming week?

To Do: *For this coming week, find out what people in your office/school/neighbor think about sin - "In their understanding, what is sin?"*