



ROMANS

Paul's Apology of the Gospel

Lesson 17a: Does God Change His Mind?

Problem Solving

- Start with the **KNOWN**s and work toward the **UNKNOWN**s.
- Start with what we know to be **TRUE** to discover "**new**" truths.

What Do We **KNOW** About God?

- God is not man. (Psalm 50:21)
- God is Spirit. (John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 3:17; 1 Timothy 1:17)
 - God does not have a body. Yet, we read about His eyes, hands, fingers, arms, and wings. (Psalm 8:3; 17:8; 18:9; 91:4; Exodus 6:6; 3:20; Numbers 11:23; Proverbs 15:3; 5:21; Job 34:21-22; Hebrews 4:13)
- God is the Creator of the universe and everything in it, therefore, the Owner of everything. (Psalm 50:10-11; 24:1; 104:24-25)
- Everything was created for Him. (Colossians 1:16-17; Proverbs 16:4; Romans 11:36; Hebrews 2:10; Revelation 4:11)
- God is **HOLY**. (Isaiah 6:3; Exodus 15:11; Revelation 4:8-9; 15:3-4)
- God is **ETERNAL**. (Isaiah 57:15; 40:28; 43:10; 44:6; 48:12; 90:2; Revelation 1:11, 17; 2:8; 22:13)
 - He inhabits **ETERNITY**. (Isaiah 57:15)
 - He is with the first and last generations. (Isaiah 41:4)
 - God is **INFINITE**. We are **FINITE**.
- God is **OMNISCIENT** (all-knowing). (Psalm 147:5; Romans 11:33)
 - He knows the past, present, and future as **NOW**.
 - He sees and knows our motives, our attitudes, the intents of the thoughts of our hearts (minds).
 - God knows Himself and all His works from the beginning. (Acts 15:18)
 - He knows every little bird that flies and the number of hairs on our heads. (Matthew 10:29-30)
 - **NOTHING SURPRISES GOD**.

- God is **OMNIPOTENT** (all-powerful).
 - All power belongs to God. (Psalm 62:11)
 - He does everything He pleases with whatever He please, whenever He pleases, however He pleases. (Job 23:12; Isaiah 14:27; Daniel 4:35; Psalm 115:3; 135:6)
 - God works all things according to the counsel of His will. (Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:11)
- God is **SOVEREIGN** over everything.
 - Over life, death, illness, kings, nations, individuals, thoughts, actions, good, evil, Satan, angels, demons, etc. – **EVERYTHING**.
 - Lamentations 3:37-38; Proverbs 16:1, 9, 33; 20:24; 21:30; Jer. 10:23
- God's work is **PERFECT**. (Deuteronomy 32:4)
- God is **IMMUTABLE** (unchanging).
 - Immutability and eternity are linked together.
 - God does not change! He is the same today, yesterday, and tomorrow. (Hebrews 13:8; Malachi 3:6)
- God is **IMPASSABLE** (without passions).
 - God is impassable in the sense He is not emotional as we are.
 - God knows everything for eternity – nothing surprises God – God works all things according to His counsel.
- God is **SOVEREIGN** over His grace, mercy, and compassion. (Exodus 33:19; Romans 9:15-18, 23)

The God Who Inhabits Eternity

- **READ** Isaiah 46:9-10; 41:22-23; 44:7; 45:21
- Consider Matthew 13:35

THIS GOD DOES NOT CHANGE

- Malachi 3:6; Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29; Psalm 102:25-27; Hebrews 6:18; 13:8; James 1:17)

BUT What About . . . ! ! ! !

- Genesis 6:6 – God was sorry (נחַם *nacham* {naw-kham}) He made man . . . it grieved עֲצַב *`atsab* {aw-tsab} His heart.
- Exodus 32:12-14 "So the LORD changed His mind (נחַם *nacham* {naw-kham}). . ."
- 1 Samuel 15:11 "I regret (נחַם *nacham* {naw-kham}) that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments."

- 2 Samuel 24:16 “. . . but the LORD relented (נָחַם nacham {naw-kham'}) concerning the destruction . . .”
- Joel 2:13 “. . . the LORD your God, . . . relents (נָחַם nacham {naw-kham'}) from doing harm.”
- Jonah 3:9-10 “. . . the LORD saw their works . . . repented (נָחַם nacham {naw-kham'}) from the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them . . .”

Some Answers

- Genesis 6:6 – The actions of the men of the earth and what God was going to do was no surprise to God. God’s grieving and God’s regret must be different from human regret and grieving. God uses human language to teach us what He thinks of SIN. QUESTION: Do we grieve over our sin as God does? God “grieving” is the appropriate response of His holiness.
- Exodus 32:12-14 – God knew what the Hebrews would do long before they made a golden calf. God knew even their motives. God knew all this before He threatened them! God knew that Moses would pray when God threatened.
 - ★ Even our prayers come under Lamentations 3:37-38; Ephesians 1:11
- Joel 2:13 and Jonah 3:9-10 –
 - Read Jeremiah 18:7-10. God tells us when He will change.
 - In this case, God does not change – people change.
 - Jonah knew this about God! (See Jonah 4:1-2)

Answer to Our Questions

- Does God change His mind? YES! But only in accordance with His nature.
- Does God change? NO! He is the same today, yesterday and tomorrow.