

Who Is God?

Who is God and what is He like? It is a question that many people have tried to answer and got very wrong, lots of our friends who are unregenerate have many false ideas about who God is or don't even care. Here in Isaiah chapter six Isaiah is given a vision of the throne room of God which makes known to us three things of who God is and what He is like.

First, God is Holy. "Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" The only time that any attribute of God is repeated 3 times in the Bible is when God's Holiness is being spoken of, He is never described as being love, love, love or patience, patience, patience but only ever as Holy, Holy, Holy. The repetition of "Holy" shows us the intensity of His Holiness and how morally pure He is, as the psalmist writes "Your righteousness, O God, reaches the heavens." Psalm 71:19a. God is Holy, He is amazing and to be praised above all else. But His holiness should send a shiver down our spines because God is righteous and Holy, He hates sin.

Second, we are sinners. Isaiah's reaction to seeing God is not one of comfort and peace but rather he curses himself, for when anyone comes to understand who God is and that He is Holy they look at themselves and realise that they are sinful and deserving of God's Holy wrath. Because God is morally pure and righteous, He cannot see sin and do anything but pour out His wrath upon it and upon the sinner. Isaiah is under the curse of the law because he has broken the law, and this is the same for all of humanity for we are all sinners. The story doesn't end there for Isaiah and for us for God sent a substitute.

Third, Jesus our substitute. One of the angels in the throne room of God flies over to Isaiah with a piece of coal from the alter and touches his lips with it saying "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for". The alter harks back to the old covenant sacrificial offerings that cleansed the sin of God's people, but for us it should point us forward to the cross of Calvary where Christ Jesus the spotless lamb became a curse for us and on the cross bore the just and Holy wrath of God upon Himself that our sin might be atoned for and that one day we might see God's face.

This is why the Christian Union at the University of Aberdeen exists, God is Holy and all those without a substitute will drink from the cup of God's wrath. During the academic year we tell people the good news of the gospel that God is Holy, and we have a perfect substitute in Christ Jesus. Please be praying that we don't forget this as a CU, that we preach it clearly and that those who here this amazing news over the academic year would be saved from the Holy wrath of God.