

WORLDVIEW IN FOCUS”
Session 9: “Truth and Love in a Crazy world”
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March 13, 2011

Who is the true and living God?

EI - creator of creatures, father of the gods, father of man. EI had fathered many gods, but most important were Hadad, Yam, and Mot, each share similar attributes to the GrecoRoman gods: Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades respectively. For the Canaanites, Eli or Il was the supreme god.

Baal – Cannan (and his consort 'Ashtart) "possessor" or "owner."

Bel – Babylon

Dagon – Philistine

Elohim - plural of EI

EI- Shaddai - God Almighty

Adonai - 'adon means "lord" or "master."

Yahweh – I Am who I Am

I. There have been “upstart gods” claiming to be “the true God” from very early on.

The Golden Calf (young Bull) – Exodus 32:4

Elijah and the prophets of Baal – 1 Kings 18:25

The Ark of the Covenant in the Temple of Dagon – 1 Samuel 5:2-3

Asherah poles in the Hebrew Temple? – 2 Kings 23:5-6

II. This continues today.

Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters. Either they will hate the one and love the other, or they will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

2 Corinthians 6:15-16

What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

“We all worship the same God”

III. The world is going a bit crazy. Guidance please?

2 Timothy 1:7

For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind.

It goes on... 2 Timothy 1:8-10

So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life-- not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

A. Power

1 Corinthians 1:18

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the **power** of God.*

1 Corinthians 1:23-24

*We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the **power** of God and the wisdom of God.*

Romans 1:16-17

*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the **power** of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

B. Love

1 John 4:19-21

We love each other because he loved us first. If someone says, "I love God," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.

John 13:34-35

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

Luke 6:32

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them.

- *Love is demonstrated by God first*
- *Love must be lived out in human relationships to be authentic*
- *Love for God and other people is the character trait God values most*

Love is: The high esteem which God has for His human children and the high regard which they, in turn, should have for Him and other people.
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1 John 3:16

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Matthew 5:44-45

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

John 14:21

“Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.”

C. Sound Mind:

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if

someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

2 Timothy 3:12-17

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Philippians 1:9-11

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God.

I John 2:20-29

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist-- he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us-- even eternal life. I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit-- just as it has taught you, remain in him. And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming. If

you know that he is righteous, you know that everyone who does what is right has been born of him.

Matthew 7:13-20

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

For personal reflection

- A. What “upstart gods” have been trying to invade or dominate your life?

- B. In terms of power, love and sound mind: which do you feel the most confident in right now?

- C. Jesus was accused of being an upstart. Have you, like Paul, wrestled fully with this and emerged convinced he is the true Messiah and Savior, as a “non-negotiable”?