# Message Sunday 24th March 2013 Lighthouse CC

# God’s Nature and Agenda

## Recap on previous messages:

# What Does it mean: God With Us?

* Who is God? (creator, powerful, all-knowing/wise etc.
* Whoever experienced “God with them” became renowned for great reasons – Abraham, Joseph, Samuel, David, Hezekiah, Asa. John Baptist, Jesus, Early Disciples etc
* ***If God is for us, who can be against us****?"* Romans 8:28-31
* We were made for “God with Us” – Jesus/Immanuel makes this possible!

Reminder - “GOD” is.....

1. **The creator of heaven and earth and everything in them (Gen.1)**
2. **The God of the whole earth (Is. 54:5)**
3. **Almighty, omnipresent and omniscient**
4. ***Love, light, spirit, justice, holiness, righteousness, unchanging***
5. ***Eternal and wise with great purposes for us (Eph. 3:11)***

We have concentrated on the first 3 – so now let us turn our attention to 4 and 5 –

# God’s nature and Agenda

Some would say that God has made a mistake, or is playing games with His creation if the Christian Gospel is true! They would say that if God knew we would fall then why did he make us perfect in the first place? What’s the point of:

* Making man perfect?
* Letting him fall?
* Cursing him and all of creation?
* Sending Laws we couldn’t keep that condemn us?
* Letting us live in a ‘fallen world’ with all of its suffering?
* Giving us an ‘escape hatch’ by letting His son die on a cross for our redemption when all He needs to do is forgive us all carte blanch? It doesn’t make sense!

## Let’s get it straight – God is not mucking around!

God almighty wanted the strongest loving relationship with His creation!

### Ex. 20:5

* *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a* ***jealous*** *God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

### Hosea 6:6

* *For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.*
* *I want faithful love more than I want animal sacrifices. I want people to know me more than I want burnt offerings*. (NCV)

## A love relationship must be based on the principles of:

1. freedom of choice
2. willingness to love
3. ability to mutually share
4. fulfilment both parties

#### If God made us to love Him without choice – it couldn’t be a real and fulfilling love relationship

#### If God let us sin and continue a love relationship – it would be both contaminated and ineffectual (we wouldn’t be able to please God)

### Therefore God had to design a way that could fulfil the minimum requirements of a love relationship

He therefore:

* made man (in His own image- holy, righteous, loving, etc ) perfect and ‘very good’ – and free to choose to love God or otherwise (Gen 1 and 2)
* allow man to ‘fall from grace’ through the deception of the devil (Gen 3) Note: the Devil originally was an ‘arch-angel’ who also fell from grace through his pride and attempt to usurp authority and be like God (Ezek. 28:13-17). Man received a ‘curse’ because of his disobedience – it was an automatic result – contaminating his nature
* allowed man to continue to live ‘under the curse’ – but provided a means of partial salvation through sacrifices and laws – but also promised an eventual total salvation that would provided through the seed of mankind (Gen. 3:15). Note: the Law (10 commandments) were give for 3 reasons:
	1. to preserve a Godly people whom He could bless and exalt and provide a Messiah through. Note this ‘people’ was primarily the Jews but also whoever else would have faith, but the Jews failed to propagate and gained very few proselytes
	2. to highlight human weakness and depravity, and our hopelessness in trying to be the people God wants us to be (and created us to be) – due to us being born as victims and heirs of Adam’s sin and curse
	3. to lead us to the Messiah (Jesus Christ) who is our provision for salvation – and enable the forming of a people/family/nation of God who will truly please Him and also be personally totally fulfilled themselves
* sent the Messiah in the person of His own son (the Logos) Jesus Christ – Immanuel – who
	1. ‘fulfilled all righteousness’ in His life,
	2. became the acceptable sacrifice for our sin through His death on the cross
	3. became our Great High Priest in Glory to intercede for us and provide continual cleansing for us – making us ready for eternal inheritance as well becoming His spiritual bride (the Church) to reign with Him forever
	4. sent the Holy Spirit of God to empower the delivery of this Good News (the Gospel) and enable the responders/believers to live on earth the life that He intends – of:
		+ freedom of choices in life
		+ willingness to love God
		+ ability to mutually share God/man/God
		+ fulfilment of both parties – living for His pleasure

Note: it is important and essential for us to know these facts fully and accurately before we partake of any efforts to serve, or satisfy God

Our main aim in life is NOT to serve God, preach the Gospel, be HOLY, RIGHTEOUS, TRUE. PRETTY PERFECT ETC!!

### Our main agenda NOW is to:

#### LOVE GOD WITH A FREE SPIRIT HAVING EXPERIENFED FULL SALVATION THROUGH JESUS

#### Everything else comes out of that!

John 1:16-17

*Because he was full of grace and truth, from him we all received one gift after another****. The law was given through Moses****,* ***but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***

#### We were:

* slaves
* orphans
* cursed
* without hope

No wonder Jesus announced His Messiah-ship in Luke 4 thus:

* *“The Lord has put his Spirit in me, because he appointed me to tell the Good News to the poor. He has sent me to tell the captives they are free and to tell the blind that they can see again. ( Isaiah 61:1) God sent me to free those who have been treated unfairly ( Isaiah 58:6) and to announce the time when the Lord will show his kindness.”*

When we embrace the Good News of Jesus-Messiah, we come out of

* Slavery
* Orphan-ship,
* a cursed life, and
* hopelessness

and we enter and live out our new lives in the spirit of:

* Freedom
* Sonship
* Blessing
* Great Hope

You cannot mix the two!

You cannot come to Jesus and claim His salvation and stay in the spirit of:

* Slavery
* Orphan-ship,
* a cursed life, and
* hopelessness

this is

* the biggest lie of the devil,
* the biggest deception within Christianity
* the biggest stumbling block to the world getting saved!

God’s main agenda is to save and gather a people who will have:

* freedom of choice
* willingness to love to Him
* ability to mutually share with
* fulfilment both God and themselves

Gal 5:1

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*