“The Importance of Spiritual Knowledge”

Edmonton, AB February 21-23, 2014

“Things we should know about God.”

**Creator (Gen. 1.1; Acts 17.22-31)**

**Relational (Gen. 1.26; 3.22)**

1. Existing as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; God did not “need” to create mankind because he was lonely. He has existed for eternity in community. His relational nature points to mankind’s creation as a sharing of joy and love.
2. God to people is relational.
   1. “I – thou” relationship not “I – it” relationship. Consider the difference of staring at your pen and having a relationship verses staring into the eyes of another human and having a relationship. God has created us in the “I – thou”
   2. Contrast this to Mahayana Buddhism where the ultimate reality is meant to be nothingness/emptiness. There is no personal relational God. Hinduism’s essence is a statement translated, “the breath is one with ultimate reality.” The basic concept is that individualism is an illusion and there is unity to all existence. Again there is no personal relationship with God who cares for you and will interact on your behalf.
   3. God wants a relationship (Gen. 12.3, Jn. 3.16)

**Transcendence (the “otherness of God”)**

1. Eternal (Gen. 21.33; Deut. 33.27; Ps. 90.2-3; Is. 40.28; Rm. 1.20)
   1. Created time
   2. Outside of time
2. Holy (Is. 6.1-3; Rev. 4.8)
   1. As creator he is distinct from the created. At God’s very essence he is distinct. (Is. 55.8-9)
   2. God is morally distinct. All his ways are right and just. (1 Jn. 2.1; Is. 53.11; 2 Tim. 4.8)

**Omnipotent (all powerful) (Mt. 19.26; Lk. 1.37; Rev. 19.6)**

1. Omnipotence is viewed in relationship to creation and not in abstraction. Therefore God is all powerful to bring about His design for creation. This concept is not usually understood when people ask the questions; “Can God make a boulder too big for Him to pick up?” Or, “can God sin?” These are abstract questions not in relation to creation.
2. By God making certain aspects real he chooses to say no to other possible realities. By creating mankind with free will God chooses to say no to taking away consequences for that free will, some of which results in suffering.

**Omniscience (All knowing: Is. 40.12-14, 25-31; 1 Cor. 4.5; Heb. 4.13; Job 38.1-42.6)**

1. As creator of time God is able to know and to shape His creation for His purpose.
2. As creator God knows even the thoughts and secrets of His creation.

**Immanence (God’s process and activity in His creation or the presence of God in all creation)**

1. Character: Ex. 33.12-34.7 (Num. 14.17; Deut. 7.7-9; Ps. 51.1-2; 86.15; 103.8; 112.4; 145; Is. 30.18; Lam. 3.22-23; Hos. 2.19; Jonah 4.2)
2. Covenant: Heb. 6.18; Gen. 12.1-3; 18.18; 22.18; Gal. 3.6-9; Gen. 12.7; 13.15; 24.7; Gal. 3.15-19