**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt1 November 1, 2016**

People of All **Ages**, **Lifestyles**, **Arenas** of Life ask the same **questions**, *"Does God* ***know*** *me?" "Does God* ***love*** *me?" "Can God ever* ***forgive*** *me?"* Underneath these questions lies an even more **basic issue**. **What** is God really **like**... **Who is He?**

**Do** you **know** what your name **means** literally? **Does** it convey **something** about **you**? In **biblical** times the **Hebrew** **name** of a person often **conveyed** a significant **message**. A **name** may **represent** something **specific**, such as a **physical** characteristic or an **incident** at **birth** or anticipated **future** **accomplishments**. In the **Bible**, **much** is **revealed** about God **through** His **various** names. However, **unless** you are **reading** from **Hebrew text,** some of God's **attributes** as **revealed** in His names are **buried** in the **translation**.

*"Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you." -***Psa 9:10**

*"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."* **-Proverbs 18:10**

**Who Is God?**

Some say, "God is a cosmic **killjoy**!" Is this true... or do His **laws** and **principles** serve as a **protective hedge** around us rather **than** as a **prison** that **confines us**? Is He some **distant**, **unknowable** king **demanding** servitude or is He a God who is **involved** in the day-to-day **existence** of His **created** beings?

Some see Him as a **Santa** bringing **gifts** to excited children. Others see Him as a celestial **vending** machine: put in the **correct coin** and get out **whatever** you **desire**.... **So, who is God?** The Bible tells us, God is the one **Supreme** Being, the **Creator** and **Controller** of the universe, who **personally** intervenes in human **life**.

*"I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do."* **-Isaiah 46:9-11**

*"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." -***Hebrews 4:16**

* In **Greek**, the word for ***God*** is ***Theos***
  + **Theology** is the **Study of God**. Our **theology** constitutes the way we **think** about **God** and our **relationship** to **Him**. There are only **two** kinds of **theology**: that which **lines up** with the **Word** of God and that **which does not**.
  + A **Theocracy** is **Government** by **God's Direct** **Rule** over a **Nation** or **People**, or His rule **through** His Chosen **Representatives** who were God's **Spokesmen**, and by Judges, who were God's **Chosen Deliverers.**
* In **Hebrew**, the basic word for ***God*** is ***El***.
  + The word ***El*** is found in **many** words throughout the **Old** Testament. ***El*** raises **God** **High**, **reflecting** His **power**.
  + ***El*** emphasizes God's **Might** and **Power**... not a **violent** power, but **profound** power.
  + ***El***, when **combined** with other words, further **identifies** the **Nature** or **Function** of God. This is a **Compound Name.**
* ***Elohim*** "God" as **Creator**   
  *"In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth." -***Genesis 1:1**

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