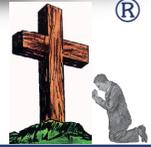




Prayergram

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Matthew Skariah

The creation of a “cream of wheat” god

The person who believes in a “*cream of wheat*” god reduces Jehovah God to the size of his limited mind by manufacturing some abstract theories about God, a common sin that is being practiced by many the world over. He cannot conceive a God who is bigger than he is and says, “*If God wants my admiration, He better behave Himself, or else.*” In his conceited mind he thinks that God operates on his benevolence, not realizing that “**God rules by His power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves**” (Psalm 66:7). The decadent manner in which we treat God causes me to believe we have fallen on perilous times.

Our world is never outside of God’s care, and He is unaffected by any changes that occur in the universe. The Lord is eternally the same. “**From everlasting to everlasting thou art God**” (Psalms 90:2). The sovereign God apologizes to no one for executing His righteous rule in the universe He commands. Blessed is the man who humbly trusts the issues to God and the issues are always in His hands. Only God is infinite in the superlative sense, and others are great only in their relation to Him. God alone is concrete and real and everything else is abstract and potential. **Marcus Aristides** was profound when he said, “**God is not in need of anything, but all things are in need of Him.**”

The God who created all things from nothing definitely needs no help or helpers. He is the everlasting undefended One. Are we attempting to lend God a helping hand in the administration of the universe He created? God owes us no explanation, and He doesn’t have to consult us on His heavenly decisions; He simply wants us to trust Him fully. The most important thing is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, using simple childlike faith. Never mind definitions and theological dissertations. I am sure, there are, no doubt, many at this hour, in hell that understood the Christian philosophy, but did not believe in Him. God is on His throne, no matter how hard we try to dethrone Him from His abode. The throne is occupied—sorry devil—it is already taken. Our King’s throne never can be abdicated, never err in His sovereign strategy. His kingdom is forever, and that is not a playful, fanciful, wishful thinking, but a sublime and veritable reality.

In our secular culture, many have come to assume that God is reputable only if He wins in the “*cosmic seesaw*” battle between

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God needs no changing and He never differs from Himself. When we are rebellious we attempt to manufacture a plausible God who thinks just like us. The problem is not in the truth of God's Word or His sovereign majesty but in our egotistical and sin-damaged mind. Wrong ideas about God corrupt one's mind and prevent his ability to think critically. God is not subject to fortuity and change. The world is transient, but God is eternal and immortal. We are haunted by the changing and changeless. Imagine man is trying to conceive the vastness of the cosmos and the making and the unmaking of its stellar galaxies! The very thought of God's majestic creation can stagger us, bulldoze us into utter insignificance.

lost our souls." The profound words of General Omar Bradley, one of America's five-star generals come to mind, "We have become a nation of nuclear giants and moral infants." But people say "O preacher, you don't understand—this is the technological age, we are much smarter and faster than the previous generation!" Dear friend, I understand perfectly! I understand that God created the universe from nothing. He is the ruler and maker of all things. He is the same, yesterday, today and forever and His years shall have no end. I am a creation of God; created in the likeness of my creator with a living soul. I am loved by my God, and irreplaceable in His sight. I am not at the mercy of fickle fate, or buffeted by others. **"The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are vanity" (Psalms 94:11).**

What is the greatest form of idolatry in the world today? It is not recognizing Him as God, the majestic and infinite creator of the universe

good and evil. We place such a burden on God, always demanding that He should perform miracles, if He doesn't, then He becomes powerless in our mind and how can we place our faith in a powerless deity? What would people say if God doesn't turn stones into bread? Are we embarrassed to admit that our God reigns supreme and His kingdom is forever? I submit to you that we can be absolutely sure that our God is unperplexed, undisturbed, undismayed and unmoved by the events of the day. **"Shall any teach God knowledge?" (Job 21:22).** Remember, **"There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD" (Proverbs 21:30).**

We treat Almighty God like an onstage performer, feasting on our applause. God doesn't need our applause or approval. Such a notion is childish, silly, insipid and ridiculous and warrants no rebuttal. Why do we insist that God should change Himself to accommodate sinful men? I often hear, "time has changed and we must change with the time." Listen friend, all changes must be on our part! **"I am the Lord, I changeth not," says Jehovah God (Mal. 3:6).** God needs no changing and He never differs from Himself. When we are rebellious we attempt to manufacture a plausible God who thinks just like us. The problem is not in the truth of God's Word or His sovereign majesty but in our egotistical and sin-damaged mind. Wrong ideas about God corrupt one's mind and prevent his ability to think critically. God is not subject to fortuity and change. The world is transient, but God is eternal and immortal. We are haunted by the changing and changeless. Imagine man is trying to conceive the vastness of the cosmos and the making and the unmaking of its stellar galaxies! The very thought of God's majestic creation can stagger us, bulldoze us into utter insignificance.

Has our civilization passed the point of no return? The whole world seems to be coming unglued. But God is still on the throne and what a blessing it is that we are part of an eternal kingdom! How much time and energy we spend to find the fastest computer, the fastest Internet, the fastest iPhones. It is never enough. The engine that drives this generation is speed! It is same in the church as well, change, change and change! The modern church is facing a formidable challenge from the technological revolution. Vance Havner was right when he said, "We have gained the world and

What is the greatest form of idolatry in the world today? It is not recognizing Him as God, the majestic and infinite creator of the universe who dwells in light unapproachable, in glory unsurpassable, in knowledge unfathomable and in eternity incalculable. Faith in the Almighty God is the one thing we lost in the rubbish of modern civilization.

who dwells in light unapproachable, in glory unsurpassable, in knowledge unfathomable and in eternity incalculable. Faith in the Almighty God is the one thing we lost in the rubbish of modern civilization. **Atheism**

is the doctrine or belief that there is no God. **Deism** is the belief in the existence of God on the evidence of reason or nature only, with the rejection of the supernatural. There is a God who is out there somewhere and He could care less about the world in which we live. He is quite indifferent and what He has done since the creation, the secularist asks. The creation barks at being created, and prefer to be uncreated. Sad to say, there are some professing Christians who prefer to be left alone without any supernatural intervention. To them, He is the man upstairs, and regards Him as the **“cream of wheat” god**. **Polytheism** is the doctrine or belief in more than one god, or in many gods, such as, “the god of universalism, god of secularism, god of multiculturalism, god of global warming, god of wealth, god of scientology, god of unitarianism, and the god of technology, but Jehovah God is none of the above. **Man is constantly at odds with God because he (man) cannot manage Him; and that which he cannot manage he opposes it.**

When we are rebellious, we tend to manufacture a “cream of wheat” god whom we can “trick and manipulate,” “bend and shape” whenever we wish and such human puffery is winning at the moment. We do not change or alter the Bible in order to accommodate a changing culture; the Word of God is ageless and changeless; it does not morph!

There are some who retain such a preposterous notion that God is somewhat different today than he was in the past. He has realigned Himself with modern man for the purpose of appeasement because God is in need of man’s help. Poor God! When He receives charity, He has to appease His benefactors, doesn’t He? **The modern man is guilty of minimizing God’s power, while maximizing his own. He is guilty of having a “low view” of God while maintaining a “high view” of himself and thinking that God is just like him doing foolish and wicked things.**

“When they knew God,” wrote Paul, **“they glorified him not as God, neither were they thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened” (Romans 1:21).** As creatures of affluent society, we have lost our true spirit of **“reverential worship”** and our capacity to draw near to the heart of God in true humility.

The decline of the knowledge of the holy has dealt with a deadly blow. We live in a time of moral madness and social disintegration which has brought our present troubles. The modern man has relinquished once his majestic thought of a **‘holy God’** and has replaced it with a popularized version of the **“cream of wheat” god**. This has been a gradual process of undermining the sovereign rule of God as man advances in knowledge and technology he is prone to covet honor for himself; so he sets himself on a voyage to seek honor that comes from man. The Word of God tells us, **“For that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God” (Luke 16:15).** When we are rebellious, we tend to manufacture a **“cream of wheat” god** whom we can **“trick and manipulate,” “bend and shape”** whenever we wish and such human puffery is winning at the moment. We do not change or alter the Bible in order to accommodate a changing culture; the Word of God is ageless and changeless; it does not morph!

The present generation is not moved by the fact that our God reigns supreme. Is it any wonder that we have lost the **“sacred hush of God’s inimitable presence?”** It seems the creator has become the creature; the potter has become the cup and the architect has become the house. No car has ever crashed into a mirage. No imaginary army has ever invaded a country. Christians ought to know a mirage when they see one. Let us not waste our time with trivia’s, religious or otherwise! God is the ruler and maker of all things and we shall always be under His sovereign rule whether we like it or not. Furthermore, our God is not the **“cream of wheat” god**, but the One Who walked with Daniel in the Lion’s Den and He is with us every step of the way!

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Let’s learn to think deeply about our sovereign God and meditate on His majestic presence in the universe!

The Prosperity Conundrum

by Matthew Skariah

When some Christians are prosperous and affluent, they are not always humble and godly, and when they long to be humble and godly, they are not always prosperous and affluent; but there are exceptions, of course! What a strange conundrum? Today's material boasting demonstrates the futility of a life without God in the slippery world of fluctuating materialism. Our wealth, our fame, and our manufactured pleasures leave us in a strange state of melancholy. The best part of one's life is not fame or wealth, but the assurance of God's tender love and implicit care, knowing that he ultimately belongs to Christ and Christ belongs to him. Thomas A. Kempis was profound when he said, *"God exists: that suffices to console the true Christian in all his disappointments, because he loves God more for His infinite perfections than for the favors he receives from him."*

The most contented people in the world are not those who clamor for "power and prestige," but those who practice simple faith in Christ daily and live by His precepts. What is the point of possessing great "wealth and knowledge" without the fear of God? When our days here on earth are done, what will we be remembered for? That we had a nice car, a nice home? That we made lots of money or became rich and famous? As believers, we need to examine our priorities whether they are set on the things of God, or not. The way of the Cross is a way of self-denial. I know some lives are so "humbly full," and others are so "proudly empty." The profound words of Martin Luther come to mind, *"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all: but whatever I have placed in God's hands that I still possess."* Amen and Amen!

Do not attempt to make earthly success your goal!
Make God your goal. Everything in life begins with God.

VOICE FROM THE PAST

I CAN take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can go away to my room and in prayer get nearer to God and Heaven than I can when assisted by all the telescopes of earth.

—Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727)

English Physicist, Father of Universal Gravitation

REVIVALS
With
Matthew Skariah

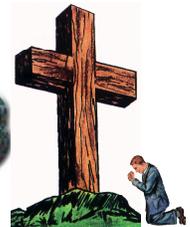
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