

Doctrine 1: God (part 2 of 2)

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Doctrine (truth) We believe in one God: (nature and character actions)

- Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power,
 - ↳ No surprises
 - ↳ Complete freedom
- God has graciously purposed from eternity
 - ↳ Giving & forgiving
 - ↳ Before sin in the world
- to redeem a people for Himself
 - ↳ Rescue
 - ↳ Relationship
- and to make all things new
 - ↳ New creation
 - ↳ Restoration
 - ↳ Better
- for His own glory.
 - ↳ Beauty
 - ↳ our joy & life

GOD
CREATION
FALL
REDEMPTION
RESTORATION

We are in our second segment looking at our theology of God. So as reminder, we believe in, and declare a belief in, one God... monotheism. We've been looking at His nature and His character.

This time we are looking at His actions. So flowing from this aspect of His character, God has **limitless knowledge and sovereign power**. And so for God, there are no surprises. There's no uncertainty. There's nothing that He's not aware of, past, present, or future. And in His sovereign power, God has complete freedom. He can do and bring about whatever he chooses to do, of course, that would be consistent with His character, with his goodness. But He has complete freedom.

Given that knowledge and that freedom, God has graciously purposed from eternity. And so a couple of parts of this: first of all, "**from Eternity**": that in a very surprising way, from before there was sin in the world, God chose and planned to redeem, to rescue people. God **graciously purposed**. And a key thing about God is that He is giving and forgiving. That's the nature of who God is. His plan is to do that which is for the good of people and this is a wonderful understanding of what God is like, because He is a giving God.

And His purpose from all eternity was **to redeem**, to rescue. And He wanted to rescue **a people for himself**. And so this is: God wanted to rescue people for relationship. He

wanted people to be His people, and He wanted to be their God. This is a relationship that was broken because of sin. But God graciously purposed to redeem people, to rescue people.

And this is a broader thing even than people alone, in "**all things**." And so this is a new creation that God intends. And so in the last segment, we looked at the fact that God created all things, and His intention is to make all things new. And this newness can have different ways of understanding it, but this is a restoration. And yet it's more than just restoration, because it becomes better than it was. It's more glorious than it was. And there are different ways that we can explore in understanding that. But God describes a world that is better even than the original creation before there was sin.

God does this for His own glory and this is His beauty, His majesty, His wonder of who He is and what He's like. I'm used to the idea that glory is a limited thing: somebody gets glory and somehow others are left out. But the reality is that God's glory is our joy and life. Like clean air: clean air is something that when we have more of it, it's healthier for everybody. God's glory is healthy. It's life-giving. And so when He does things for His glory, it is for the good of people, it's to bring them joy and to bring them life. It's not a self-seeking thing; it's an others-giving thing.

And so we understand that God is a God from even before creation. If we put on this a kind of a timeline, that we have **Creation**, and so God precedes Creation. We have creation and then we are told the promise of **Restoration**, when He will make all things new. And as we'll see as we walk through this the rest of the doctrine, we have a time when there was a **fall**, and the brokenness of the world. And we believe that God had a plan for **redemption**. So in eternity He purposed to redeem. So God had this plan.

So we see that God is the God of Creation, and the God of Restoration. And we see this in His actions. And so how does this relate to us? Well once again, in **devotion** and relationship we see the promise in the hope of fellowship. This was God's intention: to have people in relationship with Him and so to have fellowship with God. And this is often expressed in worship, in prayer, in giving attention to Him.

And we also have a **duty** to be gracious, that Christians are to be like God and so we are to be giving and forgiving, to be pursuing redemption, to be pursuing reconciliation, to be bringing newness to the world around us.